ARCTIC HEALTH WEB SITE: AN INFORMATION PORTAL TO ISSUES AFFECTING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR PLANET’S NORTHERN-MOST INHABITANTS

L. Bartlett, P. Maez, K. Murray

National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine

The Arctic Health Web site (www.arctichealth.org) is a collaborative effort between the University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA), Health Sciences Information Services (HSIS), at the Consortium Library and the National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, Outreach and Special Populations Branch. The goal of the Web site is to bring together, in one location, information on diverse aspects of the arctic environment and the health of northern peoples. It gives access to evaluated health information from hundreds of local, state, national, and international agencies, as well as from professional societies, universities and Native Alaskan and indigenous communities. The portal contains several resources for both researchers and consumers. The topic areas covered are: publications and research, environmental health, telehealth and telemedicine, traditional healing, health topics and links to government organizations and programs. A climate change and circumpolar health section is being developed and seeks to provide access to unique and special collections not currently available on the Internet.

Arctic Health has made several unique and special collections available on the Internet. The traditional healing page offers interviews and video panel discussions about traditional healing and practices in the Native Alaskan community. These provide a great resource for understanding the practices and utilize the storytelling tradition to pass on stories and understandings from generations of Native Alaskans. Arctic Health has created robust databases containing bibliographic information, research projects and grey literature. The Frostbite collection is a series of photographs and notes from the leading frost bite expert Dr. William J Mills, Jr. The collection illustrates the danger of frost bite, treatments, and progression of the injury. Arctic Health also hosts several educational cancer videos for consumers created by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Arctic Health strives to locate, preserve and provide access to special collections for future generations.

Contact Laura Bartlett (bartlettl@mail.nih.gov)