

## INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH RESEARCH LAUNCHED

A new organization that links researchers, trainees and those who support health research in the circumpolar countries, called the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (INCHR), has now been launched. While an informal network has existed since the early days of the "circumpolar health movement" in the 1960s and 70s, facilitated by the international circumpolar health congresses, INCHR takes a step further to formalize the international collaboration on a researcher-to-researcher level. Its objectives are:

1. to conduct, sponsor, and promote research programs and projects investigating the patterns, determinants and impact of health conditions among circumpolar peoples and the strategies for improving their health;
2. to support research training at all levels and increase capacity for circumpolar health research in communities, service delivery agencies and higher educational institutions;
3. to facilitate exchange, communication and dissemination of research data;
4. to strengthen the health information system in the circumpolar region.

It is open to anyone engaged in the research enterprise in academic research centres, community organizations, regional health agencies

and scientific/professional associations, who share in the goal of improving the health of the residents of the circumpolar region through international cooperation in scientific research. INCHR will collaborate actively with IUCH and its adhering bodies, for example, in co-sponsoring exchanges and events.

The development of INCHR was generously supported financially by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, through a grant to Prof. Kue Young of the University of Toronto. The INCHR slowly came into being after a series of planning and consultative meetings in Canada, Denmark and Greenland, including the international symposium on Populations in Transition held in Toronto in February, 2004. In the coming year, INCHR will be actively engaged in seeking long-term sustainable funding. It also aims to become a co-publisher of the International Journal of Circumpolar Health.

A website ([www.inchr.org](http://www.inchr.org)) is now operational. It contains useful information on, and links to, research centres, researchers, projects, and archives.

There is no membership fee. Further information can be obtained from the founding members whose contact e-mails are posted on the website, or the Network Coordinator, Ms Katherine Minich ([k.minich@utoronto.ca](mailto:k.minich@utoronto.ca)).

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