

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH (IUCH)

At the 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health held in Novosibirsk, Russia in June 2006 a new IUCH council was elected. The IUCH executive committee for the period 2006-2009 includes the following individuals (with membership in their adhering body identified):

IUCH Executive committee

President: Pamela Orr (Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health, CSCH)
Vice-President: Juhani Hassi (Nordic Society for Arctic Medicine, NSAM)
Secretary: Preben Homøe (Danish-Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health, D-GSCH)
Treasurer: Abel Bult-Ito (American Society for Circumpolar Health, ASCH)

IUCH Council members for 2006-2009 include the following:

Arild Vaktskjold (Nordic Society for Arctic Medicine)
Gert Mulvad (Danish-Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health)
Sergei Krivoschekov (Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, AMS-SB)
Mikhail Voevoda (Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, AMS-SB)
Larissa Abruytina (Russia)
Bill Erasmus (Canada)
Katherine Minich (Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health)
Neil Murphy (American Society for Circumpolar Health)
Giichiro Ohno (Affiliated Member, Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research, SCAR)
Tiina Mäkinen (Affiliated Member, Finnish Society of Arctic Health and Biology ATBY)
Kue Young (Affiliated Member, International Network for Circumpolar Health Research, INCHR)

The 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health was highly successful in bringing together scientists, circumpolar residents, indigenous people, health care workers and administrators in a forum that encouraged dialogue and a creative exchange of ideas. This was the first congress in Russia since 1978. On behalf of the IUCH I would like to thank Sergei Krivoschekov and his colleagues of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm in the creation of this congress.

I would also like to thank the outgoing IUCH council, and in particular Neil Murphy, for the many successes that have been achieved over the past 3 years. Our priorities over the next term include continued close partnership with the Arctic Council and the Arctic Human Health Initiative in the planning and execution of International Polar Year research projects. The IUCH supports and promotes the sharing of circumpolar research and experience through the use of media (the International Journal for Circumpolar Health, Congress Proceedings, web sites of the IUCH, INCHR and others) and meetings. The IUCH is engaged in planning, with the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health, for the proposed 14th Congress on Circumpolar Health to be held in Yellowknife, Canada. This congress will create a forum for the early sharing of IPY project data and experience, and for the voices of indigenous peoples engaged in health maintenance, promotion and care in circumpolar regions. With the assistance of the American Society for Circumpolar Health, the IUCH is exploring the feasibility of hosting the 15th Congress in Fairbanks, Alaska in 2012.

The IUCH has a number of working groups (listed on our web site), some of which have been more active than others. The IUCH will review these groups in order to assist their activities between and during congresses.

The IUCH encourages individuals to become and remain active members of the adhering bodies (ASCH, CSCH, AMS-SB, D/GSCH, NSAM) and affiliated organizations. We welcome your thoughts, suggestions and involvement as we work to improve the quality of life in the circumpolar world.

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