THE ARCTIC HUMAN HEALTH INITIATIVE: THE ONLINE RESOURCE AT WWW.ARCTICHEALTH.ORG

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The Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI) is an Arctic Council International Polar Year (IPY) coordinating project that highlights human health concerns of the Arctic people. AHHI's goal is to build on existing Arctic Council and International Union for Circumpolar Health human health research. One important component of AHHI is its website, www.arctichealth.org/ahhi/, which serves a significant role in establishing cooperation and coordination in Arctic human health research. The AHHI website is a subpage of www.arctichealth.org, which is a portal to information concerning the northern environment and the health of the Arctic people. Funding for the AHHI website was provided in part through the NIH National Library of Medicine, and the website is hosted by the University of Alaska Anchorage's Department of Health Sciences. This website was created at the start of the IPY and it has been an important international resource throughout the IPY for researchers, government officials, students, and the public. In addition to providing introductory information about the IPY and AHHI, the website lists all of the human health related proposals submitted for the IPY, categorized by topic area. This includes updates and contact information for each proposal. Other information available on the website includes details about IPY events, opportunities for people to get involved, and publications related to AHHI and the IPY. In particular, fellowships for young polar scientists have been advertised in order to increase awareness of available training opportunities. The website also caters to people wanting to learn more about human health concerns of the Arctic people, with photos on the website that link to captions providing detailed information about important health issues. Examples of highlighted topics include the changing diets and lifestyles of Arctic people, gastric cancer, and invasive pneumococcal disease. The captions also provide details of ongoing AHHI-IPY projects currently addressing those issues.

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