

UPDATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH RESEARCH (INCHR)

Annual General Meeting, Banff, Canada, April 22-24, 2007

INCHR concluded a very successful second annual general meeting held at the Banff Centre in the Alpine resort town of Banff, Alberta, Canada. It was part of a two-day event which also featured other conjoint meetings including the International Network for Circumpolar Health Association, the International Union of Circumpolar Health, the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health, and the Arctic Human Health Initiative. There were two concurrent scientific sessions. Members of the CIHR Team in Circumpolar Chronic Disease Prevention outlined various current and planned activities in this 5-year program of research [see announcement in *IJCH* 2006;65(3):273]. The recently formed IUCH Working Group in Women's Health also held its inaugural meeting with presentations and discussions of future plans. Overall, some 70 participants were registered, coming from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. Amidst breathtaking scenery of snow capped mountain peaks, participants were able to take full advantage of the opportunities for networking and collegial discussions.

The most important issue discussed at the INCHR meeting was the proposal for a Travelling Fellowship. The approved guidelines are presented here.

Guidelines for the INCHR Travelling Fellowship

Objectives: To promote international exchange of researchers and their trainees by providing partial financial support for travel, accommodation and related expenses

Eligibility: There are two categories of awards available to:

- (1) Members of INCHR in good standing
- (2) Trainees sponsored by an INCHR member

Each member can only receive one award in either category every five years. In the event no applications are received in any one year, the competition will be open also to those who have previously received an award within five years.

Duration of Support: Flexible

Location: A research centre/institute/project/program of another INCHR member in the same country or another country.

Amount of Support: Up to a maximum of \$5,000 Canadian Dollars per award in each category.

Eligible Expenses:

Travel (eg. airfare, train/bus/taxi, car rental)

Accommodation (eg. hotel, private home)

Meals (eg. purchased meals, groceries)

Incidentals (eg. telephone calls, laundry)

Application Procedure: A 2-page proposal should be submitted to the INCHR Office [contact: k.minich@utoronto.ca], including:

- Objectives
- Program of activities
- Budget and other sources of support
- Expected benefits
- Letter of support/collaboration from INCHR member serving as host

There will be one competition each year in the two categories, with a deadline of October 1 for travel in the following calendar year. In the event no award is made, a second competition will be announced with a deadline of April 1 the following year.

Selection Process: The application will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of INCHR. The successful proposal will be selected by simple majority vote conducted electronically or via teleconference

Payment: Travel must take place within one year of the announcement of the award. Upon conclusion of the travel, the awardee will submit to the INCHR Office:

- a brief report (no more than 5 pages) on the accomplishments achieved during the travel – this report should be countersigned by the INCHR member host
- list of expenses to be reimbursed, supported by appropriate receipts

Contact person: Dr. Kue Young, President, INCHR, kue.young@utoronto.ca

Website: www.inchr.org