

Dear Readers,

Autumn is here at hand. Still, reflecting on last summer we experienced a wonderful and well-organised conference, the 14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health, which was held in July in Yellowknife, Canada. No doubt, this is an important platform for our journal, as the topics presented there are all relevant to understanding and improving health of the residents of circumpolar areas. Furthermore, a considerable portion of our contributors and readers were present at the conference which enables to receive valuable feedback from the field for further developing this publication. I want to acknowledge the conference organisers, and especially Susan Chatwood and Pamela Orr, co-chairs of the scientific committee, for their considerable work and numerous working hours spent on the arrangements. You all made the conference a success. Susan Chatwood, the Director of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research provides some thoughts of the conference in this issue.

Dr. John Arthur Hildes was a mentor and friend to several generations of doctors, nurses, scientists, community health workers and advocates within circumpolar regions. During the ICCH14 conference in Yellowknife the International Union of Circumpolar Health recognized the following individuals for demonstrating excellence in northern medicine and health: Pavel Ivanovitch Sidorov (Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences), Brian McMahon (American Society for Circumpolar Health), Bruce Martin (Canadian Society for Circumpolar

Health), Gert Mulvad (Danish Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health) and Siv Kvernmo (Nordic Society for Circumpolar Health). Dr. Jens Hart Hansen sought to improve circumpolar health by mentoring emerging researchers and health workers. The International Union for Circumpolar Health recognized the following individuals for their efforts in circumpolar health research, education, and cooperation: Larisa Gyrgolkay (Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences), Lisa Schwarzburg (American Society for Circumpolar Health), Julie Renee Bull (Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health), Christina Viskum L. Larsen (Danish Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health) and Anne Silviken (Nordic Society for Circumpolar Health).

We are very pleased to present our new scientific editor, Dr. David L Driscoll from the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Dr. Driscoll brings additional valuable scientific expertise, especially related to qualitative research methodology, to the team of scientific editors of this journal. You will find an introduction of David on the next page.

Lastly, we want to publish a special issue on Health Care in the North next year. For this purpose we have launched a call for papers in the current issue. We are interested in receiving contributions related with how health care is organised, financed and delivered in the circumpolar countries and regions.

Tiina Mäkinen
Editor-in-Chief