

Dear Readers,

Our international collaborators asked our journal to publish a description of the Finnish national immunization program. We invited Dr. Rapola from the National Public Health Institute of Finland who kindly assisted us with producing this description. Her article and a special editorial of Professor Pamela Orr provide the readers a view to systematic immunization and its importance in Circumpolar Health.

Climatic heat is an underestimated risk factor contributing to excess mortality also in the circumpolar north. Climate warming will increase this risk further. As a first article approaching this issue from a northern perspective, Dr. Simo Näyhä describes heat related mortality in the 2000s in Finland. We will also continue publishing on this topic next year.

The article of Lahiry et al. describes a study where the association between common genomic variations in *APOC3*, *APOA5*, *APOE* and *PON1* genes and variation in biochemical phenotypes in a sample of Greenlanders were examined. This article offers us valuable regional information of this important linkage to our modern disease burden. Palinkas et al. presents an interesting overview to winter related hormone status in the polar region (Antarctica), and how to substitute its imbalance.

We in the editorial office are happy to recognize a wide geographical coverage of different author teams in this issue. The first issue of the year 2008 is a special issue focusing on Sami Health and will be published in February.

The Sustainable Working Group of the Arctic Council (SDWG) continues its development plan for their health related activities. The most recent meeting of SDWG was held October 31- November 1 in Vadsø, Norway, and the discussion between SDWG members, representatives of the International Union of Circumpolar Health (IUCH) and other health specialists was positive. It allows us to expect increasing positive contribution of SDWG in health issues possibly already in year 2008. It is also possible that our journal may have a role in functioning as an information channel for SDWG.

The International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers (IACHP) offers to its audience now the first issue of a new publication series: Circumpolar Health Supplements (CHS). The need for this type of publication was

recognized already in year 2004 by IACHP. The association decided in its annual meeting 2007 to initiate the publishing.

CHS is an independent publication series. It publishes a wide variety of material in the field of circumpolar health and wellbeing, which has special value for health care professionals and officials in circumpolar areas. CHS has the purpose to support IJCH as a channel of publishing a larger variety of material, and not merely scientific articles. The new supplement series allow to publish material of different forms (e.g. monographs, books etc.) related to circumpolar health, which can be of significant practical value to health professionals. The indexing of CHS in different indexes is under preparation. How to subscribe, how to get contact for group ordering of the hard copies and other practical detailing will be informed of at the journal's website. This information will be also be described in more detail in the next issue of IJCH. The next CHS will be published in January 2008.

At this moment the first issue of CHS: "Indigenous Peoples of Northern Russia: Anthropology and Health", is available at the web pages of IJCH. This issue has also been distributed to all subscribers of IJCH free of charge. You can find further details of the supplement in this issue.

The year 2007 is ending. This Journal has today a wide net of circumpolar health scientists, professionals and officials. The Editorial team in Oulu has got great support from the scientific editors, associate editors, other expert reviewers, our publishers and other interest groups. Each issue of the journal contains numerous experts as contributors living and working in the different sites of the circumpolar area. We are thanking all of you involved in this work. Our readers, the target of the activities of our journal, provide us valuable feedback via different channels. More opinions are warmly welcomed!

The Editorial team wishes all our contributors and readers an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas Season.

Juhani Hassi
Editor-in-Chief