



American Society for Circumpolar Health

ASCH Newsletter: Spring/Summer 2026

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Mark Your Calendars!



June 3-4, 2027
Pre-Congress Event
in Kotzebue, AK



June 6-8, 2027
ICCH19
Anchorage, AK

More information in this newsletter!

ASCH Website

Our new and improved website will be launching very soon!

LOADING ...



President's Corner

SAVE THE DATE:

ICCH19 will be held June 6-8, 2027
at the Hilton in Downtown Anchorage

There will also be a Pre-Congress event in
Kotzebue June 3 and 4, 2027 on
the infectious disease syndemic &
Research Governance

Scholarship applications will be available for current ASCH members. The capacity of the Kotzebue event is limited - so please sign up early.

Abstract submission and registration: Begins October 1, 2026 with acceptance in an ongoing / rolling manner to allow for early decisions.

Abstract Deadline: March 1, 2027

ICCH19 will also include:

- Tour of Southcentral Foundation's Traditional Healing and Primary Care facility followed by a fundraiser at the Nuqali Learning Institute for the new International Healing Hands Award for frontline health workers
- Gala dinner at the Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Many cultural events
- Fun runs and other activities

We are putting together the ICCH19 Scientific Program now, so if you have any speakers or topics you want included, please let us know.

As we prepare for the upcoming ICCH19 in 2027 we look forward to re-kindling those old relationships which may have fallen by the wayside during the pandemic. Please join the ASCH. This is a very important time to be part of the Circumpolar Health Movement (Plus, you will save money on your ICCH19 Registration!).

Neil Murphy, President ASCH

2026 Science Symposium

We had an amazing symposium with Dr. Stacy Rasmus as our Keynote Speaker, as well as engaging presentations, flash talks, and poster presentations. With over 60 attendees, thank you to all who participated!

ASCH Membership & Renewal

- ***Stay up-to-date on ICCH19 updates!***
- ***Members save money when registering for ICCH19!***
- ***Members can apply for ICCH19 scholarships!***

Membership renewal can be completed on the ASCH website at americancircumpolar.org/membership/

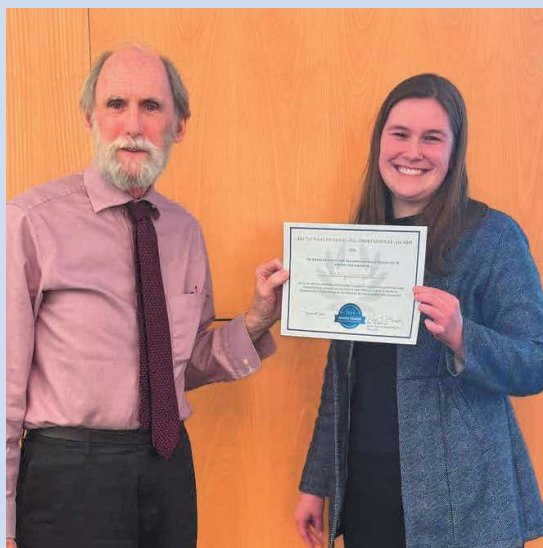
2026 Arctic Health Emerging Professional Award Winner

Tori Balta is an epidemiologist at the CDC's Arctic Investigations Program (AIP), where she focuses on infectious diseases affecting communities in the arctic region. Her presentation was titled, "Investigation of an increase in acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease - AK, 2025". Before her current role, she served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer at AIP. Her work focuses on respiratory viruses, hepatitis, and invasive bacterial diseases in Alaska, including *Haemophilus influenzae* and group A and B *Streptococcus*. In 2025, Tori led an Epi-Aid investigating a rise in acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease among Alaskan children, collaborating with local partners to identify risk factors and develop clinical recommendations. She is committed to translating data into actionable, community-informed public health solutions.

Victoria Balta



2026 Arctic Health Emerging Professional Award Winner



Keely Livingston

Keely Livingston was born and raised in Palmer, Alaska. She attended Montana State University to earn a BS in Cell Biology and Neuroscience. She graduated from the UAA Master of Public Health (MPH) program in May 2026. Keely has experience in nutrition education working with several food pantries in Mat-Su and supporting on-campus food pantries through food security initiatives in both Alaska and Montana. Her presentation was titled, "Exploring Barriers and Opportunities for Food Pantries and Programs in Alaska to Accept and Use Traditional/Subsistence/Wild Food Donations." Other projects she has worked on include mapping transportation barriers to food bank access in Mat-Su, the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment in Mat-Su, and expanding Alaska Pacific University's Tilth program, which provides fresh, local foods to food pantries.



June 6-8, 2027 at Hilton Hotel Downtown Anchorage, Alaska

Theme: “Thriving in a Changing Circumpolar Landscape: Wellness & Healing”

Pre-Congress event in Kotzebue on June 3-4, 2027,
Sponsored by Maniilaq Association, focuses on:
The syndemic of sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and Hepatitis C.
& Research Governance

- Who:** Open to anyone who supports thriving, healthy communities
- Health practitioners, researchers, community members, policy makers, & students
 - People who work or live in northern circumpolar nations and indigenous communities
 - Attendees from Canada, Greenland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland & more

Scholarships: Active ASCH members are eligible to apply for scholarships

Abstracts: Abstract submission and registration begins October 1, 2026 with abstract acceptance being on an ongoing/ rolling manner to allow for early decisions.

- Abstract deadline March 1, 2027

Awards: The Congress sponsors awards for long term achievement, emerging investigators, and frontline healthcare workers

Fees: Your entire ASCH membership fee will be applied to your ICCH19 Registration

Organized by: The local organizers are the American Society for Circumpolar Health in conjunction with The International Union for Circumpolar Health
The Indigenous people of Alaska are intrinsically involved with the planning and content

Contact us with any questions at asch.circumpolar.usa@gmail.com

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Top & Bottom: Candid photos at Symposium poster session



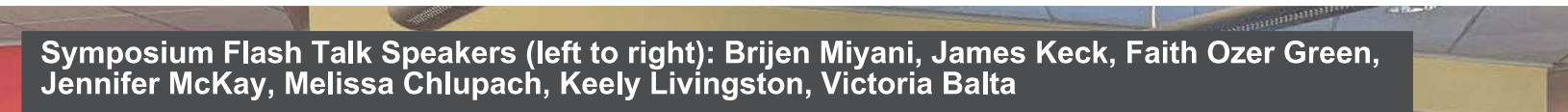
Board members (left to right): Anita Moore, Bob Onders, Sarah Yoder, Ruby Fried, Patricia Cochran, Ashley Ihde, Neil Murphy
Not pictured: Stacy Rasmus



Board members Neil Murphy, Ruby Fried, and Ashley Ihde at UAF site visit in April 2026



Top & Bottom: Aurora photos by Dr. Murphy's wife, Angela



Symposium Flash Talk Speakers (left to right): Brijen Miyani, James Keck, Faith Ozer Green, Jennifer McKay, Melissa Chlupach, Keely Livingston, Victoria Balta