

International Polar Year Arctic Human Health Initiative

The Arctic Council has recognized that the International Polar Year (2007-2008) as a unique opportunity to stimulate cooperation and coordination on Arctic Research and to increase the awareness and visibility of the Arctic region. Last November in Reykjavik, the Arctic Council Ministers approved a United States lead Arctic Human Health Initiative for the International Polar Year. A Letter of Intent (Summary Attached) was submitted to the US National IPY Committee, the International Polar Year Joint Committee, and circulated to the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials January 14. The IPY AHHI provides the opportunity to build upon ongoing human health activities of AMAP and SDU working groups.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Arctic Investigations Program and the International Union for Circumpolar Health hosted a meeting of the US National Arctic Human Health Initiative Advisory committee February 8. This meeting, held in Anchorage, Alaska, identified a number of potential Arctic Human Health Activities that could be undertaken during the IPY.

Proposed activities include: the expansion of the International Circumpolar Surveillance of infectious diseases, to include non infectious disease conditions, and injuries; expansion of tele-medicine and tele-health activities; initiate prospective studies on metabolic aspects of diabetes, coronary heart disease, and obesity; continuation of monitoring activities measuring the effect of anthropogenic pollutants on human health; establishment of activities to monitor the effects of climate change on human health and the incidence of zoonotic diseases. Education, outreach and health communication will be important aspects of the AHHI. The 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health planned for Novosibirsk, Russia June 12-26, 2006 is expected to serve as a "Gateway to the IPY" for the AHHI. The 14th Congress in Canada in 2009 will be an occasion to consolidate the legacy of IPY.

An International Arctic Human Health Initiative meeting is scheduled to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark on April 7 to review the IPY Arctic Human Health activities being considered by other circumpolar countries. This meeting will also explore potential collaborative activities and linkages in human health research that could be undertaken during IPY and to explore additional activities that support the goals and objectives of AMAP and SDU. Early planning for the 14th ICCH will also be undertaken at this meeting. An outcome of this meeting will be the development of a formal IPY AHHI that will be submitted in June 2005, to the Arctic Council SAO and IPY Joint Committees for approval.

Participation at the International Arctic Human Health Initiative meeting has been requested from:

The International Union for Circumpolar Health

Canada

Kue Young, MD, PhD
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences,
Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (INCHR)
Toronto, Canada
kue.young@utoronto.ca

Denmark

[Peter Bjerregaard](mailto:p.bjerregaard@dadlnet.dk), Professor
Professor of Arctic Medicine and Director, Centre for Health Research in Greenland, National
Institute of Public Health
Copenhagen, Denmark
p.bjerregaard@dadlnet.dk

Preben Homse
President Danish Greenlandic Circumpolar Health Society
Copenhagen Denmark
phom@rh.dk

Greenland

Gert Mulvad, M.D.
Center of Primary Health Care
Nuuk, Greenland
GM@gh.gl

Finland

Juhani Hassi, MD, PhD
Research Professor at the Centre for Arctic Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland
Oulu, Finland
juhani.hassi@oulu.fi

Iceland

Johann Axelsson, Professor Dr
University of Iceland
Institute of Physiology
Reykjavik, Iceland
physicel@hi.is

Niels Einarsson
Stefansson Arctic Institute
Akureyri Iceland
ne@unak.is

Norway

Dr. Jon Øyvind Odland
Institute of Community Medicine, University of Tromsø
Tromsø, Norway
jon.oyvind.odland@ism.uit.no

Sweden

Ingvar Holmér, Professor
Thermal Factors Laboratory
Division of Ergonomics and Aerosol Technology, EAT Department of Design Sciences Lund
University
Lund, Sweden
ingvar.holmer@design.lth.se

Russian Federation

Sergei G.Krivoschekov, Professor, M.D.

Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
Novosibirsk, Siberia
S.G.Krivoschekov@iph.ma.nsc.ru

United States of America

Neil Murphy, M.D.
President, International Union for Circumpolar Health
Alaska Native Medical Center
Anchorage, Alaska
nmurphy@scf.cc

Indigenous Peoples Organizations

Indigenous Peoples Secretariat

TBA

Inuit Circumpolar Congress

TBA

Sami Nation

Elisabeth Gerhardsen
elisabeth.gerhardsen@helse-finmark.no

Aleut International Association

Victoria Goffman
VictoriaG@apiai.com

Arctic Health Research Organizations

Earl Nowgesic, BScN, RN, MHSc
Assistant Director
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health
Victoria, British Columbia
Canada
nowgesic@uvic.ca

Jim Berner MD
Director of Community Health Services
Alaska Native Tribal health Consortium
Anchorage Alaska
jberner@anmc.org

Charles Clements
Vice President for Communication and Information

Southcentral Foundation
Anchorage Alaska
cclement@scf.cc

Patricia A.L. Cochran
Executive Director
Alaska Native Science Commission
Anchorage, Alaska
pcochran@aknsc.org

Valery Chaschin
Russian Federation Ministry of Health
Director
North West Public Health Research Center
St Petersburg
valerych@mail.lanck.net

Natalie Tomitch
US National Institutes for Health
Fogarty International Center
Bethesda MD
tomitch@nih.gov

Monique Petrofsky
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Global Health
Atlanta GA
MPetrofsky@cdc.gov

Alan J. Parkinson Ph.D
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Arctic Investigations Program
Anchorage AK
ajp1@cdc.gov

John Spika MD
Vaccine preventable Diseases and Immunizations
World Health Organization
European Regional Office
Copenhagen Denmark
JSP@euro.who.int

Bettina Menne
Global Change and Health
World Health Organization
European Regional Office
Copenhagen Denmark
bme@ecr.euro.who.int

George Happ
Professor Biology
University Of Alaska Fairbanks
george.happ@alaska.edu

Carl Hild
Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies
University of Alaska Anchorage
ancmh@uaa.alaska.edu