

ASCH 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions by Brenna Simons, ASCH President (2015-2018)

We welcome all to the 2016 Annual Meeting. The ASCH membership meets once a year, but members (and non-members, or potentially new members!) can always get the latest from ASCH by checking out the website at www.asch.cc. We also encourage ASCH membership to share opportunities and events by advertising on the ASCH website and Facebook page, as well as distribution through the ASCH contact list. Contact any ASCH board member to share your event online. Current ASCH Board below.

Executive Board (2015-2018);

Brenna Simons, President
Philippe Amstalavski, Vice President
Lawrence Duffy, Secretary
Abbie Wolfe, Treasurer

General Board Members

Doreen Leavitt (2014-2017)
Vanessa Hiratsuka (2014-2017)
Burhan Khan (2013-2016)
Diane McEachern (2013-2016)
Patricia Cochran – newly elected (2016-2019)
Neil Murphy – Emeritus Board Member / Historian

Student Members

Charlene Apok
Samantha Case

Announcement of New ASCH General Board Members, 2016 Election

Every election is a close race, and this year was no exception. There were seven candidates and very close votes amongst all. We did however have one winner, Patricia Cochran, and then a 3-way tie for the second general board position. There will be a special election for the second general board position that will include 3 candidates; Connie Jessen, Neil Murphy, Korie Hickel. The ballot will be held open April 6-15th, and only current 2016 ASCH members are able to vote.

Membership

As of April 1st, we have 32 current 2016 members; 80-90 usually involved in ASCH. Membership sign up and renewals are available year round but memberships run through calendar year. Only current members are able to vote, run for office, and take advantage of ASCH-sponsored travel awards. Membership applications are available online at www.asch.cc/membership.

ASCH Activities over the past year

In 2015, the 16th International Congress for Circumpolar Health was held in Oulu, Finland. The ICCH is held every 3 years, and so ICCH17 will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, Summer 2018. ASCH provided some travel support to 9 members, as well as supported travel to both the outgoing and incoming ASCH President. ASCH membership had a large presence at Oulu and it was, as always, a terrific meeting with so much collaborative potential. ASCH also sponsored a coffee break at the Arctic AAAS Meeting in October, held at UAA and recently hosted a circumpolar networking event at the 2016 ASSW that was held at UAF in Fairbanks. In addition, ASCH had an exhibitor booth at the Alaska Health Summit in February of this year that was represented by many of our ASCH members. ASCH has developed a travel award program for ASCH

membership, with an emphasis on early investigators and students. More details to follow later on in this agenda.

Treasurer's report, Abbie Wolfe, ASCH Treasurer

The treasurer report is available to ASCH members only. Please contact Abbie Wolfe (awolfe@anthc.org)

Arctic Health Foundation, Patricia Cochran, Board President (aka Albrecht-Milan Foundation)

Patricia kindly provided an overview and history of the Arctic Health Foundation, previously known as the Albrecht-Milan Foundation. IRS and State reporting was completed. A joint meeting of the ASCH and the AHF was held to review bylaws, relationships and budgets, aligned with ASCH goals. ASCH board members were also able to join with AHF in meeting with the Alaska Community Foundation to discuss and learn more about how funds were utilized, how fund raising can be built. The AHF treasurers report provided the balance as of 12/31/15 \$258,806.11. The AHF has a goal of raising a \$500,000 endowment in order to then utilize the interest earned for scholarships and support of the ASCH. The AHF and ASCH plan to meet summer 2016 to review the ASCH action plan and will host elections for trustee and board positions.

AHF-ASCH collaboration and updates, Brenna Simons, ASCH President

The ASCH General board has been working on a proposed action plan of how to best move forward in collaboration with the AHF. Both entities are working toward the ASCH mission of promoting circumpolar networks and providing opportunities for ASCH members.

Arctic Council Updates, Tom Hennessy

Dr. Hennessy provided an update to the recent meetings of the Arctic Council, which the US is the current chair. The ASCH is an observer to the council, as is the International Union for Circumpolar Health. Dr. Hennessy described the international circumpolar surveillance network is housed through CDC, Arctic Investigations Program in Anchorage and consists of transnational surveillance groups specific to infectious diseases that are significant for the circumpolar north (e.g., invasive bacterial diseases, h. pylori, viral hepatitis etc.). There are also discussions amongst the Arctic Council of compiling research ethics documents related to health research among indigenous peoples – these methods have not been compared/contrasted between varying geographic areas throughout the circumpolar north. The discussions are asking the questions of what is missing for nations, what are the best practices. There will be a human health experts group meeting next month, please contact Dr. Hennessy if interested in any of these council activities (tbh0@cdc.gov). Other updates included water and sanitation and health which is an Arctic Council endorsed activity; proposed look at status of water/sanitation in the Arctic; align with sustainable development goals; by 2030 everyone has access to improved water/sanitation in home. There is no current active monitoring; the Arctic Council and interested parties want to establish this to track progress. There will be a meeting in April 12-14th in Sisimuit, Greenland, where Dr. Rhonda Johnson and Dr. Hennessy will be there representing the United States. There is also an upcoming meeting on rural sanitation and water, Sep 18-22, cosponsored by the State of Alaska and other agencies. The conference title is, “Water Innovations for Healthy Arctic Homes”, and will be featuring discussions and presentations on innovative strategies to extend water/sanitation services; online survey via Survey Monkey® where people can talk about water/sanitation in their communities – will be sent out through the International Union for Circumpolar Health and the ASCH, reported on via September meeting. The event will be posted to www.asch.cc/events soon, or for further details contact Dr. Hennessy (tbh0@cdc.gov). A final announcement is regarding the ‘One Health’ collaborative in Alaska, which is driven to improve understanding of interactions between humans, environment, and animals. The collaborative includes the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Center for Climate and Health; and holds quarterly meetings involving university members, tribal and government representatives. The ‘One Health’ collaborative provides resources to communities, and

expert consultations through networks and utilizing online technology and geo mapping. The next goal is to build a similar model across the Circumpolar North.

American Indian and Alaska Native Clinical and Translational Research Center – Cindy Knall

This is an anticipated, NIH-funded CTTC that will be managed by University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, University of Montana, Southcentral Foundation, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The CTTC is tasked with building clinical and translational research in Alaska. As part of the CTTC, there will be a Pilot Grant funding opportunity that features 7 different funding mechanisms, including 1 and 2-year grants as well as ‘mini-sabbatical’ applications and community-based project support. The Pilot Grant opportunity is anticipated to be announced very soon and will be open to applicants. The informational flyer is available from Dr. Cindy Knall (cmknall@uaa.alaska.edu), and the announcement will be distributed to all ASCH membership.

IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) – David Driscoll

Dr. Driscoll shared information about the University of Alaska INBRE program, including an upcoming opportunity, The Social & Determinants of Health in Alaska Symposium. The symposium will highlight successful translational research, will include One Health survey results and will also have training for individual development plans (how to complete if you are a student or plan on being a student and trying to do research through NIH). For more information go to www.alaska.edu/inbre/ or contact Dr. Driscoll (ddriscoll@uaa.alaska.edu).

ASCH travel scholarship, Brenna Simons, ASCH President

This year, ASCH has developed and announced a member travel award mechanism, available to current 2016 ASCH members. The intent of the travel award is to emphasize membership support and development, and has preference for students and early investigators. There is a travel award committee, comprised of several ASCH board members, and the timeline from application to award decision is approximately 2 weeks. The application is online www.asch.cc/membership/travel-scholarship-application. Eligibility, including what travel costs are eligible for reimbursement, and other information is included online. This is a new program; members are encouraged to provide any feedback regarding this opportunity to Brenna Simons (bcsimons@anthc.org) or Philippe Amstalavski (pamstalavski@uaa.alaska.edu).

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Please check out www.asch.cc/events for upcoming meetings and opportunities for our ASCH membership. “Like Us” on Facebook! If anyone has events to share, please contact Brenna Simons (bcsimons@anthc.org). We will always try and keep this information up to date and shared with our ASCH membership.