

TIME TO REFRESH PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS BETWEEN COLLEAGUES

Arctic health professionals will meet in Nuuk, Greenland, in September of this year. The meeting will be a rich source for new ideas and an opportunity to refresh, or bind new international linkages between colleagues. I hope many of us will have the opportunity to be present. Also Antarctic health researches had a successful meeting with 150 participants in Plymouth, UK in May. Abstracts from this event will be published as a supplement in this journal.

In this issue, we have two rare views of the arctic environment; one concerning contaminants in indoor environments and another on cold work environments of dairy farms. Both reports also offer useful information for health care practitioners. Similarly useful is the article describing the associations between life in cold environments and obstructive respiratory diseases and symptoms at the population level. Finally, the articles concerned with cold in this issue are concluded with a method development report describing how, in practice, to manage health and safety risks related to cold in workplaces.

Stress due to modernization of indigenous populations in Siberia and health culture in northern Finland describes interestingly relationships between health and Arctic societies today.

Dietary information is included in two articles related to the dietary habits of adolescents in northern Norway and to tracing mercury in whale meat in the Faroe Islands.

Finally, we present a very welcome abstract of a circumpolar dissertation describing the prevalence of atopy in Greenland.

We repeat our hope to receive information and material concerning indigenous health in all of the Arctic areas for publication in this Journal. This material is collected by Dr. Earl Nowgesic.

In the future, we also hope to have the opportunity to publish reports describing stress, and methods of coping with it, related to health care work in isolated regions of the Arctic.

The next issue will include a review on how light in Circumpolar areas affects human health. All articles of that issue will also be available in electronic format on the www-pages of the Journal (<http://ijch.oulu.fi>).

Juhani Hassi

Editor-in-chief