2006: A TIME FOR NETWORKING IN CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The office of the International Polar Year has received more than 120 Expressions of Interest letters from the health research field. It means a wide variety of ideas and keen interest in international scientific collaboration for the health of circumpolar populations and individuals. The activities for global networking have not been very prominent until now. The International Polar Year gives us an opportunity to find a new level of international collaboration in polar and circumpolar health research. The 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Novosibirsk, Russia to be held 12-16 June 2006, will be one forum for this type of discussion. The success of international cooperation calls for intensive preparation, an open mind and a common will. The preparation of a global, common circumpolar understanding in networking related to health issues also needs government support, e.g. in the frame of the Arctic Council and SCAR. Researchers and research organizations alone do not have enough resources to undertake this preparation as part of their other duties. Hence, a special mission and resources allocated specially for this purpose are needed.

In this issue we can read about strong local and regional visions of the strategies for circumpolar health research: a new section of our journal entitled CIRCUMPOLAR VOICES gives a working group summary and recommendations for future research with Arctic peoples. The written conclusion is a lead line of a group of prominent researchers for future Arctic health research. Another description for the practice strategies of a health research programme is introduced in the GOCADAN study. This study provides an excellent example of how to conduct participatory research within Native communities. A strategy for community-based communication to promote infant iron nutrition in Canada belongs to the same family of strategic visioning. The historical overview of the McGill Baffin programme by the J.A.
Hildes Award recipient Dr. James Baxter gives us a backward perspective on the same topic. A short communication by Rosalyn J Singleton and colleagues challenges us to look at the future prophylactic care of high-risk infants and provides very useful information for health practitioners. Finally, we would like to draw attention to a dental health status report in Greenland by Poul Erik Petersen and Lisa Bøge Christensen, which is the first of a series of dental articles to be published in coming issues.

This Journal invites researchers from other countries as well to introduce their analogous visions comparable to the reports in this issue in the field of circumpolar health research and development. We also hope that policy discussion in circumpolar health and wellbeing will be actively conducted in our Journal during the coming International Polar Year.

Juhani Hassi
Editor-in-Chief

ERRATA

The editorial text of Dr. James E. Berner published in the Int J Circumpolar Health 2005; 64(5) contained an error on page 435 presenting the ACIA projections (right column, first bulleted issue). The text should read “The present warming will continue, with a 3-5 °C mean warming over the next 100 years.”

The email address of Edward C DeFabo was incorrectly presented in the Int J Circumpolar Health 2005; 64(5) page 522. The correct address is: drmecd@gwumc.edu