

ARCTIC COUNCIL, AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT TO IMPROVE HUMAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN THE ARCTIC

The Arctic Council has evolved during its ten-year circumpolar collaboration as an important instrument to improve the health and wellbeing of inhabitants of the Arctic. In 2004, in the early stages of the preparation of the International Polar Year 2007-08 (IPY) it emphasized the particular importance of human health in the Arctic region as one of the major component of IPY. Active preparation of individual health projects and their joint coordination project entitled "Arctic Human Health Initiative" (AHHI) has been processed. The Arctic Health Initiative was further prepared and introduced in June at the 13th Conference of Arctic Health in Novosibirsk, Russia. Project leader Alan Parkinson gives a short introduction to this area in the current issue.

On September 7th 2006 in Moscow, the Sustainable Development working group of the Arctic Council accepted AHHI as coordinator of its health cluster. This is in addition to the role of AHHI as coordinator of human health projects in IPY, a role given to it by the IPY office. The final position of AHHI in the frame of the Arctic Council will be noted in its ministerial declaration in October 2006. It established a new channel between international political decision-makers and health researchers/professionals.

It is an important new platform for the development of strategies and practices of circumpolar health. The International Union of Circumpolar Health (IUCH) aims to be active in the development of the future practices of this "health cluster". President Pamela Orr of the IUCH will discuss these plans and actions later in this journal.

The preparation for the follow-up on the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment project (ACIA) is recommended to go further under the title "the ACIA Focal Points" and to continue working in the frame of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP). The lack of knowledge on the adaptation to climate change in the north was identified during this preparation work.

In Novosibirsk, Russia, the IUCH nominated its new Council for the next three years. The new president of the IUCH is professor Pamela Orr from the University of Manitoba, Canada. The IJCH congratulates her and wishes her success in leading the IUCH.

In Novosibirsk, the annual meeting of the International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers (IACHP) decided to raise its subscription fees slightly, for the first time in the history of IJCH. The chairman of the IACHP meeting, Brian Saylor, gives the readers

a short account of this decision. However, even with the new fees, the price per page is still less than it was ten years ago, also including our electronic version. Due to improvement of the quality of texts published in the Journal, the amount of editorial work has also increased significantly. During its annual meeting the IACHP also accepted two new contributing members to its team of publishers: the Centre for Health Research in Greenland/National Institute of Public Health and the Northern State Medical University (Archangelsk).

In this issue we have seven original articles and many notes from the annual meeting of ICCH held in Novosibirsk in June 2006, an article from one of the new Hildes Medal rewardees, Professor Jens C. Hansen, and an abstract of the dissertation of the editor of this journal, Tiina Mäkinen, PhD. Besides other interesting articles, the article on the Impact of the mass immunization campaign in Nunavik offers us new information based on knowledge about the value of mass immunization in modern Arctic communities.

Juhani Hassi
Editor-in-Chief

Subscription fees in 2007

The Board of Publishers for the International Journal of Circumpolar Health has authorized an increase in the subscription fees starting in 2007. Increases in printing and distribution costs clearly warrant this increase.

Beginning in 2007, annual subscriptions for individual subscribers will increase from 50 Euros to 60 Euros. Institutional subscriptions will increase from 100 to 120 Euros and subscriptions for members of member organizations of the International Union for Circumpolar Health will increase from 25 to 30 Euros.

The Board of Publishers has compared our subscription fees with those of similar professional journals. We are confident that, despite our increase subscription fees, the International Journal of Circumpolar Health is competitively priced.

The Journal will continue to provide our subscribers with valuable and timely scientific information that can help improve the health and welfare of circumpolar people.

Respectively,
 The Publishers Board
 The International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers