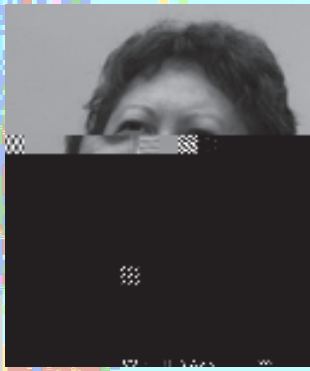


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Healani Chang, PhD Clinical Behavioral Scientist/Pacific Biosciences, University of Hawaii, Honolulu

As a graduate student at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, **Dr. Healani Chang** worked with immigrant populations from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. They were mostly women and children who had just arrived to Hawaii and were eager to learn

experiences from her daily life instead of using textbooks. She shared her Native Hawaiian culture with them, and, in return, they shared their values, culture, and stories. Her students were eager to communicate with her and were passionate about what they were discussing, which Chang learned too. This kind of exchange between teacher and student was revolutionary to Chang and completely different from the educational system that she grew up with.

parents' and her generation were forced to learn English and not practice or respect their traditional native language. This devaluing of Chang's language felt like a devaluing of her culture. When she taught English in a new way, it was a very healing experience. Her classroom celebrated people's diversity and culture and thought of English as a common language that enabled vastly different people to communicate.

Because of the lack of respect for the Native Hawaiian language and culture, Chang struggled to succeed in the

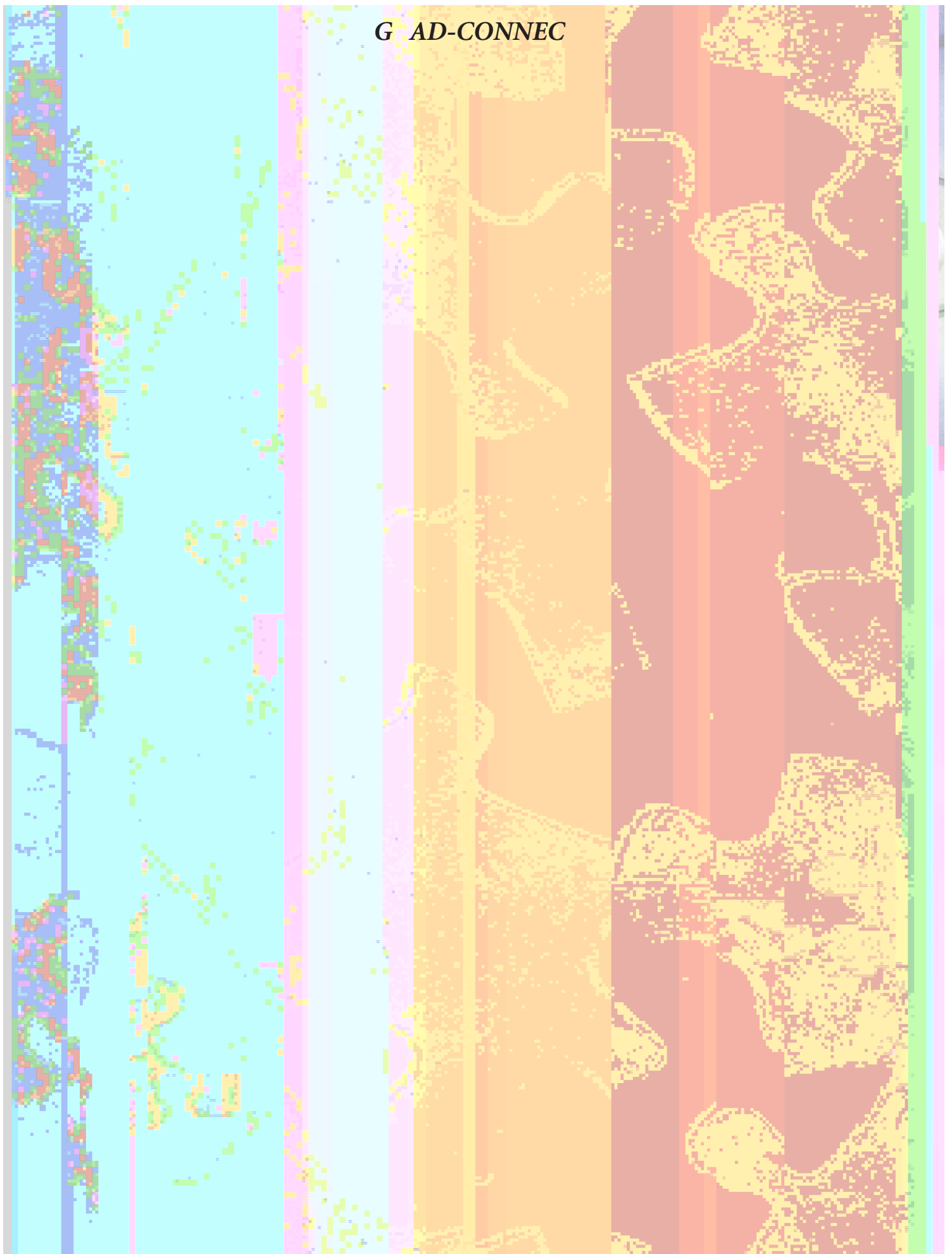
environment because Native Hawaiians value , the family, (immediate, extended, friends, and neighbors) and , compassion and kindness - in human interaction. Luckily, Chang had the support of her community and family to get her to where she is today.

Chang received a basketball scholarship to the University of Hawaii, Honolulu. She was an athlete and was interested in how people made choices about their health and behavior. This directed her to pursue a bachelor's degree in human development. Once Chang discovered that her strengths were her values of and pursuing a master's degree in public health education.

Chang's current research is in developing a quit smoking program for native Hawaiians. There are a number of smoking cessation programs across the nation, but Native Hawaiians continue to smoke at a higher rate than other ethnic groups. Her hypothesis is that Native Hawaiians need more cultural components in the smoking cessation program. For example, programs may be more effective if they involve the whole family, or perhaps model of one-on-one counseling.

Chang because there are so few Native Hawaiian women in the sciences, in the university system, or on faculties. Native Hawaiian faculty at the university represent only two percent of the state population of twenty percent. There is a need for people they can relate to, who understand their culture, upbringing, and obstacles

the legacies Chang would like to leave other Native Hawaiians. She states, "I made it to where I am today. You can say it was hard work and determination, and it was, but I think my family and friends and the compassion of others helped quite a bit. and go a long way in life, for they are virtues rooted within."



February

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