

# ICCH12 – THE 12<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH IN NUUK

Spring is here and September not far away. The preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Nuuk are moving forward rapidly. We in the organizing committee, together with the IUCH Council, look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in Nuuk during the congress, which is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2003. Or, why not take a few extra days before, or after the congress to explore Greenland?

The Nuuk congress is the proud successor of many thrilling events. In 1967, the first conference was convened in Fairbanks, Alaska. Since then, International Congresses on Circumpolar Health have been held approximately every three years in a wide variety of places and settings, including Oulu (1971), Yellowknife (1974), Novosibirsk (1978), Copenhagen (1981), Anchorage (1984), Umea (1987), Whitehorse (1990), Reykjavik (1993), Anchorage once more (1996), and Harstad (2000). Since the first congress in Fairbanks in 1967, these triennial congresses have become a cornerstone of international cooperation in health research in and about the Arctic, but a need was perceived for extending the cooperation to the years between the congresses. The foundation of the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH) was laid in 1981, in connection with the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress in Copenhagen and the IUCH was finally established in 1986. An important event in Nuuk will be the IUCH general assembly and the election of two council members from the floor.

The deadlines for abstracts and for early registration are long overdue, but it is still possible to register and participate. Please visit the congress homepage [www.icch12.org](http://www.icch12.org) for further information and online registration.

*Peter Bjerregaard*  
*President of IUCH*