

# Arctic Health Workshop 17-18 April 2013

## Health Research and Education in the Arctic “FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION”

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# **Greenland Center for Health Research.**



- **Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland**
- **Greenland Institute of Natural Resources**











# Greenland Center for Health Research.

- **Our Vision:**

- In a coordinated environment to develop knowledge to elevate health status in Greenland to its optimum level.

- **Our Mission:**

- Increase Knowledge.
- Exchange knowledge.
- Dissemination knowledge
- Apply knowledge
- Networking, Institute in Denmark and International
- Capacity building/ mentoring
- Community Involvement

# Challenges for Health Care

- Greenland has a disease pattern characterized by acute diseases, mainly infections, and chronic diseases, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, COLD, cancer, mental health, muscles/skeleton diseases etc.
- Organization and logistic of the health care system in sparsely populated Arctic regions is of great challenges.
- Further more Greenland has public health problems which more than anything require a long term strategy for prevention.

# Challenges for Health Care

- Geographically dispersed population
- Lack of own well-trained health workers
- Recruitment Problems and short positions
- Continuity and responsibility
- Cultural barrierer

# Greenland Health Care System

- Greenland has a strong primary sector developed partly outside geography but also because it is highly reliever oriented towards a broad health perception that the future will demand of healthcare needs will clearly move from the highly specialized services to more primary basic services
- The model built upon primary health care with service from specialist in the secondary health care system.

# Opportunities

- United healthcare system
- United elektronist patient system in the primary sector
- Local training sygepelejersker and other healthcare
- Training of doctors
- Small manageable population
- Flexible healthcare and simple adaption of new initiatives
- Close collaboration between health and society

# Electronic patient record

- The key stone for research in Greenland



# Research and Health Care

- Unique opportunities with a comprehensive healthcare
- Research and education must be combined.
- Several new research and PhD studies is developed in Healthcare.
- Networking and collaboration with universities and centers in Nordic and Arctic countries developed.
- Developing a strong research base in Greenland.

# Research and Education

- The Health Research in Greenland has for many years been driven by independent researchers and research centers that were not naturally associated with health service and education of Greenland Healthcare professionals.
- Research and Education searched interrelated in the years ahead by the establishment of Greenland Center for Health Research

# Health Research training courses.

- Retrospective study of assigned social pension by diagnosis, sex and age in Nuuk 2008-09.
- High Prevalence of Medicine Induced Attempted Suicides Among Females in Nuuk, Greenland 2008-2009.
- How to handle COPD patients in the Greenlandic health care?
- Endocarditis in Greenland
- Patient at the District psychiatry
- Weight among children in Greenland at school entry.
- Should we screen for postnatal depression?

# PhD program & courses 2012 & 2013

- Norden, Top-level Research Initiative program (2010-2013, for Nordic PhD students and teachers)
- UArctic PhD program on Arctic health and well-being (Arctic Co-operation Programme 2012-2014)

## Courses:

- Abisko, May 2012: Snowtalks
- Fairbanks, August 2012: Health literacy and women's health
- Oulu, November 2012: Security in changing world
- Abisko, May 2013: Health impact assessment and climate change
- Nuuk, September 2013: Health, society, and environment in relation to large-scale industrial projects
- Collaboration with different universities, University of the Arctic and research institutes

# Health, Security and Well-Being in the North

Prof. Arja Rautio, Centre for Arctic Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland  
Dr. Gert Mulvad, Health Research Board Greenland

Prof. Andrey Soloviev, Northern State Medical University, Russia

Prof. Vappu Sunnari, University of Oulu, Finland & Luleå Technical University, Sweden

Additional teacher: Prof. John Moore, University of Lapland & University of Oulu, Finland

*A new course developed by the UArctic Thematic Network on Global Change (funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers).*

**Credits:** 6 ECTS/3 North American Credit Hours

**Host:** University of Oulu, Finland

**Prerequisites:** A Bachelor degree

**Registration:** First enrolment of the course is piloted with Master's program in Health and Well-being in Circumpolar Area in March 2009, after that the course will be open for all Arctic students. Registration will be announced at [www.uarctic.org](http://www.uarctic.org)

**Teaching method:** on-line course

**Enrolment:** every second year

**Main themes** of the course are global/climate change, household and gender issues, health and well-being, dietary factors – food change – effects on health, risk factors, inequality and violence, social and health status changes and, health prevention.

## Learning outcomes:

Students will learn the current characteristics of health, security and well-being in the Circumpolar North and their backgrounds. They will understand future challenges of health, security and well-being in the Circumpolar North in the context of globalization, and have learned some means to deal with them and are motivated and capable to seek means to increase health, security and well-being.



Photo by Kirsi Latola



Course development team members (from the left) Prof. Arja Rautio, Dr. Gert Mulvad and Prof. Andrey Soloviev working at Roskilde in February 2008.

## Course schedule:

- Week 1: Introduction
- Weeks 2-3: Lecture 1. John Moore, Climate change
- Week 4: Lecture 2. Andrey Soloviev, Mental health in circumpolar world: Dynamic of risk factors
- Week 5: Lecture 3. Vappu Sunnari, Gender, Family issues and Violence from the point of view of well-being in the North
- Weeks 6-7: Lecture 4. Gert Mulvad, Health and well-being in the North
- Weeks 8-9: Writing the individual articles (main themes of the course)
- Weeks 10-11: Discussions, debates etc. on the basis of the contents of the manuscripts of the articles
- Week 12: Finalizing the individual articles.
- Week 13: Writing comparative, reflective summaries of the studies topics in groups.
- Week 14: Evaluation of course and final student assignments

## Contact information

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