



*International Polar Year 2007-08,
Project of the Arctic Council*

Arctic Human Health Initiative

Update January 2006, No. 5

WHAT IS IPY? The International Polar Year (IPY 2007-2008) will be an intensive two year multidisciplinary program of collaborative international science, research and education focused on the Arctic and Antarctic regions. (More info on IPY at www.ipy.org).

WHAT IS AHHI? The IPY provides the opportunity to highlight human health issues of northern communities. The Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) will advance and expand the joint research agenda of the Arctic Council an eight nation intergovernmental forum for sustainable development and environmental protection, in the areas of infectious diseases, the effects of anthropogenic pollution and climate change on human health and tele-health innovations. The AHHI is being coordinated by the US Center for Diseases Control and Preventions Arctic Investigations Program, together with the International Union for Circumpolar Health and the US National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center.

PROGRESS TO DATE A full proposal was submitted to the IPY Joint Committee on behalf of the Arctic Council September 30, 2005 and can be viewed as Full Proposal # 167 at the IPY Web Site www.ipy.org together with other health related proposals. Endorsement of AHHI as an IPY Coordination Proposal was received from the IPY Joint Committee November 30, 2005. The Joint Committee considers the AHHI to have strong scientific, educational and outreach components while adhering to the IPY themes and goals. The proposal was reviewed by members of the International Advisory Committee, at a meeting in Quebec City, Quebec, October 25, and at a US National Advisory Committee meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska, December 1, 2005. Summaries of these meetings can be found at www.iuch.org/ipy.html. Suggested areas to be added to the AHHI include a greater emphasis on translation of research findings into health policy and prevention and control strategies that benefit northern communities, and research into the health impacts of oil and gas exploration, and other sustainable development activities. The protocol can be revised at any time. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IPY PROPOSALS (FROM WWW.IPY.ORG) **How does a Coordination Proposal differ from and IPY Expression of Interest?** Coordination Proposals integrates the activities of several to many researchers around a shared scientific theme. An Expression of Interest (EoI) describes the intended activities of a single investigator or team focused on a specific activity. Several EoI's with similar themes have been grouped under a single Coordination Proposal.

My national funding agency requires an IPY endorsement. Do I need to submit a coordination proposal?

If you have submitted an EoI, consider connecting to an existing endorsed Coordination Proposal, by emailing the proposal coordinator. If you have not submitted an EoI you are encouraged to do so, and consider linking with an appropriate Coordination Proposal.

What are the criteria for a project to be linked to the AHHI Coordinating Proposal?

Fulfillment of IPY project criteria is required (found at www.ipy.org), including an international partnership of at least one other collaborator in a circumpolar country.

In addition we are seeking:

- 1) Research Projects that build on existing Arctic Council human health activities
 - Expansion of telemedicine-health communication
 - International Circumpolar Surveillance-Infectious Diseases
 - Assessment of health & wellbeing of Children and Youth
 - Monitoring-human health effects of contaminants
 - Monitoring effects of Climate Change on Human Health
 - Surveys of living conditions in Arctic regions
- 2) Research Projects that expand existing (or propose new) human health surveillance, monitoring and research networks.
- 3) Research Projects that use surveys to characterize health status, assess health risks, and determine culturally appropriate interventions.
- 4) Research projects that include studies of the human health impact of:
 - anthropogenic pollution in the Arctic
 - Contaminants and zoonotic infectious diseases, effects on the food supply
 - Climate variability
 - Oil and Gas development
 - Infectious diseases, Tb, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, vaccine preventable, emerging threats
 - Chronic diseases, cancer, CVD, obesity, diabetes
 - Behavioral health, suicide, unintentional injuries
- 5) Projects in the area of education outreach and communication
 - Conferences, workshops, publications, educational events

Research projects that result in eventual translation into health policy and implementation of community/public health interventions are particularly encouraged.

My human health project fits the AHHI criteria, how do I obtain an IPY endorsement?

Contact Alan J. Parkinson, ajpl@cdc.gov, or Neil Murphy, nmurphy@scf.cc, with a request that includes a summary of the proposed project using the IPY EoI format. www.ipy.org/development/framework/IPY_EoI_Annex_1.doc. The EoI should be submitted to the IPY international program office using their online format.

AHHI WEBSITE

The Arctic Health website (www.arctichealth.org) will be used as a focal point for the AHHI information. The IUCH website (www.iuch.org/ipy.html) can be used until the Arctic Health website is up and running. The Arctic Health website is sponsored by the National Library of Medicine's, Division of Specialized Information Services, and is maintained by the University of Alaska Anchorage's Health Sciences Information Service. The website aims to:

- Provide a central source of information on diverse aspects of the Arctic environment and the health of Northern peoples.
- Provides access to evaluated health information from local, state, national, and international agencies, as well as from professional societies and universities.
- Provides an arctic health information repository and clearinghouse of previously published and unpublished articles and reports pertinent to the Arctic readily accessible to health care and research professionals.
- Provides a system for rapid dissemination of new results
- Provides computerized directory of scientists with arctic health expertise

It is anticipated that AHHI web pages will contain a catalog of AHHI proposals, scientific plans, progress, results, presentations, publications and upcoming events.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS *October 10-13th, 2005*

Arctic Council Sustainable Development and Senior Arctic Officials meeting Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation. An update on the progress of the AHHI was presented to the SDWG October 10-11, together with other Arctic Council IPY proposals updates.

These included;

- Survey of living conditions in the Arctic SLiCA (Denmark/Greenland)
- Coordination of Observation and Monitoring of the Arctic for Assessment and Research (COMAAR) (Sweden)
- Health Preservation of Migrant and Native Arctic populations (Russia)
- Arctic Community Based Environmental Monitoring, Observation and Information Stations Phase 1: Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN) (Aleut International Association)
- Arctic Portal: "A Gateway to Arctic-related Information as it relates the Arctic Council, working groups, permanent participants and observers" (Iceland).

November 10-12th, 2005

The second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) was held in Copenhagen Denmark. Reports from 13 research planning working groups were summarized at the three day meeting (www.icarp.dk). Human health is not currently an ICARP working group. ICARP II is a strategic planning process for Arctic research to be undertaken in a 10-15 year time span. Because of the long history of Arctic human health research, broad scope of potential research topics, current level of international cooperation, level of organization, and now the subject of a major International Polar Year initiative, it was proposed that Arctic human health be considered a separate working group theme as part of the ICARP-II process. A summary of this proposal can be found at www.iuch.org

**UPCOMING IPY
EVENTS/MEETINGS** *January 31, 2006*

Deadline for IPY Coordination Proposals submitted to the IPY Joint Committee for endorsement.

February 12-13, 2006

International Symposium on Avian Influenza University of Alaska Fairbanks, sponsored by UAF, FIC, EPA.

June 12-16, 2006.

AHHI International Advisory Committee meeting at the 13th ICCH Novosibirsk.

NEWS FROM **University of Alaska Anchorage**

The Masters of Public Health (MPH) program, Department of Health Sciences

University of Alaska Anchorage acknowledges with great appreciation the generous support of the Fogarty International Center at NIH to fund several graduate students to attend the 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Novosibirsk June 2006. Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Acting Director, was instrumental in securing this critical seed support for the next generation of arctic health scientists in the US, and has been very helpful in identifying other potential sources of ongoing support for both faculty and students interested in circumpolar health issues.

The University of Alaska is pleased to offer 10 Alaska Presidential International Polar Year postdoctoral fellowships, starting during academic year 06-07, for a period of up to three years to cover the time frame of the fourth International Polar Year plus analysis and

publication of results. Starting salary will be US \$50,000 plus full faculty benefits, plus \$5000 per year travel and research allowance. Applications are due by 1 April 2006, and decisions will be announced by 1 May 2006.

More information at: www.alaska.edu/swacad/postdoc.



International Union for Circumpolar Health

Gateway to the International Polar Year: We highly recommend that anyone interested in any International Polar Year (IPY) activity attend the Gateway to the International Polar Year conference which is being held in Novosibirsk, Siberia June 12-16, 2006. This IPY kick off event will be held in conjunction with the 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH13).

Come help develop the IPY research and health care agenda for the next 50 years:

The ICCH13 is uniquely positioned to set the research and health care agendas for the next 50 years. Specifically, there will be a series of Seminars devoted to IPY planning and IPY follow through, or legacy. The ICCH13 will bring together researchers, policy makers, and consumers to be better fashion a cohesive IPY plan.

Become as stakeholder in the IPY legacy through the AHHI: The AHHI concept will elevate human health in this IPY, in fact higher than ever before. Despite initial AHHI's success we need to make certain we utilize an intentional approach. We should take every opportunity to plan, network, and follow through, which are the basic tenets of the International Union for Circumpolar Health movement in the 1960's, which is hosting the ICCH13.

The North—The Peace Zone: The 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health is dedicated to The North—The Peace Zone. The international community has looked forward to returning to Novosibirsk since our last meeting here in 1974. Many things have changed since our last visit en masse to Novosibirsk 32 years ago. As we prepare for the International Polar Year, the ICCH 13 could not come at a more influential juncture.

Our research focus has changed from simply describing elements of high latitude regions to in depth analyses of the many trends in climate change and their effect on the human condition. When coupled with the many effects of social and cultural transition, the impact has been vast.

Finally: To that end, the International Union for Circumpolar Health has raised human health to one of the major areas of study for the first time in an International Polar Year. Our main focus has been through the Arctic Human Health Initiative, among our many other preparations to maximize the International Polar Year research agenda.

Please join me as we explore the current high latitude regions together and discover how the many changes affect the circumpolar human condition. Let us enjoy the many benefits of ICCH 13 local organizing committee's efforts, so we can improve The North—The Peace Zone for all future circumpolar peoples.

Warm regards,

Co-Chairman of the ICCH 13, President of IUCH, Neil Murphy

www.ict.nsc.ru/ws/icch13/index.en.html

PRINCIPAL CONTACT PERSONS

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