

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH

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CSCH NEWS



CSCH EXECUTIVE 2009–2012

At the 14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health, CSCH elected a new executive to carry out and expand the activities of the organization. With the dawn of a new era of circumpolar research and cooperation, the executive looks forward to working with members on initiatives of mutual interest.

PRESIDENT

Susan Chatwood is the Executive and Scientific Director of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. She is an Assistant Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of British Columbia, holds a Masters in Epidemiology from McGill University and is conducting her PhD in Medical Science at the University of Toronto. Susan has an interest in building sustainable health research capacity in northern regions and enhancing circumpolar perspectives. She has spent most of her career in remote and northern communities, working in the clinical setting, public health and research. Her research interests include circumpolar health systems, climate as a determinant of health, health monitoring strategies and building sustainable and ethical health research capacity and networks in northern regions. Research projects promoted are participatory and engage decision makers, northern stakeholders and practitioners with a focus on health systems, food security, climate change and homelessness.



Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) in Ottawa and is currently the Senior Program Officer.

Catherine focuses on Inuit health and wellness information and a range of public health issues including health promotion, maternal health, lung health and related research. She coordinates a Web site on Inuit midwifery (www.inuitmidwifery.ca) with an accompanying E-mail listserv for the Innuksiiniq – Inuit Midwifery Network and another for the Inuit Tobacco-free Network (ITN). Catherine's connection with the North and its peoples is life-long and her family spent over a decade in Iqaluit, Nunavut, where she learned rudimentary Inuktitut, worked as an educator, taught dance classes and volunteered with various community groups.

SECRETARY

Crystal Lennie is based in Inuvik, NWT and works for the Beaufort Delta School Board. She coordinates and facilitates the steering committee for the Inuvialuit portion of the Inuit Health Survey "Qanuqitpit?" She has directed various logistical components of the ship and land based surveys. Her experience working with broad partners and facilitation of health projects allows for ongoing commitment to Inuvialuit Healthcare within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Crystal represents the Inuvialuit on NICoH (National Inuit Committee on Health).



His interests are in rural and aboriginal health, health education and research. He developed the Northern Family Medicine (Norfam) program to train medical students and residents for rural and remote practice.

Marilyn Van Bibber

Marilyn Van Bibber has spent the last twenty-five years working for First Nations and Aboriginal organizations in BC and Yukon. Her education is in nursing, midwifery and political science. Marilyn has a long standing commitment to Aboriginal community health issues and the promotion of healthy families. She is a founding member of the Aboriginal Nurses of Canada, the BC FAS Resource Society and the Medical Services Foundation Ethics Review Committee (Vancouver Foundation).

Marilyn has participated in numerous community research projects including health needs assessments, evaluations and maternal child health. She researched and wrote the Health Canada publication, *It Takes a Community: A Resource Manual on Community-Based Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects* and is currently working on the second edition.



Paul Brassard



Paul Brassard is a community medicine physician with graduate training in epidemiology and parasitology. As a clinician researcher at the McGill University Health Centre his current research has been

looking into the natural history of the human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and cervical cancer in Inuit women of Northern Québec. This research will hopefully help in the formulation of policies for inclusion of some form of HPV testing in a more effective cervical cancer screening and prevention program.

TREASURER



Catherine Carry has been a member of CSCH for a number of years. Between 1994–2004, Catherine held a variety of coordination and management

positions at Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association, developing health promotion projects, multimedia resources and training for community workers. In 2004, she joined Inuit Tuttarvingat (formerly the Ajunnginiq Centre) at the National

DIRECTORS

Michael Jong



Michael Jong is rural family physician and has spent the past 27 years in the remote community of Happy Valley-Goose Bay in Labrador, Canada.

He is a professor of family medicine at Memorial

University of Newfoundland and Vice President of Medical Services for Labrador Grenfell Health.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR LA SANTÉ CIRCUMPOLAIRE ᑕᑎᑎᑦ ᑕᑎᑎᑦᑕᑎᑎᑦ ᑕᑎᑎᑦᑕᑎᑎᑦ ᑕᑎᑎᑦᑕᑎᑎᑦ ᑕᑎᑎᑦᑕᑎᑎᑦ

Established in 1984, the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health (CSCH) is a charitable organization dedicated to promoting research, exchanging knowledge, and fostering greater awareness and responsiveness to the health issues of circumpolar people. The CSCH also promotes and supports efforts of all circumpolar peoples in the attainment of better health.

— www.csch.ca —

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**“OUR VISION – A CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD
WHERE INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, AND
PEOPLES ARE EMPOWERED THROUGH
KNOWLEDGE TO ACHIEVE BETTER HEALTH.”**

Dear members of the Canadian Society for
Circumpolar Health and colleagues,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the long days of spring, be it marked by emerging tulips, puddles or potholes! As I write this letter many are in the final days of preparation for the International Polar Year conference this April 2012 in Montreal, Canada. I would like to commend the conference organizers on a job well done and steering committees who have put great thought and consideration into the program and networking sessions. Recognizable effort has been made to create a setting for dialogue and debate as we strive to uphold the conference theme and put knowledge into action.

The Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health will be holding its AGM and hosting a speaker's panel on Sunday April 22, the theme of the panel is global health and circumpolar perspectives. The theme follows lines of thinking presented in an upcoming article in the American Journal of Public Health: Global Health – A Circumpolar Perspective, and a recent report released by The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences entitled Canadians Making a Difference: The Expert Panel on Canada's Strategic Role in Global Health. The need for a dialogue on circumpolar health issues in a global context is timely as we witness emerging threats to human health and issues around sustainability in the context of the rapidly changing environment. It is a critical time to capture the findings of traditional knowledge systems and scientific practice as stakeholders working in the area of human health strive to find solutions which may inform best practices and health systems response. We hope the panel stimulates discussion and opens doors for dialogue among the broad sectors working to promote wellbeing in the circumpolar and global regions.

We were saddened to hear of the closing of the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) and have included NAHO's release in this newsletter. NAHO has played an important role in the circumpolar health community and



supported activities within the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health through in kind support and staff engagement. Most members will be familiar with the NAHO faces who have been a part of the circumpolar health community, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize your important contributions which have advanced the knowledge, understanding and supports for Aboriginal people in the circumpolar regions. From the OCAP papers in the early '90, to online supports for Inuit midwives and tool kits for health research ethics, the depth of resources has been a treasure to those who live in our remote regions without access to libraries or knowledge centers. The NAHO products have always been a dependable standard. You will be missed.

We would like to thank all our members who have contributed to this newsletter, it is wonderful to see the increasing numbers of community based and youth/elder driven initiatives and organizations. The findings are just emerging and capture dynamic perspectives and the spirit of life long learning.

Wishing all a productive and enjoyable conference in Montreal. For those not able to be there in person, be sure to check in on the website and catch up on webcasts and twitter accounts.

Best wishes,
Susan Chatwood
President
Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health

UPDATES

NEWS & EVENTS

Metrics Conference in Yellowknife



An international conference was organized by the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research on October 31, 2011, featuring international experts from circumpolar countries and regions discussing existing health data sources and how they can be managed and utilized to improve population health and health systems performance. Participants also toured the future site of the Statistics Canada Regional Data Centre at the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.

Conference themes included:

- metrics, health systems, and health policy
- circumpolar health data sources and applications

The program and powerpoints presented are now available at:

» metrics.circumpolarhealth.org/program/

Social Economy gatherings across the North

The Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada (SERNNCA) held three different meetings across the North this past year as the five-year SSHRC-funded initiative drew to a close.

In March 2011, the network hosted a symposium in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, that was followed by a similar gathering in Kuujuaq in February 2012. In conjunction with the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research, network also hosted its annual meeting, the Northern Summit on the Social Economy, in Yellowknife in November 2011.

The events were recorded and audio clips and presentations are archived here:

» dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernmoca

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

IPY 2012 From Knowledge to Action Conference

April 22-27, 2012,
Montréal, Québec

This upcoming international forum will be a valuable opportunity to demonstrate and apply the latest findings of polar research on a broad range of topics from oceans and sea ice, to permafrost, vegetation and wildlife, to changes in Arctic communities and beyond.

The Conference will draw on examples and best practices of the application of this knowledge to policies, programs and education, as well as to observation systems and networks and other actions. It will bring together internationally-renowned polar researchers with policy makers, analysts, community members, industry representatives, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to discuss the results of the largest-ever coordinated program of multi-disciplinary research in the earth's polar regions. It will also examine the current state and key changes in the polar regions and identify actions that will be important in a global context.

Please provide feedback to the conference at:

» www.ipy2012montreal.ca



CPHA 2012 Annual Conference

June 11-14, 2012, Edmonton, Alberta

The CPHA 2012 Annual Conference, "Public Health in Canada: Creating and Sustaining Healthy Environments," will explore the role of public health in creating and sustaining a diverse range of healthy environments using the following tracks: Built Environment; Economics & Development; Ecosystem Health; Leadership & Communications; and Society & Culture. Conference presenters will showcase accomplishments and challenge delegates to identify required actions and solutions.

Details available online at:

» conference.cpha.ca



Courtesy Shari Gearheard

18th The Inuit Studies Conference

October 24-28, 2012, Washington, DC

The Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institution will host the 18th Inuit Studies Conference and will coincide with a number of Northern-themed exhibitions across the institution. Additionally, proximity to government, foundations, and international agencies, makes the historic district of Washington, DC an ideal location for the 18th Inuit Studies Conference.

The biennial Inuit Studies Conference serves the critical function of drawing together scholars and Inuit representatives to share research results in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, linguistics, political governance, environmental science, health, education, and culture.

For more information, visit:

» www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/ISC18/

2012 National Indigenous Health Conference

December 5-7, 2012, Gold Coast, Australia

"Many Pathways, One Outcome" is designed to bring together both government and non-government agencies who are working in the field of Indigenous health with the belief that working together can close the gap between the state of Indigenous Health as compared to the health of mainstream Australians. It is envisaged that up to 200 delegates will attend the 2012 National Indigenous Health Conference which is scheduled on 5th 7th of December 2012 in the Gold Coast.

Papers are now being called for with the closing date on May 30, 2012.

On the web at:

» www.indigenoushealth.net



15TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH

AUGUST 5-10, 2012, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

On behalf of the ICCH15 Steering Committee and the Local organizing Committee, it is my privilege and pleasure to invite you to participate in the 15 International Congress on Circumpolar Health, to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, in 2012.

The International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH) is a unique international meeting that brings together health professionals, researchers, and indigenous representatives from Canada, Greenland, Denmark, USA, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and other countries interested in circumpolar health. This triennial event is considered the world's foremost multidisciplinary forum on Arctic health, influencing future research endeavors, medical care and public health decisions throughout the Northern regions.

The 15th ICCH will build upon lessons learned from the past fourteen successful Congresses, and will stand by the high scientific, programmatic, and organizational standards dictated by the Steering Committee.

The 2012 Congress, last held in 2009 in Yellowknife, Canada, comes at a special time during the International Polar Decade (IPD), a research initiative that takes place twice every century. It is expected that research findings from IPD projects will be presented at the Congress, which will also provide opportunities to plan follow-up steps to put this research into motion and to develop practical and applicable health care approaches and practices that can be sustained over the long term.

In keeping with its ongoing mission, the ICCH will highlight challenges faced by circumpolar health professionals and successes of northern-based health care. The week-long event will feature thought-provoking keynote addresses, workshops, information sessions, social activities, and networking activities that will provide many opportunities for artistic, cultural, and social exchanges.

The Congress will connect participants with the people, places, and experiences that make Alaska's Interior spectacular and will showcase the cultural richness of Fairbanks, and Alaska in general.

I look forward to welcoming you to Fairbanks for an exciting Congress, with a natural backdrop of inspiring natural beauty and Alaskan friendship.

Warmest Wishes,

Michael Bruce, President

International Union for Circumpolar Health and American Society for Circumpolar Health



Denali by Nic McPhee (Wiki)



Websites

www.icch15.com

www.explorefairbanks.com

Early Bird Registration Deadline

May 1, 2012

Preliminary Scientific Program Themes

1. Community Participatory Research/ Indigenous Research
2. Women's Health, Family Health and Well-Being
3. Food Security & Nutrition
4. Social Determinants of Health
5. Environmental and Occupational Health
6. Infectious and Chronic Diseases
7. Climate Change – Health Impacts
8. Health Service Delivery & Infrastructure
9. Behavioral Health

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WELCOME TO THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE

President – **Peter Bjerregaard** [Denmark/Greenland], Vice-President – **Susan Chatwood** [Canada], Secretary-Treasurer – **Bert Boyer** [USA], Representative of Canada – **Laurie Chan** [Canada], Representative of United States – **James Berner** [USA], Representative of Denmark, Greenland, and Faroe Islands – **Christina VL Larsen** [Denmark/Greenland], Representative of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland – **Arja Rautio** [Finland]



Join us for our Annual General meeting of the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (INCHR) in Fairbanks, Alaska the first week of August 2012. More details to follow at:

» www.inchr.com

Introducing the CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH ATLAS

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associate editors

RAJIV RAWAT | WINFRIED DALLMANN | SUSAN CHATWOOD | PETER BJERREGAARD



University of Toronto Press

www.utppublishing.com

DR. JOHN DAVID MARTIN

October 1, 1939 – September 5, 2011

It is with sadness we share the news of the passing of a long time, and founding member of the CSCH. Dave Martin's involvement in Aboriginal and Circumpolar Health began shortly after graduating from the University of Toronto School of Medicine in 1964. He served as a Field Medical Officer in Northern Manitoba and in the NWT. Based at the Faraud Hospital in Fort Rae, he travelled by float plane, holding clinics in locations all over the Western Arctic, including Snowdrift at the eastern end of Great Slave Lake, Fort Providence in the south, Lac La Martre, isolated Dog Rib Indian hunting camps on the edge of the barrens at Snare Lake, and the high Arctic settlements of Coppermine and Holman Island. Dave then became the Executive Officer for the Annual Eastern Arctic Patrol. In 1967 Dave was deployed on the Canadian Coast Guard Vessel the "C.D. Howe", leading a team of nurses, physicians, dentists and medical specialists delivering health services throughout the Eastern Arctic to remote and isolated Inuit communities along the Northwest Passage.

Following his stint on the "CD Howe", Dave was transferred to Whitehorse, YK. Recognizing the urgent need for family doctors in the North, Dave left the federal government and spent the next eight years working as a family practitioner, delivering somewhere in the neighbourhood of eight hundred babies. In 1975 Dave

rejoined the federal government as a medical officer working across the Central and Eastern Arctic. He was the Staff Medical Officer for the Medical Services Branch (MSB) in Ottawa, the Zone Director for Baffin Island in Frobisher Bay (Iqaluit), and the Regional Director for MSB in Yellowknife, before finally settling in Vancouver at the Pacific Regional office of First Nations and Inuit Health. Under Dave's direction and guidance many core public health programmes were initiated, including TB services for Aboriginal communities, diabetes screening and pandemic influenza preparation.

Dave Martin was a founding member and served as secretary (1985-1990) of the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health (CSCH). He was a pioneering advocate for the empowerment of First Nations and Inuit peoples in health care and public health. In addition to the CSCH, Dave served on numerous committees and service organizations. He was the Chief of Medical Staff for Whitehorse General Hospital, Director for the Yukon Social Service Society and founder of the Rotary Club of Frobisher Bay, NWT.

Dave Martin was a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia for the past 20 years. He was a teacher and mentor to a generation of medical students and residents. His enthusiasm and commitment guided many young doctors to enter and become leaders in the fields of Public Health and Aboriginal Health. His academic pursuits included numerous publications and presentations at the International Conference on Circumpolar Health including those on communicable and chronic disease issues, as well as broad determinants of health.

Despite 44 years of working in challenging medical, political and economical milieu Dave never lost the spring in his steps, the smile on his face or the knack for a timely word of encouragement or sage advice. His accomplishments, altruism, and continued focus on issues of importance for aboriginal health earned him unwavering respect from all who knew and worked with him. Dr. John David Martin's has been recognized by the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health and the International Union for Circumpolar Health for his outstanding contribution to Circumpolar Health and will posthumously be awarded the Jack Hildes Medal.



Health Literacy and Northern Women's Health Seminar

ICCH 15 Pre-Congress Seminar

August 5, 2012
Fairbanks, AK

Call for Posters

Abstracts due no later than April 18th.
Presenters notified by April 30th.

Students especially encouraged to submit.

To be considered, submit the following:

- Title
- Author(s) and Affiliations, contact info for the presenter
- Abstract: no more than 100 words (maximum 200 words, including title, objectives, introduction, results, conclusion, and key words)

Thematic areas include all topics relevant to the seminar:

- Health Literacy
- Health Communication
- Women's Health and Well-Being

Type of Presentation (please check all that apply)

- Research
- Practice
- Policy
- Other (Specify)

Students: 50% of the above research programs

Key Words: (no more than 10)

Send abstracts and questions to:
Dr. Jennifer Edwards, Co-Chair, ICCH 15 Women's Health and Well-Being Workshop
jennifer.edwards@utoronto.ca

International Union for Circumpolar Health

International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (INCH)

NEW RESOURCES AND TRAINING FROM NAHO

Inuit Child Welfare and Family Support



Inuit Tuttarvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization is concerned about the health and wellness of Inuit across Canada, and has identified children's health as an important research priority. Too many Inuit children are involved in Canada's child welfare system, and there is not enough support for families in distress to prevent the removal of children from their homes. *Inuit Child Welfare and Family Support: Policies, Programs and Strategies* is meant to be a step in an ongoing project to address the social program needs and the current social service gaps for Inuit children.

The report identifies the child welfare issues of concern to Inuit and highlights some of the initiatives underway, including programs and policies that address these issues in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, and Indigenous communities internationally. Also available are four bibliographies: 1) Inuit-related documents, 2) Aboriginal-related documents, 3) International Indigenous documents, and 4) general documents.

The publications are available online at:

» www.naho.ca/inuit/mental-wellness/children-and-social-services

If Not Now... When? Addressing the Ongoing Inuit Housing Crisis in Canada



Inuit Tuttarvingat's *If Not Now... When? Addressing the Ongoing Inuit Housing Crisis in Canada* resulted from an extensive review of research literature and reports on the effects of poor housing on Inuit communities. The report addresses the long-term effects that

inadequate housing will have on today's youngest Inuit generation. While the authors set out to document the evidence for the linkages between housing and health, they were surprised to find large gaps in our research knowledge. Only a few studies were found that explored linkages between poor housing conditions / housing shortages and specific diseases and conditions. While new housing, repairs for existing structures and improved water and sewage systems are required immediately to alleviate the crisis, more research is also needed. The report is available at:

» www.naho.ca/inuit/health-determinants/housing

Qaigitsi! Health Careers Rock!

Qaigitsi! Health Careers Rock! is a newly updated, searchable listing of health courses and programs at select colleges and universities in Canada. There is a huge need for health care providers in Inuit communities and one of the goals of *Qaigitsi!* is to ensure that Inuit youth are informed of the many health career options offered in post-secondary schools. The database includes a wide range of health careers and types of post-secondary programs, and the website also includes career definitions, inspirational words, strategies for success and other information to prospective students find a program is right for them.

Qaigitsi! Health Careers Rock! is a program of the National Aboriginal Health Organization's Inuit Tuttarvingat at:

» www.naho.ca/qaigitsi

Mining and Aboriginal Community Health

Inuit Tuttarvingat of NAHO has been working on several projects with a focus on resource extraction and is currently a partner in *Mining and Aboriginal Community Health*, a multi-disciplinary project synthesizing existing knowledge on the effects of mining on Aboriginal health and known interventions.

The members of the project team include researchers from across the country, the Inuit

community of Baker Lake in Nunavut, AECOM, an engineering and environmental planning consultancy, and Inuit Tuttarvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization. They are working to:

- Uncover and make sense of existing knowledge of the impacts of mining on Aboriginal community health;
- Identify attempted interventions (i.e., attempts to mitigate community health impacts) and assess their effectiveness; and
- Translate and communicate this gathered knowledge to stakeholders, including communities, companies, policy makers and other interested parties.

Beginning in spring 2012, Inuit Tuttarvingat of NAHO will start sharing the knowledge that has been synthesized and grouped to answer questions of interest. The NAHO website will function as the main depository for web-based products such as fact sheets, brochures, radio spots and documentary-like videos. The project has received funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canada.

The Mining and Aboriginal Community Health website can be found at:

» www.impactandbenefit.com/miningandhealth/

New Issue of the Journal of Aboriginal Health

The National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) is pleased

to announce the launch of its latest issue of the Journal of Aboriginal Health. This, the eleventh issue of the Journal, is devoted entirely to research on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer in First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Full text of the journal is available at:

» www.naho.ca/journal



Sunday, April 22, 2012

510B Palais des congrès
Montréal, Québec
1:00pm



Panel Presentation

Global health and circumpolar perspectives

In partnership with the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health Annual General Meeting
and the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research



Sheila Watt-Cloutier

Nobel Peace Prize Nominee
and World Leader on Global
Climate Change and
Human Rights



Jeff Reading

Professor and Director of the
Centre for Aboriginal Health
Research, University of Victoria



Birgitta Evengård

Professor in Clinical Microbiology at
Umeå University and Co-Chair of
the Human Health Expert Group
of the Arctic Council



Kue Young

President of INCHR and
Editor-in-Chief of the
International Journal of
Circumpolar Health



For more information contact:
susan.chatwood@ichr.ca • 867 873 9337 • www.csch.ca

AURORA COLLEGE NURSING STUDENTS TO HAMMERFEST, NORWAY 2012

From April 30 to June 15, 2012, four third year Bachelor of Science in Nursing Students from Aurora College will complete a consolidated practice experience in Hammerfest Norway. The students are Kara Miller, Michael Kohle, Carolyn Smith, and Jamie Ross. The students are currently undergoing language and cultural studies to prepare them for the experience. They are also fund-raising and seeking funds to support them in this education opportunity.

This is the second cohort of nursing students to attend Finnmark College University in Hammerfest. We know from past experience that the experience will heighten the students' awareness of global diversity in both approach to and delivery of health services. Global competencies are essential for preparing undergraduate nursing students. Nurse educators believe that it is beneficial to develop global citizenship in appreciation of cultural differences and vision to prepare leaders for our multicultural environments. The students are ambassadors for our country. As well as gaining insights into the Norwegian health care system and the health status of residents from another circumpolar country, they return to Canada with new strategies for change that will benefit our population. The students' fieldwork will involve a preceptorship with Registered Nurses who practice in the community and hospital in Hammerfest, Norway.

*Dr. Pertice Moffitt
Aurora College Instructor, Northwest Territories*





SECOND SUMMER INSTITUTE ON CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH RESEARCH IN OULU, FINLAND

The Second Summer Institute on Circumpolar Health Research (SICHR) was held in June 2011 in Oulu, Finland. Scheduled in the off-years between international congresses alongside the INCHR annual general meetings, the summer institute looks set to offer unique graduate training with a circumpolar health perspective in a circumpolar setting.

In Oulu, two short courses were offered in Contaminants and Human Health and Risk Communication to over 40 students at the Institute for management and technical training (POHTO). The successful workshops were organised by INCHR, the Centre for Arctic Medicine, Thule Institute, and the Finnish Graduate School in Toxicology.

CLIMATE CHANGE & EMERGENCY MEASURES

Community based youth and elder project

The increasingly unpredictable weather impacts the ability of people to travel safely not only in traditional ways but also through modern means of transportation such as airplanes.

Modern mobility is necessary to access food (community hunts) and emergency health services like expertise in disaster management and transportation safety. Most small health centres, if one is nearby, have no emergency service capacity. This is a health concern for most communities.

This project aims to amplify the voices of the Elders, traditional harvesters and youth so they can have a chance to elaborate their own adaptation plans. In every community meeting in the Arctic, there has been a call for Elders to teach the youth about traditional ways of the land, so that the youth can retain their culture but also develop new research skills so they learn to adapt to their environment impacted by climate change while communicating these efforts to the rest of the world.

Recent tragic events in the Arctic have highlighted the desperate need in all of our communities for the knowledge and tools necessary to address emergency scenarios and adaptation plans. The intent is to ensure northern voices will lead in shaping these plans while leveraging this topic as a focus of research and as a tool for promoting research skills with the youth. The traditional knowledge participatory model will be central to bridging age-old methods of surviving on the land with the new realities of a North in transformation.

The plan is for the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research to manage this project in partnership with the Dene Nation and in cooperation with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, high schools in Yellowknife and Nunavut, as well as Ecology North.

With their focus on Arctic emergency preparedness and management, the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation and Munk School of Global Affairs will provide valuable expertise.

Grand Chief and AFN Regional Chief Bill Erasmus has assigned Daniel T'seleie, Director Lands, Dene Nation, to work with Cindy Gilday of ICHR. Cindy will co-ordinate and lead this project.

This youth project will build on an ArcticNet-supported youth photovoice project that was conducted in Inuvik last year. This is the first project for this First Nations region of the North.

This project will emphasize youth research skills using video that will be shown at a roundtable national event to be organized by Gordon Foundation / Munk School of Global Affairs in Yellowknife later in the fall or winter. In the long term, the research skills developed by the Elders and youth will contribute greatly to future projects related to Climate Change and Health impacts on Arctic (north of 60°) communities.

The networking and community capacity building with northern youth and Gordon Foundation fellows will be invaluable for future generations.

BUILDING OUR HOME FIRES WOMAN AND WELLNESS PROJECT IN THE NWT

This project is about women's health and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and has been funded by the First Nations & Inuit Health Branch (FNHIB) from 2011-2012.

The team held a meeting in Yellowknife in February 2012 at the ICHR offices. The working session in Yellowknife brought together team members from Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Members of the group working on this project are all part of the Canada FASD Research Network Action Team on Women's Social Determinants of Health. A project license was granted from the Aurora Research Institute and ethics through the University of Calgary.

The project utilizes Photovoice as a primary methodology and have engaged with the communities of Yellowknife, Bechoko, Ulukhaktok and Lutsel 'ke. There have been over 30 participants in this project whose primary focus is on health and healing.

For more information contact:

» Dorothy Badry, badry@ucalgary.ca

» Arlene Hache, arlene10@hotmail.com



(Front Row): Dr. Dorothy Badry, University of Calgary; Dr. Amy Salmon, Coordinator, Sheway, Vancouver; Arlene Hache, Director, Centre for Northern Families, Yellowknife; (Back Row) Marilyn Van Bibber, Research Consultant, Qualicum Beach, BC; Dr. Aileen Wight Felske, Mount Royal University (Calgary) Research Consultant. (Missing – Sandra Lockhart).

REPAIRING THE HOLES IN THE NET: RESPONDING TO THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF NORTHERN HOMELESS WOMEN

Repairing the Holes in the Net is a two-year, applied health services study designed to improve the mental health of northern women who have unstable housing or are homeless through the development of research-based models for more effective health services delivery and policy development in Canada's three territories. The research is designed to foster collaboration among key decision makers and mental health service providers in both the government and non-government sectors.

This study builds on the first pan-territorial research project on homelessness among northern women, *You Just Blink and It Can Happen: A Study of Women's Homelessness North of 60°* (2007).

This study revealed that an alarming number of women in Canada's North face the intersecting challenges of a shortage of adequate housing, high rates of poverty, devastating experiences with violence and trauma, substance use and mental health problems, and a lack of culturally safe service environments. Clearly new conceptual and intervention models are required that more adequately address these critical, intersecting health and social challenges.



From left to right: Sylah Elliott (Executive Director, Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council), Nancy Poole (Director Research and Knowledge Translation, BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health), the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq (Federal Minister of Health and Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency), Trista Mercer (Board of Directors, Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council), and Judie Bopp (Director, Four Worlds Centre for Development Learning)

Repairing the Holes in the Net will employ a multilevel participatory action research approach to inform the development of culturally appropriate and gender-specific services for northern women experiencing mental health concerns and homelessness. Its methods include:

- A thorough literature, policy and program review to identify approaches to intervention and the prevention of homelessness and mental ill health among women, and to analyze the relevance of these approaches within northern contexts

- Interviews with women facing these concerns and focus groups with the service providers who work with them to gather perspectives on the trajectories and factors associated with women's homelessness and mental health concerns, barriers and supports to accessing appropriate services, and recommendations for practice and policy improvements
- Three territorial communities of practice (CoP), comprised of researchers and decision makers, that meet regularly throughout the study to collectively review and reflect on the evidence, monitor the research process, as well as design, evaluate and implement adjustments in practice and policy.

Funding has been graciously provided by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) in partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), and Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI) Program.

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PROMOTING SEXUAL HEALTH AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH YOUTH-LED DRAMA, ROLE-PLAYING, AND VIGNETTES

Healthy sexuality involves not only the avoidance of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies, but also the acquisition of skills, knowledge, and behaviours necessary to maintain good sexual and reproductive health throughout the lifespan. Sexual health, however, is a serious public health and community concern for youth in Northern Canada. STI rates are higher in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (NWT) than the rest of Canada. In addition, rates of adolescent pregnancy are very high in Nunavut and the NWT compared to nationally.

To help address these sexual health issues, Candice Lys at the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research and Gwen Healey at the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, in partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada, are developing an arts-based intervention with Northern youth. This project applies an arts-based approach (drama and performance) to an intervention exploring the perspectives of Northern youth on sexual health and relationships. In the NWT, the intervention focuses on learning and teaching theatre-based skills. In Nunavut, the intervention incorporates appropriate cultural elements including Inuit dance, storytelling, and performance. The method at both sites includes focus groups with youth to identify key thematic topics, workshops with local performers to build drama skills and confidence among youth and to write the skits/vignettes, and performances to audiences chosen by the youth. Results of the interventions are expected in summer 2012.



Understanding how young adolescents make decisions to engage in early sexual activities is vital for interventions that aim to foster positive youth development, reduce negative outcomes of adolescent sexual behavior, and assist Northern youth to make safer sexual decisions throughout their lifespans.



Photo: Six of the eight Makimautiksat campers in Arviat sit outside the Aulatuq Elders Centre with their cards and bannock they made for residents as one of their “pay it forward” activities.

MAKIMAUTIKSAT YOUTH WELLNESS & EMPOWERMENT CAMP

Eight Arviat youth and ten youth from Cambridge Bay participated in Makimautiksat Youth Wellness & Empowerment Camp in the summer of 2011. The Arviat Wellness Centre and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association were two of the six community partners to pilot the camp in Nunavut. Makimautiksat is based upon the conceptual foundation of the camp called the Eight Ujarait/Rocks Model developed by Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre. The model is an evidence based, Nunavut specific framework for promoting mental wellness and empowerment among youth in Nunavut. The Eight Ujarait/Rocks Model and Makimautiksat curriculum are grounded in Inuit Qaujimagajuqangit (Inuit knowledge) and values combined with western best practices to equip young people in Nunavut with the tools and coping skills necessary to flourish.

The response from camp facilitators, guest speakers, parents, elders, community members, and most importantly campers has been unanimously positive. Campers have expressed feeling better able to handle difficult emotions and situations since participating in Makimautiksat as well as having an increased desire to engage in traditional Inuit practices. Campers and facilitators stay connected through a facebook page and have ongoing contact with Qaujigiartiit. Iqaluit, Pangnirtung and two other Nunavut sites will be piloting Makimautiksat Youth Wellness & Empowerment Camp in 2012 and 2013.

THE NEW ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH FOR NORTHERN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

On October 25th, 2011, Arctic Health research Network-Yukon (AHRN-YT) became the Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research (AICBR). This name change better reflects the directions and focus of the organization as it has grown over the past five years since AHRN-YT was founded.

The principles of community-based research are that it is driven by community priorities, includes communities in all stages, adheres to government protocols, occurs in a holistic context, benefits communities (capacity, data and funding), includes a strong communications plan and informs policy. Communities refers to those with a common bond, and can be geographical communities or 'communities of practice', such as health workers.

A community-based approach also contributes to partnerships being developed between communities, organizations and agencies that might not otherwise come together. In this way, funds and partners from multiple sources can contribute to solutions to complex issues that go beyond health specifically.

We have done our best to be responsive to specific community health priorities, particularly those identified by and with Yukon First Nation communities. We work to be as inclusive as possible, and to seek opportunities to bring resources into the North to contribute to collaboratively moving forward with these and other health-related priorities.

We welcome new partnerships as we continue to grow in response to northern health-related issues.

Please contact us at (867) 668-3393 or visit us online at www.aicbr.ca for further information.



**Arctic Institute of
Community-Based Research**
For Northern Health and Well-Being

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT HPV

On Thursday, January 26, 2012 the federal minister of health announced funding for *Increasing Awareness and Education of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in the Yukon* project. This project is being led by Dr. Brendan Hanley, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, in partnership with the Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research (AICBR) and the Yukon Government's Department of Health and Social Services.

The project is being guided during all phases by the HPV Steering Committee, which has membership from Yukon First Nations communities, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Women's Directorate and others. The Steering Committee will guide all aspects of the work in raising awareness about and preventing HPV in the Yukon, with the ultimate goal of preventing cervical cancer. The project will be completed by March 31, 2013, however one goal of the project is that Yukon residents will continue to benefit from the results of this work long after this completion date.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, or becoming involved, please email or call AICBR at info@aicbr.ca; (867) 668-3393.



Dr. Brendan Hanley, Jody Butler Walker, Federal Minister of Health the Honourable Leona Agglukaq, Bree Blottner and Katelyn Friendship at the announcement.

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New Online Database

The University of Tromsø just launched an Open Access website called "High North Research Documents". It includes all freely available research documents thematically relevant to the high north. The service covers all subjects and many languages, and is free and open for all. It can be found at:

» highnorth.uit.no



CSCH NEWS

Publishing Association Update



IACHP

International Association of
Circumpolar Health Publishers

We are pleased to announce that the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health is now a contributing member of the International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers. This is an association of circumpolar health organizations and universities who support and publish the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health*.

We would like to thank Dr. Michael Jong for his contributions as CSCH representative. The next meeting of the IACHP will be held in Montreal, Quebec on April 24, 2012.

Special Issue of IJCH

The Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health is pleased to have played a role in facilitating a special issue on participatory methods in northern regions:



Participatory Research Processes and Ethics: Addressing Challenges in the North

Edited by Dr Rhonda Johnson Chair, Department of Health Sciences, Professor of Public Health, University of Alaska Anchorage

Please register for your online subscription to IJCH at www.circumpolarhealthjournal.net/index.php/ijch/user/register and receive access to the publication in the coming weeks.

CSCH Profiled

The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences has released a report entitled *Canadians Making a Difference: The Expert Panel on Canada's Strategic Role in Global Health*. This report, authored by an Expert Panel of leading Canadian and international global health experts, is based on a year-long evidence-based assessment process that was completed earlier this year.

Specifically the activities of the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health were recognized as examples of international collaborations and activities.

The report can be accessed at:

» www.caahs-acss.ca

Executive Committee Elections

As is traditional for the next three-year term of the executive committee, elections will be held at the International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Fairbanks, Alaska. Stay tuned over early summer for more information on the meeting and the nomination process.





Notice to Our Readers and Subscribers

The International Journal of Circumpolar Health has undergone several major changes since its first appearance under another name in 1972. As 2012 begins, it has undergone further change, particularly to keep pace with the changing publishing environment and technological advances.

The journal will become an exclusively online journal, and cease the printing and mailing of hardcopies to our individual and institutional subscribers. We have entered into an agreement with Co-Action Publishing AB of Sweden, which shall undertake all editing, production and promotion activities. The submission and peer review process will be automated and electronic. We look forward to our collaboration with Co-Action, and anticipate that the new arrangement will facilitate rapid dissemination of articles and news.

Dr. Tiina Ikäheimo, our outgoing Editor-in-Chief, bade us a fond farewell in her last Editorial in the December 2011 issue. The journal has prospered under her dedicated leadership. I shall have some large shoes [figuratively speaking] to fill. I am fully aware of the complexities of producing a scientific journal of high quality, and pledge to do my utmost to continue to improve our journal to advance and disseminate knowledge on circumpolar health, and provide the focal point of the extensive network of researchers, policymakers, service providers, and health care consumers across the circumpolar world.

Further information will be conveyed to our readers over the next several months in this website. A new website will be developed in the near future with instructions for potential contributors. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or the journal office if you have any questions.

Prof. Kue Young
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International Journal of Circumpolar Health
c/o Institute of Health Sciences, PO Box 5000
FI-90014 University of Oulu, FINLAND
www.ijch.fi • ijch@oulu.fi

