

NATIONAL HEALTH EQUITY | GRAND ROUNDS

Alec J. Calac, BS

President, Association of Native American Medical Students

Panelist, Breaking Down the Ivory Tower: Building the Health Care Workforce America Needs



Alec J. Calac, BS, (Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians) is a public health researcher and minority health advocate. An MD/PhD candidate in the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) and San Diego State University Joint Doctoral Program in Global Public Health, he has been Data Analytic Governance and Fellow at the UC San Diego Institute for Practical Ethics, Graduate Fellow in the University of California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, and a Visiting Fellow at the National Indian Health Board. In 2022, he was invited to participate in the White House Health Equity Leaders Roundtable series and advise the National Minority Quality Forum's Cancer Stage Shifting Initiative.

His leadership and advocacy, particularly for the betterment of American Indian and Alaska Native Health, has been recognized by UC San Diego, American Medical Association, Doximity, National Minority Quality Forum, National Indian Health Board, Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians, and ARCS Foundation.

Calac has been published in peer-reviewed journals, such as JAMA, The American Journal of Public Health, The American Journal of Health Behavior, Public Health Reports, Harm Reduction Journal, JMIR Infodemiology, and The Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. He is also a reviewer for JMIR Infodemiology, Public Health Reports, Health Equity, and Addiction Science and Clinical Practice. His scholarship with the Global Health Policy and Data Institute in San Diego, California, focuses on emerging issues in medicine and public health with particular attention toward Indigenous health equity, health technology, and workforce development.

As the President of the Association of Native American Medical Students and Founding Chair of the American Medical Association Medical Student Section Committee on American Indian Affairs, Calac supports American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian medical students with interests in organized medicine and assists in the creation and the review of policy proposals relating to the Indian Health Service.