

**International Circumpolar Surveillance Climate Change and Infectious Disease Working Group**

**Tuesday August 7, 12:00-1:30pm**

**University of Alaska Fairbanks**

**Wood Center Room E/F**

**Meeting Summary**

**Agenda**

Welcome, Introductions

Brief review of the meeting held in Copenhagen September 19, 2011

Discussion of “White Paper” framework document

Discussion of, or updates on potential collaborative cross border activities

Seroprevalence studies

Surveillance projects

Detection systems for infectious agents in hunter killed wildlife

Other activities

Next Steps

Next meeting?

**Attendees**

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The main item of discussion was the drafting of a “White Paper” on “Climate Change and Infectious Diseases in the Arctic”. The document will be used as a mission statement for the group, to present information in various formats to external stakeholder groups. Formats could be developed that would target lay persons or politicians. The document should clarify the position of the working group in relation to other Arctic Council Working Groups. The current early draft covered a background on climate change in the Arctic and potential impacts on infectious diseases in Arctic populations, an overview of organizational structures of the group. It was suggested that this could be presented in diagrammatic form. **Action Item:** Anne Regine Lager volunteered to draft something on this.

It was pointed out that while the document focused on infectious diseases, there was no description of climate issues or climate data collection. Several other groups already collect climate data as part of other non infectious disease climate change studies (eg wildlife studies, terrestrial sciences, AMAP), therefore it is possible that this group could use data already being collected by other groups. **Action Item:** David Hondula offered to draft a climate component to the paper.

Projects that could be undertaken in the next 4-6 years include:

- 1) Seroprevalence studies. **Action Item:** Alan Parkinson will expand this section to include, studies already undertaken (ie Nunavut seroprevalance) and other potential circumpolar collaborations. This section should also describe the need for a QA/QC program to ensure that serological results are comparable between countries.
- 2) Surveillance. Several potentially climate sensitive infections occur in neighboring countries. (TBE, puumalvirus, echinococcus, WNV). Surveillance information could be shared between countries in an effort to standardize information collected and allow correlation with climate data. There is a need to catalog climate sensitive reportable diseases by country. **Action Item:** Maria Furberg agreed to draft a data collection template for discussion.
- 3) Detection of climate sensitive infectious agents in hunter killed/subsistence wildlife. **Action Item:** A small subgroup planned to meet to further develop this project. Elements will be developed and incorporated into the White paper.

It was suggested that an electronic information network system for climate change and infectious diseases could be developed based on both official and unofficial sources, which will allow timely sharing information between members of the group that would provide monitoring and surveillance information and would allow the development of new approaches for investigation. More discussion on this topic is needed.

The next meeting of this working group will be in Copenhagen the week of September 23, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm