

AMAP/EU-PolarNet Stakeholder Workshop on Research Needs for Arctic Health and Wellness

Fairbanks, Alaska, 12 March 2016

Background

AMAP, as a partner in the Horizon 2020 project EU-PolarNet, is responsible for promoting trans-Atlantic research activities between EU countries and the USA and Canada and, as one aspect of this, to hold stakeholder workshops to determine common research needs that can be provided as input to the central EU-PolarNet requirement, namely, to develop an Integrated European Polar Research Programme together with an implementation plan. An important aspect of EU-PolarNet is 'connecting science with society', under which dialogue and cooperation with relevant Arctic stakeholders will ensure their input to the formulation of this research programme. AMAP will organize four annual stakeholder workshops to identify and formulate key Arctic research needs over the next five years. The first workshop will be held on 12 March 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska in association with the Arctic Science Summit Week 2016. The central theme of this workshop is research needs associated with the health and wellness of Arctic residents.

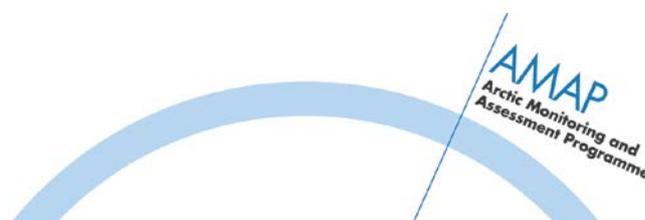
Rationale

Rapidly occurring changes in the Arctic, including economic development, resource exploitation and the various impacts of climate change, are having an influence on the physical and mental health and wellness of Arctic residents, particularly Indigenous people. Research is needed to be able to understand these impacts on health and to assist in the development of means to ameliorate such impacts. Arctic residents, especially Indigenous people, and other relevant stakeholders in the Arctic need to be involved in the identification of the types of research that are needed, the methods used and the conduct of the work, to ensure that the results will be able to be implemented.

For nearly a quarter of a century, AMAP has coordinated contaminant-related studies of health in the Arctic; this work has recently expanded to include the combined effects of other stressors, particularly climate change, on health. The AMAP Human Health Assessment Group also cooperates with the Sustainable Development Working Group Human Health Expert Group, which has a particular focus on the mental health of Arctic residents. Experts from these groups have assisted in the preparations for this workshop. Representatives of Arctic Council Permanent Participants will contribute to the preparations and participate in the workshop. As the workshop will be held in Alaska, strong representation from the US and Canada is encouraged.

Format of workshop

The workshop will convene approximately 50 participants with expertise and/or interest in the topics ultimately chosen for the workshop. The meeting will be held in a round-table setting, with a short, focused introduction to each topic followed by discussion that will lead to the identification of key research needs. If there is a need and the venue holds the possibility, break-out groups may be established on the main topics to explore them in greater detail, with final reporting to the plenary.



AMAP/EU-PolarNet Stakeholder Workshop on Research Needs for Arctic Health and Wellness

Fairbanks, Alaska, 12 March 2016

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Duckering Building Room 252

Agenda

Morning Session

Opening and welcome

Lars-Otto Reiersen, AMAP Executive Secretary

Context of the workshop: Research needs defined for EU-PolarNet work

9:00 – 9:30 *Nicole Biebow, AWI, Project Manager EU-PolarNet*

Aims and outcome of the workshop

Janet Pawlak, AMAP Secretariat – Rapporteur

Structure and schedule of the workshop

Rhonda Johnson, University of Alaska Anchorage – Facilitator

Overall perspectives: Climate change and health in the Circumpolar North

9:30 – 10:15 *Ashlee Cunsolo-Willox, Cape Breton University*

Local perspectives: Fish and wildlife co-management in relation to health and wellness in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area

Jamie Snook, Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat

Contaminants in Arctic food species: health effects issues

Pál Weihe, The Faroese Hospital System

10:15 – 10:45 **Coffee break**

Combined effects of climate change, contaminants, and zoonotic diseases

10:45 – 12:00 *Birgitta Evengård, University Hospital, Umeå University, Sweden*

Initiative to build on: One Health: animal, environment, and human health

Jim Berner, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Discussion

12:00 – 13:15 **Lunch**

Afternoon Session

Promoting resilience and well-being

Stacy Rasmus, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Suicide interventions

13:15 – 14:30 *Diane McEachern, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Bethel*

Initiative to build on: Rising Sun: suicide prevention

Roberto Delgado, U.S. National Institute of Mental Health

Discussion

14:30 – 15:00 **Coffee break**

Community health perspectives

Gert Mulvad, University of Greenland

Public health infrastructure

15:00 – 16:15 *Ali K. Hamade, Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services*

Technological aids: E-health and E-welfare

Stuart Ferguson, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Discussion

16:15 – 16:45 **Panel discussion – Research needs for Arctic Health and Wellness**

16:45 – 17:00 **Final remarks and closing of meeting**

This event is part of Arctic Science Summit Week 2016

<https://assw2016.org/assw-program/12march>

If you wish to attend this workshop or receive further information about it, please contact:

Janet Pawlak
AMAP Deputy Executive Secretary
Gaustadalléen 21
N-0349 Oslo
Norway

e-mail: jpawlak@dahm.dk or amap@amap.no