

Statement of intent

Circumpolar Maternal and Child Health Working Group

Researchers, health professionals and students gathered during the ICCH 2018 Copenhagen, Denmark and created the first Circumpolar Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Working Group under the auspices of the International Circumpolar Health Research Network. The members of the MCH working group have since then published an article based on the session held at ICCH 2018, and also organized a collaborative session at the 10th NUNAMED conference in 2019.

The Maternal and Child Health Working Group's vision is to promote and advocate for a human-rights based approach to improving health outcomes and equity in the circumpolar region. These approaches are underpinned by the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights, The Convention on the Rights of the Child and The Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Group aspires to:

- nurture collaborative relationships both within the groups as well as across and beyond the region,
- offer support to maternal and child health projects,
- advocate for ethical collaborations with Indigenous people and their families,
- and produce scientific articles that can contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of Arctic mothers, children and families.

The following have expressed interest in being an active member of the MCH Working Group:

1. **Amber Miners**, Dr. MD, FRCPC, Umingmak Child Advocacy Centre and Qikiqtani General Hospital (Canada)
2. **Anita Vaskinn**, PhD student, UiT The Arctic University of Norway (Norway)
3. **Astrid M.A. Eriksen**, Center for Sami Research, UiT (Norway)
4. **Berit Schei**, Department of Public Health and Nursing, NTNU (Norway)
5. **Christine Ingemann**, PhD student, Ilisimatusarfik (Greenland) and University of Southern Denmark
6. **Elena Nechaeva**, PhD student, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway & Russia)
7. **Laila L. Wilhelmsen**, SANKS – Finnmarkssykehuset
8. **Laura Arbour**, Professor, University of Victoria (Canada)
9. **Maria Wielsøe**, Assistant Professor, Aarhus University (Denmark)
10. **Mary D. Allen**, Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage (USA)
11. **Neil Murphy**, MD, Southcentral Foundation, (USA)
12. **Pertice Moffitt**, (Canada)
13. **Rebecca Rich**
14. **Ruth Montgomery**, Dr.PH, Ilisimatusarfik (Greenland)
15. **Sarah Ireland**, Charles Darwin University (Australia)
16. **Sheona Mitchell-Foster**, Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia (Canada)
17. **Shirley Tagalik**, Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre (Canada)
18. **Siv Kvernmo**, Professor, UiT The Arctic University of Norway (Norway)
19. **Trina Fyfe**, University of Northern British Columbia (Canada)
20. **Zoua M. Vang**, Associate Professor, McGill University (Canada)

Ingemann, C., Kvernmo, S., Møller, H., Moffitt, P. M., Tagalik, S., Kuhn, R. L., . . . Larsen, C. V. (2019). Symposium on "parental education" at the ICCH17. *International Journal of circumpolar health*, 78(1), 1604062.