

# International Circumpolar Surveillance of Infectious Diseases

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**Contact:**

**Dr Alan Parkinson**

Arctic Investigations Program  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention  
4055 Tudor Centre Drive. Anchorage Alaska  
99508  
USA

**Tel:** 907 729 3407

**Mobile:** no

**Fax:** 907 729 3429

**Email:** [ajp1@cdc.gov](mailto:ajp1@cdc.gov)

**Update 2009:**

An ICS Steering Committee meeting was held in Helsinki, Finland, May 15, 2009. The committee welcomed the nomination by the Russian Federal Service for Consumer Rights Protection (Rospotrebnadzor) of a Russian representative to the ICS Steering Committee. The committee reviewed ongoing project progress, and debated the addition of new initiatives, and reviewed plans for 2009-2010. The committee discussed and proposed the formation of an ICS working group to monitor climate sensitive infectious diseases. A scoping workshop will be conducted in 2010. There was discussion on the expansion of ICS to include non-infectious diseases. It was decided that since ICS focused on emerging infectious disease issues and problems, and that the steering committee consisted of infectious disease subject matter experts that it was not appropriate to add non-infectious diseases to the current ICS structure. However establishment of surveillance of non-infectious diseases could be initiated through the AHHEG. The meeting was attended by Barents HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator for the Northern Dimension Partnership for Health and Social Wellbeing who gave an overview of the NDPHS and their activities relating to HIV/AIDS prevention and control. The purpose of this presentation was to explore potential linkages between ICS and NDPHS infectious disease programs.

ICS reports and updates were presented at the International Union for Circumpolar Health's 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health July 11-16, 2009, Yellowknife, NWT, Canada.

The ICS research working groups for viral hepatitis, *Helicobacter pylori* and Sexually Transmitted Infections conducted meetings, at the International Union for Circumpolar Health's 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health, July 11-16, 2009, Yellowknife NWT Canada.

The ICS tuberculosis working group conducted a working group meeting July 11, 2009, Yellowknife, NWT, Canada. An objective of this group is to extend Tuberculosis surveillance to include northern Regions of the Russian Federation. This expansion will be in partnership with the Russian Federal Service for Consumer Rights Protection (Rospotrebnadzor), the Russian Ministry of Health and the Northern Forum. The Federal Service is in the process of assessing the feasibility of providing surveillance data to ICS for comparison. A meeting is planned in the Russian Federation in the spring of 2010 to explore options for sharing surveillance data between two northern Regions and ICS.

#### Plans 2009-2010:

ICS will continue surveillance of invasive bacterial diseases and related quality control programs in the US Arctic, northern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Finland and northern Sweden during 2009-2010.

ICS will initiate standardized collection of tuberculosis data in the US Arctic, northern Canada and Greenland and together with the Northern Forum, Russian Federal Service for Consumer Rights Protection (Rospotrebnadzor), and the Russian Ministry of Health, ICS will explore potential mechanisms for sharing of infectious disease surveillance information between public health authorities in northern regions of the Russian Federation and ICS participating countries.

ICS will explore options for establishing a pilot community based monitoring system for the detection of climate sensitive zoonotic infectious diseases (potential linkages with AMAP, CAFF).

The next ICS Steering Committee will be held in Atlanta GA, to coincide with the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases which will be held July 11-14, 2010.

Coordination of Hepatitis, *Helicobacter pylori* and Sexually Transmitted infections research activities will continue. The next Hepatitis, *Helicobacter pylori*, tuberculosis and STI working group meetings will be in Copenhagen, September 20-23, 2010.

#### Update 2010:

An ICS Steering Committee meeting was held in Atlanta, GA ,USA July 15, 2010. The committee reviewed ongoing project progress, and debated the addition of new initiatives, and reviewed plans for 2010-2011. The committee discussed and proposed the formation of an ICS working group to monitor climate sensitive infectious diseases and discussed plans to conduct a workshop on "Climate Change and Impact on zoonotic and parasitic diseases in the north" in Copenhagen Denmark, September 23-24, 2010.

The ICS tuberculosis surveillance working group conducted a working group meeting September 20, in Copenhagen, Denmark. An ongoing objective of this group is to extend tuberculosis surveillance to include northern Regions of the Russian Federation. This expansion will be in partnership with the Russian Federal Service for Consumer Rights Protection (Rospotrebnadzor), the Russian Ministry of Health and the Northern Forum. A meeting is planned in the Russian Federation in the spring of 2011 to explore options for sharing surveillance data between two northern Regions and ICS.

Research Working group meetings on viral Hepatitis and *Helicobacter pylori* will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark September 21 and 22, 2010 respectively. The Sexually Transmitted Disease working group will hold a working group meeting October 26-27, 2010 in Yellowknife, NWT, Canada.

#### Plans 2010-2011:

ICS will continue surveillance of invasive bacterial diseases and related quality control programs in the US Arctic, northern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Finland and northern Sweden during 2010-2011.

ICS will initiate standardized collection of tuberculosis data in the US Arctic, northern Canada and Greenland and together with the Northern Forum, Russian Federal Service for Consumer

Rights Protection (Rospotrebnadzor), and the Russian Ministry of Health, ICS will explore potential mechanisms for sharing of infectious disease surveillance information between public health authorities in northern regions of the Russian Federation and ICS participating countries.

ICS will explore options for establishing a climate sensitive infectious disease surveillance working group (potential linkages with AMAP, CAFF).

The next ICS Steering Committee will be held in conjunction with the European Conference on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases which will be held May 7-10, 2011 in Milan, Italy.