



American Society for Circumpolar Health

December 2024 Newsletter

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2025 Annual Meeting

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025

Location: UAA and Zoom

Time: Noon - 4:30p

**Look out for more
information on this soon!**

ICCH18 Recap

ICCH18 was a great success. Despite wildfires and hurricanes, the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health pulled together great science and networking for over 300 attendees. In addition, the ICCH18 General Assembly approved ASCH to host ICCH19 in Anchorage in 2027. These next three years will include planning, coordination, hard work, and we will need a lot of input from you. Please help us make the 2027 ICCH19 in Anchorage a similar success.



For more information on presentations and keynote speakers visit the Canada Society for Circumpolar Health website at csch.ca/icch18/

President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

The Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health pulled together a great Congress despite wildfires, hurricanes, and a pandemic. As such, the ASCH contingent who attended ICCH18 in Halifax, Nova Scotia was feted with great science, networking, and ask anyone of them about the lobster dinner.

As luck would have it, the ICCH18 General Assembly chose to support a proposal from the ASCH to host the next Congress. So, ICCH19 will be in Anchorage in 2027, as our last Congress had been in Fairbanks in 2012.

We will still hold the ASCH Annual Meeting and Scientific Seminar on March 21, 2025 and continue our local scientific sharing and networking throughout the preparations for ICCH19.

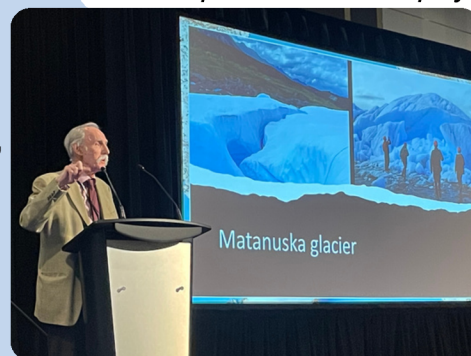
In these next three years we will consult with you about scientific themes, conference planning, breakout sessions, working groups and how you want to present life in Alaska to the rest of the circumpolar world.

Please help make ICCH19 memorable.

Neil Murphy, President ASCH



ICCH19 ANC 2027 Panelists (Left to right): Robert Onders, Vanessa Hiatsuka, Katie Cueva, Reinou Groen
Bottom photo: Neil Murphy



Join Our Team

ASCH Membership for 2025 is underway. Founded in 1980, ASCH is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting research, exchanging knowledge and fostering greater awareness and responsiveness to the health of circumpolar people. Networking and collaborative research opportunities have enabled many members to form lasting research partnerships. Membership renewal can be completed on the ASCH website at americancircumpolar.org/membership/

If you have any questions, please email us at asch.circumpolar.usa@gmail.com.

Jens Peder Hart Hansen 2024 Award Winner: Emily Maxwell



Emily Maxwell was born and raised in Palmer, Alaska. In August 2024, Emily received her PhD in Epidemiology from the Interdisciplinary Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In December 2024, Emily started a new role at the Indian Health Service, where she will lead communication efforts to advance the health of Alaska Natives and American Indians.

Jack Hildes Medal 2024 Award Winner: Abbie Willetto

Abbie Willetto, MA Abbie holds a BS in Biology and an MA in Educational Leadership both from Northern Arizona University. She completed PhD coursework in Social Foundations of Bilingual-Multicultural Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. In Alaska she has worked as a researcher for Chugach Regional Resource Commission and Southcentral Foundation. She served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage in the School of Education M. Ed. program for 7 years. Her early career included; teaching middle and high school science, staff development, educational leadership, and curriculum development on the Navajo Nation. She has worked with the National Science Foundation as CoPrincipal Investigator of a nationwide systemic initiative. Throughout her career she has worked to improve the opportunities for underrepresented groups to increase access to the areas of mathematics, science, research and evaluation. Since 2010 she has worked with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Currently she leads the ANTHC Abstract, Manuscript & Proposal Review Committee and works closely with the ANTHC Health Research Review Committee, where all health research conducted with ANTHC receives review and approval by tribal leadership. She is also the ANTHC Specimen Archive coordinator. She has served on numerous national and statewide committees which focus on science. She is a member of the Navajo Nation and lives in Anchorage, Alaska with her children.



Abbie Willetto