

## Dear Readers,

At the end of this year we are showcasing yet another fine issue of *Int J Circumpolar Health*. At the same time we are completing the Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health which will be published in the *Circumpolar Health Supplements* and available soon also for journal readers free of charge at [www.ijch.fi](http://www.ijch.fi).

In October the Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine, a sub group of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) organised a meeting “Antarctic Health Risks and Solutions” in Dundee, Scotland. The conference brought together experts from the fields of travel, shipping, search & rescue, emergency medicine, remote healthcare, and National Antarctic programmes. Discussions were conducted on a wide range of topics related to the safety and medical care in the Antarctic, for both scientific teams and tourists. Although some region specific issues were identified, there are also joint health problems, challenges and solutions which can be shared with researchers and practitioners of the Arctic areas. Hopefully we can see future joint events where we can meet and exchange ideas and solutions for best practices.

The Arctic Human Health Expert Group, a sub group of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) has been active since its second meeting in Yellowknife in July. In November it co-sponsored a workshop on suicide prevention in Nuuk, Greenland and presented its work plan to the SDWG of the Arctic Council in Copenhagen. Further details will be provided in a later issue of the journal.

*Tiina Mäkinen*  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Also the coming year, with its planned events, demonstrates how active the current circumpolar health “scene” is. Circumpolar health researcher and practitioners will convene during the annual meeting of the International Network for Circumpolar Health Research in May in Copenhagen. At the same time a summer institute of circumpolar health research will be held for students. Several co-operation meetings between health professionals will be organised in conjunction with the abovementioned events. You will find an announcement in this issue leading to sources of more detailed information.

The International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference (June 8-12 Oslo, Norway 2010) aims to demonstrate, strengthen, and extend the International Polar Year’s accomplishments in science and outreach (<http://www.ipy-osc.no/>). A specific session of the conference entitled: “Ice, Snow, Mind, and Body: Human Health and Well-being in the Polar Regions” will present the latest social and life sciences research on human health and well-being in the polar regions. Contributions to this session are sought from researchers in the fields of polar medicine, psychology, sociology, human geography, and the related fields of tourism, community health, epidemiology, human adaptation to extreme and unusual environments, and management of health-related activities in the polar regions.

On behalf of the International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers I would like to thank you for this year and wish you all a relaxing and joyful Christmas and a happy coming New Year.