



*International Polar Year 2007-08,  
Project of the Arctic Council*

# Arctic Human Health Initiative

July 2005, No. 3

**WHAT IS IPY?** The international polar year (IPY 2007–2008) will be an intensive two year multidisciplinary program of collaborative international science, research and education focused on the Arctic and Antarctic regions. (More info on IPY at [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org)). Human health has never been a focus of previous IPY's.

**WHAT IS AHHI?** The IPY provides a unique opportunity to focus on human health issues of Arctic communities.

The Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) is a project of the Arctic Council which is an eight nation intergovernmental forum for sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Circumpolar in scope, the AHHI will expand human health research in the areas of infectious diseases, the human health effects of anthropogenic pollution, the human health impact of climate change, and telehealth innovations.

The AHHI is being coordinated by the US Center for Diseases Control and Prevention's Arctic Investigations Program, together with the International Union for Circumpolar Health and the US National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center.

**PROGRESS TO DATE** An expression of intent (EoI) on behalf of the Arctic Council was submitted to the IPY Joint Committee January 14, 2005, and can be viewed at the IPY Web Site [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org) together with other country health related EoIs under cluster #6 Human Issues. The AHHI EoI is JC 914. The official assessment of the AHHI EoI suggested that the AHHI could function as a "core" or umbrella project which would engage other regional national and international partners.

A US National Advisory committee for the AHHI was formed and met in Anchorage, Alaska, February 8, 2005. Potential US Arctic human health related projects and activities that could be undertaken during the IPY were discussed.

The committee consisted of representatives from:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Institute of the North
National Institutes of Health	Alaska Native Science Commission
Department of State	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
International Union for Circumpolar Health	Southcentral Foundation
American Society for Circumpolar Health	The State Of Alaska Division of Public Health.
University of Alaska, Northern Forum	

A detailed summary of the meeting can be found at [www.iuch.org.ipy](http://www.iuch.org.ipy).

An AHHI International Advisory committee was formed and met in Copenhagen, Denmark April 7, to discuss potential linkages and areas of cooperation between human health activities proposed to be undertaken during IPY by researchers in other circumpolar countries and the development of a full proposal to be submitted to the IPY Joint Committee by September 30, 2005.

The committee consisted of representatives from:

Canadian Institutes of Health Research	Center for Sami Health Research, Norway
Danish National Institute of Public Health	Lund University, Sweden
Danish Greenlandic Circumpolar Health Society	Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russian Federation
Indigenous Peoples Secretariat, Denmark	
Center of Primary Health Care Nuuk Greenland	State Sanitary and Epidemiology Surveillance Center, Arkhangelsk Region, Russian Federation
Centre for Arctic Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland	International Union for Circumpolar Health
Institute of Community Medicine University of Tromsø, Norway	Alaska Native Tribal health Consortium
	Southcentral Foundation, Anchorage Alaska
Sami National Center for Child and Adolescent Health, Norway	US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A detailed summary of the meeting can be found at [www.iuch.org/ipy](http://www.iuch.org/ipy).

Alan Parkinson met with David Hik, Executive Director of the Canadian IPY Secretariat May 4th to discuss Canadian IPY human health initiatives, and was briefed on two day meeting held in Whitehorse Yukon Territories which facilitated discussions on Canadian IPY human health research pre-proposals. This meeting also engaged a number of northern and Aboriginal organizations interested in participating in human health research activities during IPY. A full report of the Whitehorse meeting can be accessed at [www.ualberta.ca/~ipy](http://www.ualberta.ca/~ipy). It is anticipated that there will be close collaboration between the AHHI and Canadian human health initiatives.

**OUTCOMES** From the meetings held in Anchorage (February 6th), Copenhagen (April 7th), the results of the EoI assessments, and discussion with AHHI collaborators, a potential project clustering under an AHHI umbrella can be proposed for further discussion and development of a full proposal for the September 30, 2005 deadline.  
(An IPY assigned number and/or the Lead country is shown in parentheses)

### **Proposed elements of an AHHI Core Project (JC 914-US)**

#### *Conferences/Workshops*

- ICCH 13, "Gateway to IPY" Novosibirsk Russian Federation, June 12–16, 2006
- ICCH 14, "IPY Legacy" Yellow Knife, Canada, 2009
- Workshop Conference on AMAP Human Health Working Group Research Program (Canada).
- Human Health Conference, and topic specific workshops Alaska 2007–2008 (US)

#### *Fellowships*

- Jens Peder Hart Hansen (IUCH)
- Northern Forum
- International Circumpolar Surveillance
- University of the Arctic-Masters in Circumpolar Health and Well Being (Finland)

### *Publications*

- International Journal of Circumpolar Health  
Special IPY topic issues, supplements and meeting proceedings (Finland)

### *Web Site Development*

- Arctic Health [www.arctichealth.org](http://www.arctichealth.org)
- IUCH [www.iuch.org](http://www.iuch.org)
- AHHI (to be developed)

### *General Public information/education*

- Northern Forum ICCH press coverage

### *Health Networks*

- International Circumpolar Surveillance
  - Unintentional Injuries in the North (JC 524-Canada)
  - Building a Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in the North with a focus on Unintentional Injury Prevention (JC 538-Canada)
  - Occupational Injuries (US)
  - Birth Defects (Canada)
- International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (JC 516-Canada)
- Circumpolar Human Health Monitoring Network (JC 457-Canada)

### *Health Surveys*

- Survey of Living Conditions (SLiCA) (JC 791-Greenland)
- Inuit Health in Transition: A study of the impact of changing environments society and climate on health and disease among the Inuit and Yupik of the circumpolar north (JC 760-Denmark; JC 495-Canada)
- Healthy Knowledge: Linking Traditional Knowledge with Wellness Research, Education and Practice in Greenland, Nunavut and Alaska (JC 518-Canada)

### *Food Security-Contaminants, Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, and Human Health*

- Integrity of the Traditional Food System and Environmental Health in the Circumpolar North (JC 483-Canada)
- Assessment of the status of food-borne zoonotic diseases Trichinellosis and Toxoplasmosis in Arctic Communities. (JC 710-Canada)
- Parasitic food borne diseases in the population of the Arctic with a special focus on Greenland. (JC 742-Denmark)
- The prevalence of zoonotic diseases in marine mammals important to subsistence population. (US)

### *Other project areas proposed and to be developed*

- Children and Youth of the Arctic (Canada/Greenland/Finland)
- Elder Health (Finland)
- Community Based Monitoring Community Based Monitoring in the Arctic. Potential linkage with COMAAR (Consortium for coordination of Monitoring and Observation of the Arctic for Assessment and Research) IPY “core” project (Sweden)
- Climate Change and Human Health (Finland, US)

**NEXT STEPS** *July 28, 2005*

US trans-Department of Health & Human Services interagency meeting, at NIH.  
This meeting is being hosted by the Fogarty International Center to solicit AHHI project ideas and support by other NIH Institutes and Centers and other DHHS agencies.

*September 30, 2005*

AHHI full proposal due to be submitted to the IPY Joint Committee.

**UPCOMING IPY EVENTS** *July 18–19, 2005*

Community Based Monitoring and Development of an Arctic Wide network through Arctic Peoples Observations Center, Boulder Colorado.

*July 20–22, 2005*

IPY Education and Outreach, Boulder Colorado.

*October 10–13, 2005*

Arctic Council SDWG/SAO meeting Khanty-Mansysk, Russian Federation.

*October 26–29, 2005*

AHHI International Advisory Group meeting, Quebec City.

**NEWS FROM**



**International Union for Circumpolar Health News  
Gateway to the International Polar Year: ICCH 13**

I invite you to come to the kick-off event for the 2007–2008 International Polar Year which is being held during the 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health, June 12–26, 2006, in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

The Congress will be international collaboration of scientists, health workers, and the public dedicated to promoting quality circumpolar research and education for professionals and the public.

This large international multidisciplinary Congress serves as the primary source of information exchange and scholarly communication in issues relating to circumpolar health. Hundreds of participants participate in each Congress and scientific papers or posters are presented on the whole breadth and depth of health related circumpolar issues.

See the conference website for details: [www.ict.nsc.ru/ws/icch13/index.en.html](http://www.ict.nsc.ru/ws/icch13/index.en.html). If you have questions, please contact Neil Murphy at [nmurphy@scf.cc](mailto:nmurphy@scf.cc).

**CONTACT US**

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