

## **MINUTES**

American Society of Circumpolar Health

2015 Annual Meeting

11:15 am – 12pm

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

4000 Ambassador Drive, Consortium Office Building, Conference Room 1

March 27, 2015

### **1. Welcome and Introductions by ASCH President, Rhonda Johnson**

### **2. Announcement of New ASCH Executive Board members and Student Members, Rhonda Johnson**

In this year's election, we had a very tight race for the student representative position and a tie, and so the ASCH Board welcomes two student representatives to the board. We hope that this will provide an even stronger student presence and voice to the American Society. The student presentations are non-voting positions, but bring a great deal of insight to the board. Current General Board members remain on this year, and include Vanessa Hiratsuka, Diane McEachern, Burhan Khan and Doreen Leavitt. The new executive board will transition with the present executive board through this June. The transition will be finalized following the ICCH16 meeting in Oulu, Finland.

President-elect (2015-2018), Brenna Simons-Petrusa - ANTHC

Vice President and Scientific Advisor, Philippe Amstalavski - UAA

Secretary, Larry Duffy – UAF

Treasurer, Abbie Wolfe – ANTHC

Student Representatives:

Samantha Case and Charlene Apok

### **3. 2015 ASCH Membership Update-ASCH Secretary, Brenna Simons**

To date, we have 50 current ASCH members for 2015. ASCH has been running memberships on a calendar year (Jan-Dec) and renewals or new memberships are available either online at [www.asch.cc](http://www.asch.cc) or a paper application is also available on our website. The ASCH website is also set up to accept donations that can be made specific to funding such as supporting a student membership, a student scholarship fund or the Albrecht Milan Foundation to name a few.

### **4. ASCH 2014-15 Treasurer's Report- ASCH Treasurer, Abbie Wolfe**

The ASCH has re-established its non-profit status and is finalizing completion of taxes and paperwork with the IRS. To date, costs for the ASCH include payments to the accountant, website maintenance, conference sponsorships, ICCH16 Travel Awards, PO box and Miscellaneous fees, as well as the state of Alaska Biennial report and licensing. Further budget detail and information is available to any member and requests may be sent to Abbie Wolfe or Brenna Simons.

### **5. Updates from the Albrecht-Milan Foundation, Patricia Cochran**

Patricia Cochran provided a brief background and history of the Albrecht-Milan Foundation. The mission of the Albrecht-Milan Foundation is to attract funds and gifts for the benefit of the American Society for Circumpolar Health and its programs and projects. The AMF now conducts business under the Arctic Health Foundation. The Jens Peder Hart Hansen (JPHH) Memorial funds are held for the International Union for Circumpolar Health to provide awards to emerging circumpolar health researchers during the tri-annual International Congress on Circumpolar Health. Recent AMF activities have included re-establishing non-profit status, submitting the Alaska biennial report and updating and reviewing the AMF bylaws. This summer, the AMF and ASCH boards

will be meeting on a more active and regular basis. The AMF is currently focused on reviewing processes and procedures and ensuring that those are accessible. In the future the AMF is considering entering into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ASCH to help maintain an open and working relationship between these two entities.

## **6. Updates for the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH 16)**

### **a. ICCH 16 Registration – ASCH Membership Discount – Early Registration ended March 8<sup>th</sup>**

The ASCH was able to award 11 Travel Scholarships this year to ASCH members attending and having an active role at ICCH16 in Oulu.

### **b. U Arctic Pre-Congress Summer School June 6-7, 2015 in Oulu**

The curriculum for the pre-congress summer school is available on the ICCH16 website and has a total of 25 spots. To date, approximately 15 of those spots are filled.

### **c. International Union for Circumpolar Health Update (including working groups)**

There are several working groups that meet annually, and come together at the international congress. Brenna announced a new working group, Reproductive and Sexual Health in the Arctic that will be meeting Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, following the opening ceremony at the congress in the “press room”. A flyer will be sent out very soon to invite all who are interested.

Anyone who is organizing a working group and interested in sharing with ASCH membership, please send information and/or flyers to Brenna Simons and she will share with ASCH contacts.

Alan Parkinson mentioned that there are several infectious disease working groups and that those meetings will be posted soon and will be occurring during the conference.

## **7. Circumpolar Health Research Network CHRN Updates-**

Rhonda noted that CHRN is result of merger of International Network of Circumpolar Health Researchers (INCHR) and International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers (IACHP). This group publishes the International Journal of Circumpolar Health (the official journal of ASCH), supports periodic summer schools and in general supports collaboration around circumpolar health research and practice.

## **8. Arctic Research Commission, Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, and Arctic Council Updates**

Alan Parkinson helped explain that many of these working groups, societies and the union are all connected and that many of the working groups provide direct input to groups such as the Arctic Research Commission. Dr. Parkinson has organizational diagrams to help explain these relationships with anyone who is interested. The ASCH may post on their website as well in future as a resource for ASCH members.

## **9. Other Upcoming Events**

### **a. Collaborative Arctic Seminar in Epidemiology (CASE) - Yellowknife, August 3-7, 2015**

Rhonda Johnson – this seminar will also have some limited space, of approximately 20-25 spots. Scholarships are available through the High North collaboration with Norwegian, Canadian and Russian partners.. The next CASE meeting will be held in Homer, Alaska in 2016. For more info about either, contact Rhonda at [Rhonda.Johnson@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:Rhonda.Johnson@uaa.alaska.edu).