

## NEED OF CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FROM SOUTHERN AREAS

Today, with increasing knowledge about circumpolar health content, we understand how it differs from more southern areas. Furthermore, the speed of renovation of health knowledge is so fast that northern health professionals need regional applications from research and development from the south as well. The editorial team of this journal evaluates continuously the limits and frames of reference of its contents. Therefore, in addition to the polar focus of the International Polar Year in human health, we also plan to invite specific articles originating from southern areas that are equally important to the health of people living in the north.

Within the frame of the International Polar Year there is an ongoing fruitful discussion between health specialists at different global organizations having a joint polar focus in conjunction with stakeholders and governmental authorities. The Norwegian chairpersons of the Arctic Council have been active in inviting different organizations to solve common challenges together. IUCH is actively involved in this discussion under the lead of its chairperson Pamela Orr. We can expect a new kind of global collaboration where knowledge regarding circumpolar health from different countries is needed. We at IJCH aim to assist in finding new types of health information for our readers, but also to northern health professionals and the public media as a whole.

In this issue we continue the practice of introducing significant northern health research programmes, which was initiated by introducing the GOCADAN study (1). We are also

continuing with the Center for Alaska Native Health Research-study (2) entity presented in previous special issues. Now we introduce the Norwegian SAMINOR study (3), a Sami Health project, and the Finnish D2D national diabetes prevention programme (4). We will continue with this introductory practice later this year. In this issue we also have an excellent review by MD Heikki Koskela which helps us to understand the effects of cold exposure on respiratory system function, responses and health effects. The article provides practical information for health care professionals applicable in the treatment decisions that need to be made frequently each winter in high latitude and altitude environments.

Together with substance experts, this journal is preparing a special issue dealing with Sami Health and a supplement describing the health of Russian indigenous peoples within the framework of the International Polar Year.

1. Howard BV, Devereux RB, Cole SA, Davidson M, Dyke B, Ebbesson SO et al. A genetic and epidemiologic study of cardiovascular disease in Alaska natives (GOCADAN): design and methods. *Int J Circumpolar Health*. 2005; 64(3):206-21.
2. Mohatt GV, Plaetke R, Klejka J, Luick B, Lardon C, Bersamin A et al. The Center for Alaska Native Health Research Study: A Community- Based Participatory Research study of obesity and chronic disease-related protective and risk factors. *Int J Circumpolar Health* 2007; 66(1):8-18
3. Lund E, Melhus M, Hansen KL, Nystad T, Broderstad AR, Selmer R et al. Population Based Study of Health and Living Conditions in Areas with both Sámi and Norwegian Populations – The SAMINOR Study. *Int J Circumpolar Health* 2007; 66(2):113-128.
4. Saaristo T, Peltonen M, Keinänen-Kiukaanniemi S, Vanhala M, Saltevo J, Niskanen L et al. National Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Programme in Finland: FIN-D2D *Int J Circumpolar Health* 2007; 66(2):101-112.

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