

15th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH (ICCH15)

August 5-10, 2012

Fairbanks, Alaska, USA



Michael Bruce MD, MPH
President, IUCH
Anchorage, Alaska, USA

The International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)



IUCH

- Formally established in 1981
- An international non-profit, non-governmental organization
- A union of all the circumpolar health societies across the Arctic
 - The American Society for Circumpolar Health
 - The Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health
 - The Nordic Society for Arctic Medicine
 - The Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
 - The Danish/Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health



IUCH Objectives

- Promote international cooperation in circumpolar health
- Encourage & support research and exchange of scientific information
- Promote education & public awareness
- Provide means of communication with other scientific organizations
- Promote participation of indigenous peoples in circumpolar health



IUCH Strengths

- Elected representation from across the Arctic countries
- Working Groups
- Arctic Council observer status
- Information Sharing via the Congress & website
 - www.iuch.net
- Strong ties to the International Journal of Circumpolar Health
- Longstanding history of important work in the circumpolar region
- Triennial Congress on Circumpolar Health

The International Union for Circumpolar Health – an important actor in circumpolar health

The International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH) was established in 1981 as an international non-governmental organization, with members, adhering bodies and affiliates throughout the circumpolar regions to address a long-standing need for the exchange of scientific, medical and public health research data of concern to the circumpolar regions. The health and wellness of circumpolar peoples are the focus of the IUCH, the only organization (dedicated to health in the Arctic and Antarctic) which formally brings together members of the national circumpolar societies from all the Arctic countries. For more information, please visit www.iuch.net.

The objectives of the IUCH are to (1) promote international co-operation in circumpolar health; (2) encourage and support research and exchange of scientific information in the circumpolar health sciences; (3) promote education and public awareness of circumpolar health; (4) provide a means of communication with other scientific organizations; and (5) promote and encourage the participation of Indigenous peoples in circumpolar health affairs.

Key strengths of the IUCH include:

- Elected representatives from the national circumpolar societies from all the Arctic countries (the only circumpolar institution thus constituted).
- Focused working groups in a multitude of fields.
- Observer status on the Arctic Council (AC).
- The International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH) every 3 years.
- Strong ties to the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* enabling IUCH working group members to publish findings, presented at the ICCH meetings.
- Information sharing via the IUCH website and the ICCH.
- Awards and scholarships.

Working groups (WGs) are comprised of individuals and institutions focused on specific health topics. They promote and encourage closer collaboration to improve the health of circumpolar populations through the exchange of practical experience and research data, and the eventual development of comparable systems and strategies for conducting surveillance, surveys and studies. The WGs are officially recognized by and report to the IUCH. Of the many WGs that have been created over the past 3 decades, 6 are currently active (Infectious Disease, Maternal and Child Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Birth Defects, Indigenous Peoples and Food Security) and numerous others are in the process of being reactivated. An example of some of the outstanding work that has been accomplished by IUCH WGs is the output of the Infectious Disease WG (IDWG). Founded in 2000, the IDWG established circumpolar surveillance of infectious diseases across all the Arctic

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ICCH15 Committees

- Steering Committee – Anchorage
 - Chair: Michael Bruce MD, MPH
- Local Organizing Committee – Fairbanks
 - Chair: Larry Duffy PhD
- Scientific Planning Committee - Anchorage
 - Chair: Jay Wenger MD
- Publication Committee - Anchorage
 - Chair: Neil Murphy MD



Preliminary Scientific Program Themes

- Community Participatory Research
- Women's Health, Family Health and Well-Being
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Indigenous Research
- Social Determinants of Health
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Infectious and Chronic Diseases
- Climate Change – Health Impacts
- Health Service Delivery & Infrastructure
- Behavioral Health



Important Dates

- Call for Abstracts:
Summer 2011
- Abstract Submission Deadline:
– January 2012
- Registration Opening:
Fall 2011
- Deadline for Early-Bird Registration:
February 2012



Current Website

<http://www.icch15.com>

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CALL TO CONGRESS | AUGUST 5-10, 2012 | FAIRBANKS, AK, USA

[Click here to download the conference flyer.](#)

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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

CONTACT US

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EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES

This will be a wonderful opportunity to share your products, information, and network with approximately seven hundred and fifty health professionals, researchers, and indigenous representatives from USA, Greenland, Denmark, Canada, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and other countries interested in circumpolar health.

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