Dear Readers,

Tiina Ikäheimo, Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Readers,

Autumn is here at hand and many of us feel rejuvenated after a relaxing summer. It is time to take a look at what is happening within the arena of circumpolar health researchers and experts.

At the level of health strategies of the Arctic, the Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) shall convene in Copenhagen in the end of September. AHHEG consists of health experts that were nominated from the Arctic countries to provide expert advice to senior Arctic officials on health matters and conduct studies and reviews in priority areas. The meeting in September will continue discussing the strategy of AHHEG, including its mandate, role and objectives. The AHHEG meeting will be followed by an assembly of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) which is held in Ilulissat, Greenland 2-3 October. The health expert group has identified key health priorities from which information shall be published in the future by the International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers (IACHP). As a concrete example, in this issue we present a new series “Data Brief from the Circumpolar Health Observatory”. The series will feature data outputs from the Circumpolar Health Observatory [CircHOB] which is a project proposed by AHHEG and authorized by the Arctic Council.

This issue includes several articles tackling the matters of obesity and diabetes among circumpolar residents, which is a highly relevant topic, taking into account the rapid increases in their prevalence in the Arctic. Dr. Marit Jørgensen examines in her special editorial the underlying factors for these increases, and emphasizes at the same time that the approach in research could focus more on the management of the emerging epidemic, rather than on for example how well definitions of obesity apply to indigenous populations. Jørgensen also points out that the management (prevention and treatment) of these relatively new chronic diseases of the Arctic is challenging due to the fact that they often co-exist with social problems and other diseases.

The remainder of the articles of this issue reflect the wide-ranging viewpoint of our journal towards Arctic health ranging from cancer research, mental health of Sami to the wellbeing of the health care staff. The last article offers a logical transition to advertise the upcoming special issue on Health Care in the North, which will be published in December. This shall include a collection of articles enhancing our understanding of the organization, financing and expenditure of health care in the Arctic areas. Topics include regional models for provision of services, use of human
resources in northern health care, access to care as well as studies that provide analyses and perspectives on health care policy and allocation of resources.

Another significant upcoming publication that I want to highlight is the Proceedings of the 14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health, which will be published in the Circumpolar Health Supplements during the autumn. The theme of the conference held in Yellowknife in July 2009 was from research to action, and the Proceedings provide a sample of the scientific activities and presentations that took place at the Congress. As a continuum, the next conference to be held in Fairbanks in 2012 is also under active planning and presented in this issue by the International Union of Circumpolar Health, one of the publishers of IACHP.

Tiina Ikäheimo, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

NEWS

Kue Young is appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, announced 74 new appointments to the Order of Canada on June 30th 2010. The Order was created in 1967 and is the highest civilian honour of Canada.

Dr. Kue Young was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for his contributions and commitment to advancing the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples, notably as a leading scholar in the field of Aboriginal health research. Dr Young is currently a professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He has a long association with the journal and other circumpolar organizations, having served as President of the International Union for Circumpolar Health (1993-1996) and founded the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research in 2004.