

## INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR AND ICCH YELLOWSTONE 2009 ACTIVATE CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The meeting of the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research in Tromsø in May this year collected and activated numerous professionals of circumpolar health and wellbeing from different countries. The coming winter-season means time for international collaboration in development and research. The coming meetings of IUCH in July 2009 (see announcement in this issue) and IPY in the beginning of 2010 have initiated numerous reporting activities to introduce regional results advancing circumpolar health and wellbeing. These results can also be utilized to an increasing extent also in the frame of Arctic Council after the start of the Arctic Human Health Expert Group for Sustainable Working Group of the Arctic Council (SDWG). The initiation of this activity is predicted to occur in 2009.

This year of IJCH has been very active in the reporting of the studies of anthropological wellbeing and also nutrition of circumpolar indigenous peoples. This activity is continued in this issue, too. From the field of quantitative research this journal will publish, in addition to the individual articles, also special issues in the near future. Our next issue is focusing on cancer among circumpolar indigenous populations. After this we will publish a theme issue related with climate change and heat related health effects. Furthermore, next summer we are publishing a special issue on suicides in circumpolar regions. Special issues from the field of anthropological research would serve our readers well, too. Health care in the remote circumpolar regions faces challenges when aiming to solve the needs of the local population, and its expectations from health care professionals, and how to optimize the content of services, as well as collaboration. We hope an increasing discussion about this topic between professionals in the different countries possessing different solutions. ICCH 14 in Yellowknife will be an excellent forum for this kind of information change. Our publishing association is pleased to be responsible for publishing the material of the Yellowknife congress as an issue of Circumpolar Health Supplements.

In this issue B Niclasen and C Schnohr report a considerable decrease in smoking and alcohol use among Greenlandic school children. Their results indicate a positive change in the health behaviour among young indigenous people. Independently, their results may motivate circumpolar health professionals to continue health promotion and preventive efforts directed towards school children in the lower grades and age groups. Four articles are focused on cultural health behaviour of the different indigenous populations. These articles express the success of these types of studies, which increase the information about native discourses, beliefs and attitudes in health and wellbeing. They are welcomed to be recognized by health care workers in the north.

Juusela et al report 14-20% of the adult population in the North Finland to have bronchial hypersensitivity without earlier history of asthma or chronic bronchitis. This high proportion of unknown sensitivity needs to be recognized in daily health care practices i.e. in diagnostics, treatment and preventive actions.

Our next issue will be published in December and will be focusing in cancer among circumpolar indigenous populations in the North America and North Europe.

In the end I would also encourage you to get acquainted with the revised writing instructions of our journal, which are included to the end part of this issue.

*Juhani Hassi, Editor-in Chief*