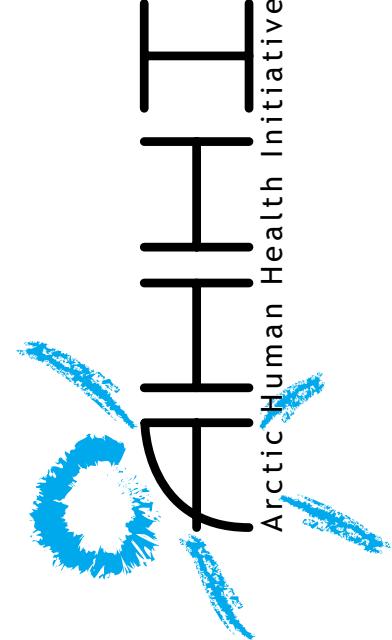


## **Lead Contact**

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### **Second Contact**

### **Dr. Pamela Orr**

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### **Advisory Committee with representation from**

Alaska Native Science Commission, USA

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, USA

Arctic Investigations Program Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA

Canadian Institutes for Health Research, Canada

Center for Arctic Medicine, Finland

Center for Primary Health Care, Greenland

Center for Saami Health Research, Norway

Danish Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health, Denmark

Department of Epidemiology Research, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark

Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, USA

Gwich'in Council International, USA

Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies, USA

Institute for Community Medicine, University of Tromso, Norway

Institute for Public Health, Denmark

Lund University, Sweden

Northern Forum, Office of the Secretariat, Anchorage, Alaska

Office of Global Health, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, USA

Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Russia

Saami National Center for Child and Adolescent Health, Sweden

Southcentral Foundation, USA

University of Alaska, USA

University of Toronto, Canada

World Health Organization, Denmark



### **Common health concerns of Arctic Peoples include**

Health disparities that remain between the indigenous and non indigenous peoples of the Arctic. Indigenous populations experience:

- Lower life expectancy
- Higher infant mortality
- Higher suicide rates
- Higher rates of infectious diseases such as
  - Hepatitis b
  - Tuberculosis
- Higher rates of some cancers

Potential human health impacts of environmental contaminants and climate variability.

Potential impacts of environmental contaminants and climate variability on the traditional food supply.

Health impacts of modernization and associated social and cultural change:

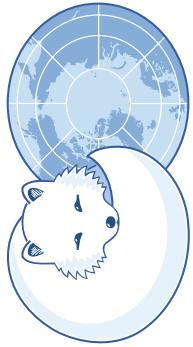
- Suicide
- Unintentional injury
- Obesity, diabetes
- Cardiovascular diseases

# **Arctic Council**

## **Sustainable Development**

### **Working Group Project**

*Increasing awareness and visibility of human health concerns of Arctic Peoples*



**ARCTIC COUNCIL**  
NORWEGIAN CHAIRMANSHIP  
2006–2008

## The Arctic Council encourages circumpolar cooperation on

### Human Health

Creation of the Sustainable Development Working Group expanded the scope of cooperation in areas such as Arctic children and youth, health, telemedicine...and the assessment of the impact of environmental contaminants on human health.

—The Iqaluit Declaration, 1998

Since 1998 the Arctic Council has evolved as an important instrument to improve human health and well-being in the Arctic.

—International Journal of Circumpolar Health 65:4 2006

### Health Projects of the Arctic Council

#### Projects include:

- Assessment of the impact of environmental pollutants on human health
- Survey of living conditions in the Arctic
- International Circumpolar Surveillance system for infectious disease
- Telemedicine
- Children and Youth of the Arctic health program

### Arctic Council Reports on Arctic Human Health

Arctic Pollution 2002: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program. Oslo, Norway. [www.amap.no](http://www.amap.no)

Arctic Human Development Report 2004; Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland. [www.svs.is](http://www.svs.is)

Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Scientific Report 2005; Cambridge University Press. [www.acia.uchicago.edu](http://www.acia.uchicago.edu)



—Reykjavik Declaration, 2004

### What is the goal of the Arctic Human Health Initiative?

To increase awareness and visibility of human health concerns of Arctic peoples, foster human health research, promote health strategies that will improve health and well being of all Arctic residents.

—Arctic Council SDWG IPY coordinating project (IPY #167)

### Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) builds on existing Arctic Council activities by:

#### Expanding Research Networks that will enhance:

- Surveillance and monitoring of health issues of concern to Arctic peoples
- Standardization of methods between countries
- Collaboration and coordination of human health research

Fostering Research Activities will look at the human health impact of:

- anthropogenic pollution
- modernization and life style changes
- climate variability
- infectious and chronic diseases
- intentional/unintentional injuries
- early interventions on disease and social behavior later in life

#### Promoting Education Outreach and Communication:

- Focus public and political attention on Arctic health issues
- Increase dialog between researchers, policy makers and communities
- Increased distribution of scientific information to scientists and public through conferences, symposia, workshops, and a variety of electronic and printed media
- Increased community involvement in research activities
- Fostering a "new" generation of Arctic health scientists

Promoting the translation of research into health policy, community action and implementation of prevention and control strategies.

The Reykjavik Declaration approved the concept of project clusters under which related projects can be grouped and jointly managed.

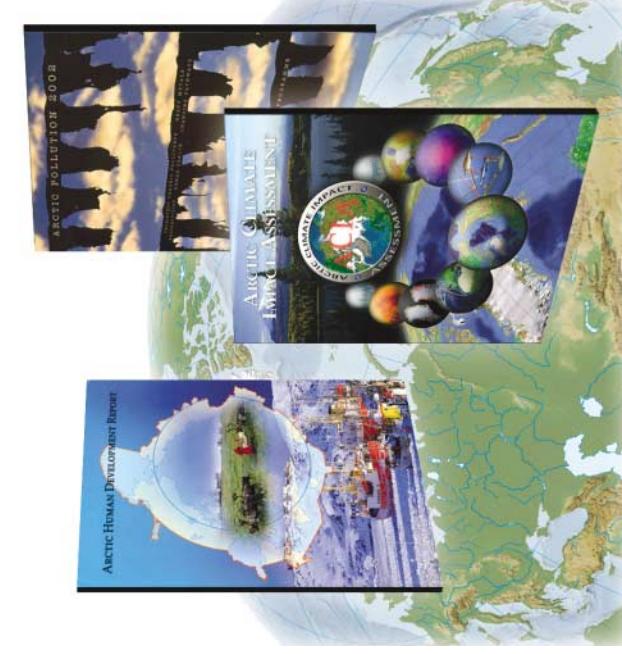
The AHHI will cluster new IPY Arctic human health activities and existing Arctic Council human health activities under an International Steering Committee for coordination and management.

The International Steering Committee will have representation from:

- Arctic Council human health working groups
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)
- Indigenous Peoples organizations
- The World Health Organization (WHO)

The role of the International Steering Committee will be to:

- Coordinate human health research activities
- Link researchers with potential international collaborators
- Provide subject matter expertise
- Review and endorse proposals
- Evaluate progress, and provide reports to Senior Arctic Officials
- Facilitate reporting of research findings to the research community, communities at risk, policy makers and the general public
- Guide the direction of Arctic human health research beyond the IPY
- The Arctic Health website ([www.arctichealth.org](http://www.arctichealth.org)) will serve as a focal point for AHHI providing an inventory of Arctic human health projects, serve as a repository and reference for research methods, summary results, progress reports, presentations, proceedings and publications.



## Coordination and Management—The Health Cluster

The Reykjavik Declaration approved the concept of project clusters under which related projects can be grouped and jointly managed.

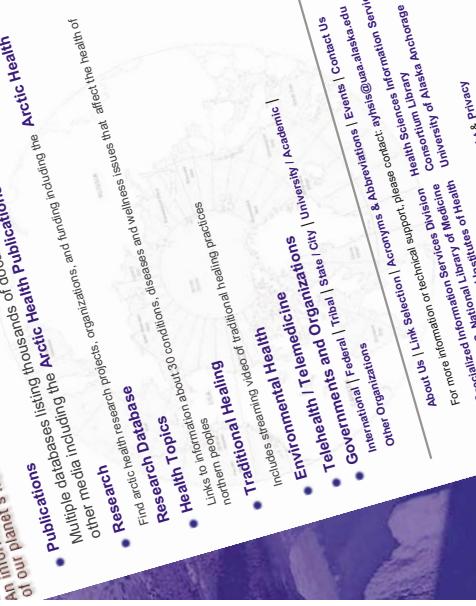
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