

Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group Report

May 20-22, 2008

- A. Title of Project:
Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI)
- B. Lead Country (ies):
United States
- C. Project Coordinator: (Name and email address)
Dr. Alan Parkinson
Deputy Director
Arctic Investigations Program
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4055 Tudor Centre Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Email: ajp1@cdc.gov
- D. Participating Arctic states and Permanent Participants:
United States, Canada, Greenland/Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Russian Federation, RAIPON, IPS.
- E. Summary of Objectives:

The Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) is an Arctic Council IPY coordinating project (IPY#167) that aims to advance the joint circumpolar human health research agendas of the Arctic Council and the International Union for Circumpolar Health. The AHHI will link researchers with potential international collaborators and will serve as a focal point for human health research, education, outreach, and communication activities during IPY (2007-2008).

The goal of AHHI is to: "Increase awareness and visibility of human health concerns of Arctic peoples, foster human health research, and promote health strategies that will improve health and well being of all Arctic residents".

These goals can be met by:

Expanding Research Networks that will enhance surveillance and monitoring of health issues of concern to Arctic peoples, and increase collaboration and coordination of human health research

Fostering Research Activities that will examine the health impact of, anthropogenic pollution, rapid modernization and economic development, climate variability, infectious and chronic diseases, intentional and unintentional injuries

Promoting Education Outreach and Communication that will focus public and political attention on Arctic health issues, using a variety of publications, printed and electronic reports from scientific conferences, symposia, and workshops targeting researchers, students, communities, and policy makers

Promoting the translation of research into health policy, community action including implementation of prevention strategies and health promotion

- F. Brief summary of activities during Norwegian chairmanship:
Create and maintain a Website. The website will contain detailed information on the aim and objectives of the AHHI, a listing of projects proposed as part of AHHI, linked to project descriptions, AHHI partners, publications and past and upcoming events.

Establish a Steering committee. The role of the Steering committee is to provide scientific expertise on matters relating to the AHHI, and as needed to the Arctic Council SDWG, and to provide general guidance in regard to the operation and management of AHHI.

Provide information on IPY Human health projects and activities

- G. Current Status of work:

An AHHI website has been established at www.arctichealth.org

A Steering Committee was established at a meeting in Banff Alberta, Canada, April 24, 2007.

Members were selected from the membership of the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH). Members were selected on their expertise, professional experience, and experience within the fields of Arctic human health. All eight Arctic Countries and indigenous peoples organizations are represented on the Steering Committee.

A secretariat has been formed to provide support for core AHHI administrative activities and is located in Anchorage Alaska. Support for the secretariat is provided by the University of Alaska Anchorage and the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Arctic Investigations Program. AHHI held a project workshop in association with The International Network for Circumpolar Health Research (INCHR; www.inchr.org) Circumpolar Health Research meeting, Banff, Alberta, Canada. April 20-25, 2007.

An international workshop on Climate Change and Human health in the Arctic was held February 13-15, 2008. Anchorage, Alaska USA as part of the Alaska Forum on the Environment (www.akforum.org). Proceedings will be available at www.arctichealth.org

Three IPY AHHI reports have been published. These include:

A Proceedings 13th International Congress on Circumpolar Health June 12-16, 2006, Novosibirsk, Russia. "Gateway to the International Polar Year". A limited number of free hard copies will be available via the AHHI web site at www.arctichealth.org.

Special IPY Edition of the CDC's Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal, January 2008. The issue can be accessed at (www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/1/contents_v14n1.htm).

Parkinson, AJ., Hassi, J. International Polar Year and Arctic Public Health Initiative. Russian Journal Human Ecology. Issue No. 2, 2008. [In Russian].

AHHI will hold a symposium and a steering committee meeting at the Annual Conference of the International Network for Circumpolar Health research will be in Tromso Norway May 12-16, 2008. (http://uit.no/sih/circumpolar_health)

An AHHI workshop is planned for the 6th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VI) Nuuk, Greenland, August 25-29, 2008.

H. Any matters requiring decisions or directions from the SDWG at their May 2008 meeting
None

I. Anticipated deliverables for 2009 Ministerial
Comprehensive report on AHHI Activities 2007-2008

J. Do you wish/require time on the SDWG meeting agenda
a. at the May 2008 meeting
b. at the October 2008 meeting

(Oral updates can be presented if needed)

K. This project will continue in 2009