

International Network for Circumpolar Health Research

Second Annual General Meeting 2007

Minutes

Date: Sunday 22-April-2007

Time: 20.00-21.00 hr

Place: Room 201, The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada

Members Present: Laura Arbour, Peter Bjerregaard, Laurie Chan, Susan Chatwood, André Corriveau, Vasiliki Douglas, Juhani Hassi, Gwen Healey, Rhonda Johnson, Anders Koch, Linda Larcombe, Zhong Cheng Luo Katherine Minich, Gert Mulvad, Tiina Mäkinen, Neil Murphy, Pamela Orr, Alan John Parkinson, Gary Pekeles, Isaac Sobol, Kue Young

Other Participants: Paul Berger, Abel Bult-Ito, Catherine Carrie, Inger Dahl-Petersen, Lori Friesen, Ross Godwin, Kathleen Graves, Suzanne Jackson, Norma Kassi, Janice Linton, Jennifer Mackie, Bruce Martin, Sue Moodie, Helle Møller, Jon Øyvind Odland, Arja Rautio, Arild Vaktskjold, Jody Butler Walker

Chair: Kue Young

Secretary: Laura Arbour

1. Welcome and Introduction

Members were welcomed to the second annual meeting of the INCHR. Other participants were encouraged to become members by signing up, sending a photo and a biography to Katherine Minich.

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the First Annual Meeting of the INCHR held in June 2006 in Novosibirsk, Russia were reviewed. Isaac Sobol moved to approve them, seconded by Andre Corriveau.

3. Update on Recent Activities

Kue Young reported that a book on circumpolar health, a collaborative project of the INCHR, had been completed and will be published by the University of Toronto Press. Several members and other participants in the room were authors of chapters in the book, edited by Kue Young and Peter Bjerregaard.

4. Review of the Constitution of the Board

The Novosibirsk meeting confirmed the constitution of the Board, with the following members:

President: Kue Young (Canada),
Vice President: Juhani Hassi (Finland),
Secretary-Treasurer: Laura Arbour (Canada)
Members-at-large: Brian Saylor (USA), Gert Mulvad (Greenland) Anders Koch (Denmark), Andrew Kozlov (Russia).

The by-laws stipulated that an election be held every three years for board members.

5. Gert Mulvad spoke from the floor congratulating the efforts of Kue Young on being successful in bringing the INCHR membership together for a second meeting within the year. The membership supported the acknowledgement.

6. International Exchange Award

Although the INCHR does not require membership fees, and thus does not have a regular source of revenue to support activities, there is some funding available through the CIHR Circumpolar team grant to allow two \$5,000 Canadian dollar awards for travel and living expenses. These awards will be designated for international exchange for the purpose of development of research skills. The award recipient must be a student/trainee associated with a member of the INCHR. The host must be a member of the INCHR and be willing to provide research space, opportunities for learning, and supervision. It was originally felt a minimum of 6 months should be committed to, but following discussion, it was decided that the length of the exchange could be flexible. It was proposed that applications be called for with an announcement on the INCHR website for an October 1st deadline. The awards committee will consist of current Board members. Conflict of interest protocol will apply. A second call for applications will occur in the spring of the following year if there are designated funds remaining following the October competition. Awards must be used within a year after the announcement.

7. General Discussion

There was general discussion regarding the importance of promoting the activities of INCHR more broadly. The INCHR website and the International Journal of Circumpolar Health (Publishers' corner) were suggested as logical forums for promotion.

8. Next Meeting

The membership discussed possible locations for the third annual meeting of INCHR, to be held in the Spring of 2008. A European site was favoured by many. Tromsø, Norway; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Nuuk, Greenland were all mentioned as possible locations. The final decision was deferred pending more information.