

Submission to Polar Science-Global Impact
Oslo Norway 8-12 June 2010

The Arctic Human Health Initiative-Beyond the International Polar Year

The Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) is an Arctic Council IPY coordinating project that aims to increase the visibility and awareness of health concerns of Arctic peoples, to foster human health research, and promote health protection strategies that will improve the health and well-being of all Arctic Residents. Human health has not been a theme of any previous IPY and consequently provides an opportunity to highlight Arctic human health issues, concerns, research successes and challenges that face Arctic populations. The objectives of the AHHI are to promote international collaboration on health research, and health promotion in the areas of health disparity elimination, the effects of anthropogenic pollution, rapid social and economic changes and climate variability on human health. More than 30 project proposals have been submitted under the AHHI. These include projects that will focus on expanding health networks, address human health concerns that may result from the changing Arctic environment, prevention and control of infectious diseases, injury prevention, and projects promoting human health education, outreach, and communication. Progress during, and plans following the International Polar Year will be presented.