

# **International Network for Circumpolar Health Research**

## **First Annual General Meeting 2006**

### **Minutes**

Date: 13-June-2006

Time: 11.00 to 12.30

Place: Lounge 1, House of Scientists, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences,  
Novosibirsk, Russia

#### Members Present:

Laura Arbour, Bert Boyer, Vasiliki Douglas, Juhani Hassi, Gwen Healey, Preben Homøe, Anders Koch, Andrew Kozlov, Tiina Mäkinen, Katherine Minich, Gert Mulvad, Neil Murphy, Pam Orr, Alan Parkinson, Brian Saylor, Isaac Sobol, Kue Young

Other Participants: Evgeniy Bojko, Catherine Carry, André Corriveau, Inger Dahl-Petersen, Kathy Graves, Rod McCormick, Cecilia Pedersen, Boris Revich, Amanda Ritchie, Connie Siedule, Aril Vaktskjold, Galina Vershubsky

Chair: Kue Young

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction

The participants introduced themselves. Non-members were encouraged to become members by (i) signing the Collaboration Agreement and (ii) submitting a digital photo and biographical sketch to Katherine Minich, network coordinator [[k.minich@utoronto.ca](mailto:k.minich@utoronto.ca)].

#### 2. Update of Network Activities

Kue Young reviewed briefly the evolution of the network from an informal gathering of researchers with common interests, the organizational meeting at the Toronto symposium in 2004, and the development grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research [CIHR]. Early in 2006 INCHR was formally incorporated as a non-profit organization in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

It was the main task of this first Annual General Meeting to approve and adopt the corporation By-Laws and elect a board of directors to fulfill the legal requirements.

Until now the Network has been hampered by the lack of sustainable funding beyond the initial development grant from CIHR. However, the situation has

improved considerably with new funding over the next 5 years, through the award of a CIHR team grant to Kue Young, to enable INCHR to support international collaboration and undertake specific projects in research communication and dissemination.

The website has grown into a rich repository of useful documents and resources. Members are encouraged to make use of it and to submit relevant materials for sharing among ourselves and also the broader research community. Andrew Kozlov recommended that part of the website be available in Russian to attract participation of Russian scientists.

INCHR joined the International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers [IACHP], the publisher of the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health*. Membership entails an annual contribution of €10,000.00.

INCHR also made a one-time contribution of US\$ 5,000 to the International Union for Circumpolar Health [IUCH] towards the 2006 Jens Peder Hart Hansen Award for emerging health workers.

### 3. Approval and Adoption of Draft By-Laws

The draft by-laws prepared by the lawyer for the purposes of incorporation were pre-circulated electronically to INCHR members prior to the meeting. Of particular importance was Article 3 relating to the Board of Directors.

Motion was proposed by Neil Murphy and seconded by Bert Boyer:

*“That the draft by-laws be adopted with one change to Article 3: that the number of board members be increased from 5 to 7, to be composed of one member from Canada, one from the United States, one from Denmark or Greenland, one from Finland, Sweden, or Norway, one from Russia, and two from any country”*

It was noted that this distribution corresponded to the adhering bodies of the IUCH. Isaac Sobol asked if any seats should be reserved for indigenous people. The consensus was that board membership should not be based on ethnicity.

**Motion was unanimously approved.**

### 4. Election of Board Members

At the time of incorporation, the Board consisted of:

President:	Kue Young, University of Toronto, Toronto, CANADA
Vice President:	Juhani Hassi, University of Oulu, Oulu, FINLAND
Secretary-Treasurer:	Laura Arbour, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, CANADA

Four additional members were nominated and elected by acclamation:

Brian Saylor	University of Alaska, Anchorage, USA
Gert Mulvad	Greenland Health Research Board, Nuuk, GREENLAND
Andrew Kozlov	International Independent University of Ecological and Political Sciences, Moscow, RUSSIA
Anders Koch	Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen, DENMARK

## 5. Future Activities

### 5a. International exchanges

It was decided that INCHR support and promote the exchanges of students/trainees to work in members' research projects/laboratories. Such exchanges should last no less than 6 months. There should be mutual agreement between members, with the host committed to providing suitable supervision and support. Financial support (amount to be determined) may be available from INCHR to defray travelling and living expenses.

### 5b. Workshops and symposia

An important role of INCHR was to promote and facilitate the organization of workshops and symposia on relevant research topics. Several ideas were proposed and discussed, reflecting current knowledge gaps and need for circumpolar collaboration:

- Suicide prevention
- Injury control
- Circumpolar indicators of community well-being and resiliency

Members with similar interests were encouraged to explore these ideas further, organize workshops, develop proposals, and seek funding.

## 6. Next Meeting

Kue Young proposed a 2-day meeting in April, 2007, at the Banff Centre, a conference centre located in the resort town of Banff in the Canadian Rockies. Subject to discussions later this week, the meeting could be held in conjunction with other organizations such as the IACHP, IUCH Council, Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health, etc. Further details would be provided at a later date.

Meeting adjourned.