

Information, Activities...



...and Annual Report 2003-2006

Information, Activities and Annual report October 2002 – September 2006
Centre for International Health (SIH)
UiTø/UNN

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1 INTRODUCTION

Challenges and joy – to establish and develop the Centre for International Health

Dean Georg Sager at the Faculty of Medicine (DMF) asked me four years ago to build up a centre for international health on behalf of DMF/UiTø and UNN. When looking back at these fantastic last four years I am happy that I accepted this challenge. My conclusion is clear; when our owner-institutions decided to build a special unit for international health in 2002, they made a wise decision!

Why focus on International Health in Tromsø?

Health is an essential human right and central to poverty reduction and development. There is a growing international focus on the importance of health, manifested in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) where health targets represent the largest component of the goals. The MDGs target the major poverty-linked diseases focusing on maternal and child health care and the control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The health challenges in the poorest countries also include an absolute shortfall in their health workforce. Health threats may also lead to affect the security of states. A recent initiative by the Norwegian- and French Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre and Philippe Douste-Blazy, suggest that the issues of global health should be included in the foreign policy agenda of states and international organisations.

Major challenges exist with regards to achieving the global health goals. The health professional environment in Tromsø wants to contribute towards the achievement of these goals, and participate in projects in all corners of the world. The following report will show a broad range of projects and international collaborating partners working towards a common goal of strengthening global health.

Building up SIH

The mandate that was agreed on by the Faculty's Board was a good starting point. The Centre for International Health (SIH) was nevertheless formed by the saying; "*We make the way by walking*". Internal administrative solutions had to be built up, activities and content to be shaped, networks to be established and promotion of all international health activity at the two owner institutions coordinated and strengthened. One thing quickly became clear to me – the employees cover a broad range of expertise and special fields. Through SIH, the extensive international involvement on health issues by UiTø and UNN has been strengthened and promoted nationally and internationally.

UNN and UiTø are two linked institutions, however with large differences in their internal organisations and leadership. For SIH this has been a positive challenge, where SIH has chosen to "take the best" from both institutions. We know that similar collaborating institutions in Norway envy us this unique possibility to combine clinical work, education and research within one centre. Further the solid and supportive collaboration with Tromsø University College make us even stronger.

We have tried to fulfil the intentions of SIH based on the following points:

- SIH shall be the main contact unit for the international health work at UiTø and UNN
- UiTø and UNN aim that all units work internationally

- SIH will focus on service and support for the personnel interested in international health work
- SIH shall simplify work rather than be an extra bureaucratic hinder
- SIH shall promote all projects and activities in order to strengthen our institutions and inspire others
- External collaboration shall reflect the wide range of competence and interest among the personnel
- Sharing experience will support and strengthen our international work

I am deeply honoured to have been given the position to lead the development of the Centre for International health. The team has been excellent, with complementary skills and with a very supporting way of helping each other to be good.

SIH is ready for more challenges. We will continue to be a strong centre for international health in the years to come and we hereby invite you all to be part of our team!

Tromsø, Oct. 1st 2006

Solveig Wiesener
Director SIH



Solveig Wiesener



Tore Gutteberg



Vidar Anderssen



Ingvill Konradsen Ceide



Trine Utkilen Sørensen



Nina Foss



Thomas Krogh



Kristin Scharffscher



Are Eriksen



Klaus Melf

2 SUMMARY

Centre for International health (SIH) is in its fourth year of functioning and its role is to be the co-ordinating centre for international health work at the Faculty of Medicine (DMF) at the University of Tromsø (UiTø) and the University Hospital North Norway (UNN). The activities have started to give results in the form of a growing project portfolio, successful applications for funding and an increased interest in the work being done at the centre. The need for personnel has also increased following the growing project scope, and the centre added three persons to its team in 2005.

The current project portfolio stretches from North West Russia in the north to Malawi in the south and eastwards we operate as far away as Sri Lanka and China. The different projects are taking place over a large distance in other words. Why are we in all these places? The reason is that our expertise is demanded in these areas. Tromsø is unique in the world in the sense that it is, on a global scale, a 'rural area', and therefore a good example of how to build a first class hospital and university, how to run an effective health service even with difficult infrastructure, and keep a high level of expertise in spite of large distances from the urban centres. This specific expertise and experience is needed in many of the world's poorest countries and Tromsø can, and should, participate in supporting these countries.

An essential pillar in SIH's work is the networking, lobbying and close collaboration with institutions, organisations and individuals locally, nationally and internationally. The core of all SIH's activities and projects is that they are founded on professional expertise from the health professionals at UNN and UiTø. All projects are planned and considered institutional collaborations on equal terms with a focus on reciprocal gain of knowledge, expertise and experience.

3 MANDATE

DMF/UiTø and UNN have strong traditions for considerable participation in international collaborations. This participation is widely spread geographically from the North to the South, and includes many different types of projects. The background for establishing a coordinating centre for international health came from the realisation that such a centre would strengthen the many ongoing projects at the hospital and at the university, and facilitate communication and administration both in relation to the institutions and in relation to external actors through networking, lobbying etc. Further the centre would play a role in developing new international health projects.

The reasons for establishing the centre are multiple:

- All international projects connected to the health environments at UNN and the DMF/UiTø will have a common address. This will simplify the communication both for external employers and for the management at UNN and DMF/UiTø.
- SIH's function as a coordinating and managing office for all international health projects including public relations and network building will result in the development of special expertise on international collaborations.
- UNN and DMF/UiTø will have a much stronger case when applying for external funding as a unit working coordinated instead of smaller, fragmented projects by individuals.

- SIH will be able to develop professionalism and expertise on application procedures for external financing. The centre will function as a service office for project leaders and participants.
- UNN and UiTø will, through SIH, have an important ‘tool’ to handle international relations and to receive guests from international organisations and institutions.
- SIH will build expertise with regards to consultancy and advice in international health projects. The centre will develop knowledge on sources for finances.
- SIH will be a support and advice centre for Norwegian and international students at UiTø and UNN.
- SIH will develop skills and expertise on research activities within some areas within international health.

4 ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Start-up:

SIH was founded by decision of the Faculty Board of DMF/UiTø and by decision of the Board at the UNN in February 2002. Director Solveig Wiesener was appointed director 1st of October 2003.

SIH started its operations 1st of January 2003

Personnel:

SIH has been built up gradually and has currently 7 employees, of which 4 serve as a permanent basic staff. In addition SIH has had civilian workers employed, and consider continuing employing civilian workers when needed.

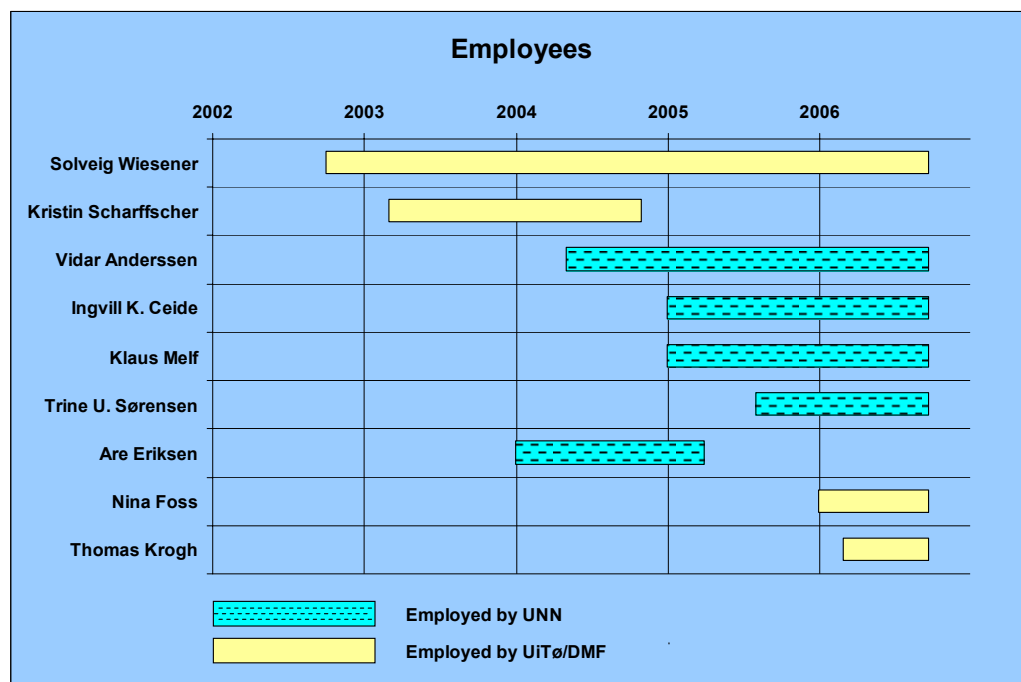


Figure 1: Employees at SIH

Board:

For the first three and a half years, manager of medical service functions at the UNN, Magne Johnsen and dean of the Faculty of Medicine (DMF), successively, Georg Sager, Kirsti Ytrehus and Toralf Hasvold operated as board of directors for SIH.



Georg Sager, DMF/UiTø



Magne Johnsen, UNN

A new board for SIH was formally established spring 2006. After two meetings the owners wanted to re-evaluate this organisation. New structure for management and organisation will be decided autumn 2006.

Scientific advisor:

Initiator Professor Toralf Hasvold, Institute of Community Medicine, DMF has contributed with scientific advice since the establishment of the centre.

In December 2004 Professor Tore Gutteberg, Department of Microbiology, UNN, was engaged as Scientific Advisor for SIH as part of his 20 % position at the Faculty of Medicine.

Advisory Council:

An advisory council, composed of health professionals from UNN and DMF was established and held its first meeting 17th of March 2005. The advisory council was dissolved when the new board of directors was established in 2006. The members were:

- Nina Emaus ISM
- Knut Holtedahl ISM
- Anne Husebekk IMB
- Ørjan Olsvik IMB
- Vegar Skogen IKM
- Claus Klingenberg IKM
- Ganesh Acharya IKM
- Kaare Nielsen IFA
- Bjørn Odvar Eriksen IKM
- Vinjar Fønnebø NAFKAM/ISM

Office locations:

SIH held temporary offices in various locations in Forskningsparken until moving into new “permanent” offices in August 2004.

From autumn 2006 it has been suggested that SIH has to move again. At this time new location is not decided.

Visual profile SIH

During 2004 SIH hired the company 'Rød Tråd AS' to develop a programme for a visual profile of SIH. The profile consists of two main elements; SIH's logo and a “bottom line” showing the two owners represented by their respective logos:

**5 INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

An important part of SIH's work is to receive interested parties and inform them about the work on international health at UiTø and UNN. SIH receive on regular basis delegations from national and international organizations such as Norad, Fredskorpset with Director General Tor Elden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Jonas Gahr Støre and Hilde Frafjord Johnsen, Ministry of Health, Red Cross and so on.

Examples of international visits are:

- Health Minister of Benin, Mrs Kinde –Gazard
- Benin Ambassador to Denmark, Mr Akplogan Zahcarie Richard
- Sudanese Ambassador to Norway, Mr Mohamed Eltom
- Representative for Arctic University Canada
- Head of the research division at the University of San Carlos de Guatemala, Rodolfo Smith
- Director Public Health Department in Arkhangelsk, Sergey Emmanuilov
- Rector of the Northern State Medical University, Pavel Sidorov
- Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatoshi Akiba
- President of the Russian Association of Occupational Therapists, Sergey Maltsev
- WHO Consultant Sri Lanka, Dr. Palitha Abeykoon
- Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka, M.K.Eelaventhana.

Another major part of the work done at SIH is information and dissemination of the international health work done at UiTø and UNN. These presentations are being used in a wide range of settings in Norway and abroad, by SIH and by project participants from the two owner- institutions. SIH has extensive lists of contact persons who are continually informed about this work

SIH's website www.sih.uit.no is actively used to launch news about the international health work in Tromsø. The website is SIH's most important tool for disseminating this work and a lot of emphasis is put on the maintenance and updating of the site, including technical update.

SIH also continually inform news agencies about the different activities on international health at UiTø and UNN.

Examples of news stories on international health in Tromsø:

UiTø/Tromsøflaket

2002	Nr. 15	<i>Solveig forlater personal og går til nyopprettet senter for internasjonal helse</i>
2003	20. august	<i>Nytt senter for internasjonal helse</i>
2003	11. desember	<i>Ny giv for helsesamarbeid - undertegning avtale med Arkhangelsk</i>
2004	18. november	<i>Helsearbeidere får opplæring i fredsbygging</i>
2005	25. mai	<i>EU penger til SIH innvilget EUs Leonardo da Vinci program</i>
2005	12. oktober	<i>Kvinnemishandling - et helseproblem, Konferanse- TV-aksjonen</i>
2005	21. oktober	<i>En kampsak for menn. TV- aksjonen Vold mot kvinner, Jan Egelands tale</i>
2006	9. januar	<i>Opptatt av helse – nordområdene. Utenriksminister Jonas Gahr Støre besøker SIH</i>
2006	27. mars	<i>Alternativ helsevakt</i>

DMF/Medflaket

2002	Nr. 5	<i>Leder v/Georg Sager- oppstart SIH</i>
2003	Nr. 5	<i>Ny samarbeidsavtale med Arkhangelsk</i>
2004	Nr. 2	<i>Informasjon om aktiviteter</i>
2004	Nr. 3	<i>Besøk av kinesisk helseminister/NAFKAM</i>
2004	Nr. 3	<i>Besøk fra Eastern University i Sri Lanka- oppstart prosjekt</i>
2004	Nr. 3	<i>Helse og fred v/Ole Mjøs</i>
2005	Nr. 2	<i>Erfaringskonferansen i Arkhangelsk</i>
2005	Nr. 2	<i>Oppstart tannhelseprosjekt i Uganda</i>

UNN årsmelding

2003	<i>Eget senter for internasjonal helse</i>
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UNN/Pingvinen

2003	29. november	<i>Tore Gutteberg – Ydmyk idealist</i>
2004	Nr. 2	<i>Mineskadesenteret – Flere overlever mineskader. Odd Edvardsen</i>
2004	Nr. 5	<i>Nødhjelp på russisk. Trine Sørensen og Mikail Kirov- veileder for medisinsk nødhjelp på russisk</i>
2004	Nr. 6	<i>UNN ut i verden - oversikt over SIH og hva som er gjort. Sri Lanka, Russland</i>
2004	Nr. 8	<i>Vil sende ut flere til fredskorpset. Fysikalsk avd. /Ergoterapiavd. – Tanzania</i>
2004	Nr. 9	<i>Oljetanker renner på cruiseskip. Olaf Jacobsen, Barents Rescue exercise 2005</i>
2004	Nr. 10	<i>Hjelper hjelpernes helpere- Christiane Kolberg og Steffen Rostock</i>

		<i>Svendsen i Palestina</i>
2004	Nr. 12	<i>Tromsømodellen til Sri Lanka. Besøk fra Eastern University, Sri Lanka – medisiner- og sykepleierutdanning.</i>
2004	Nr. 16	<i>Til Sudan for å hjelpe – Inger - Mari Tollefsen – leger uten grenser</i>
2004	Nr. 19	<i>Gratis linje til Arkhangelsk. Telemedisin. Vibeke Flytkjær</i>
2004	Nr. 22	<i>I kø for å lære om hygiene. Arkhangelsk. Trine Sørensen, Mari Skaalvik og Guri Albrigtsen</i>
2004	Nr. 23	<i>Førstepris til mineskader. Forskningspris fra Helse Nord til Hans Husum, Mineskadesenteret</i>
2004	Nr. 24	<i>UNN-ansatte har reddet liv i Midtøsten i 25 år. Mads Gilbert</i>
2004	Nr. 24	<i>Sympatiserer med Palestina. Med.student Erik Kjus Aahlin</i>
2004	Nr. 24	<i>Vil bryte muren med telemedisin – Palestina</i>
2004	Nr. 24	<i>Får internasjonal oppmerksomhet - Telemedisin Steinar Pedersen</i>
2005	Nr. 1	<i>Byttelånte helsearbeidere. Fysikalsk avd./Ergoterapiad – Tanzania</i>
2005	Nr. 2	<i>Barents Resue i rute. Olaf Jacobsen</i>
2005	Nr. 2	<i>Støttekonsert for tsunamiofre på Rica hotell</i>
2005	Nr. 3	<i>Anton B. Josephmary, anestesisykepleier fra Sri Lanka. Mer integrert enn nordmenn i eget land.</i>
2005	Nr. 5	<i>Unikt studie i politisk helsearbeid. Peace, health and medical work</i>
2005	Nr. 8	<i>Telemedisin: besøk av EU's helseministre, ehealth. Liv Karen Johannessen</i>
2005	Nr. 9	<i>UD stanser Sri Lanka prosjekt. Are Eriksen</i>
2005	Nr. 12	<i>Vil ut i verden. Botswana prosjekt avsluttet, ønske om oppstart Russland. Tore Gutteberg, Solfrid Swarg Medbye, Håkon Augdal, Berit Eliassen, Inger Gadgil</i>
2005	Nr. 13	<i>EU-penger til Finnsnes-prosjekt. Distiktsmedisinsk senter Midt-Troms</i>
2005	Nr. 13	<i>46664 Nelson Mandela konsert. Lys, varme og herlig, frivillig innsats. UNNs deltakelse</i>
2005	Nr. 14	<i>Solidarisk telemedisinsk tiltak. Opprettelse av globalt telemedisinsk fond. Tove Sørensen</i>
2005	Nr. 16	<i>Barents rescue nærmer seg. Olaf Jacobsen</i>
2005	Nr. 18.	<i>Telemedisinhjelp til mineofre i Cambodsja. Line Linstad, Stig Karoliussen, Zoltan Tot</i>
2005	Nr. 18	<i>Tidenes største øvelse. Barents rescue 2005</i>
2005	Nr. 18	<i>Ser døden i øynene. Patologi ved internasjonale katastrofer - Lars Uhlin-Hansen</i>
2005	Nr. 19	<i>Samarbeider om russisk kompetanseheving. Studie i smittevern og hygiene. Trine Sørensen og Guri Albrigtsen</i>
2005	Nr. 20	<i>UNN gir palestinere nytt mot</i>
2005	Nr. 21	<i>Fra Ghana til UNN. Helge Stahlsberg, Åshild Hofsfø</i>
2005	Nr. 25	<i>Sri Lanka et prøvet folk. Are Eriksen</i>
2005	Nr. 26	<i>Soveposer til jordskjelvofre i Pakistan</i>
2005	Nr. 26	<i>Sats mer på Russland. Svetlana Bye. Telemedisin</i>
2006	Nr. 2	<i>Russland viktig samarbeidspartner. Utenriksminister Jonas Gahr Støre besøker SIH</i>
2006	Nr. 5	<i>Fortsatt enormt behov for hjelp. UNN-ansatte i Pakistan.</i>
2006	Nr. 7	<i>Maner til innsats for verdens fattigste. Klaus Melf, Knut Hortedahl, Mike Rowson - lansering av Global health watch</i>
2006	Nr. 11	<i>Telemedisin til Sør-Korea. Steinar Pedersen</i>

From Newspapers

2003	3. oktober	Nordlys	<i>Slå et slag for Sri Lanka</i>
2003	12. desember	Nordlys	<i>Norsk-russisk samarbeidsavtale</i>
2004	13. august	Nordlys	<i>NOTIS Senter for Int. helse</i>
2004	19. november	Nordlys	<i>Først ute med «fredsmedisin»</i>
2004		Aftenposten	<i>Universitetet i Tromsø lærer leger å bli</i>
		Morgen	<i>agenter for fred</i>
2005	4. januar	Nordlys	<i>Til Sri Lanka for å hjelpe</i>
2005	2. april	Nordlys	<i>Mobiliserer for HIV og Aids</i>
2005	26. mai	NTB tekst	<i>EU-støtte til helseprosjekt</i>
2005	27. mai	Nordlys	<i>EU-penger til SIH</i>
2005	27. mai	Fædrelandsvennen	<i>EU-støtte til helseprosjekt</i>
2005	13. oktober	Bladet Tromsø	<i>Kvinne vold på dagsordenen</i>
2005	22. oktober	Nordlys	<i>UiTø og høyskolen lover fokus på vold mot kvinner</i>
2005	25. november	Bladet Tromsø	<i>Interkontinental kunnskapsutveksling. Uganda/ Malawi</i>
2006	12. januar	Nordlys	<i>Tverrfaglig aids-samarbeid</i>
2006	15. mars	Nordlys	<i>Gro-kritikk i ny rapport</i>
2006	12. september	Nordlys	<i>Lege og forsker Claus Melf, senter for internasjonal helse</i>
2006	September	Munnharpa	<i>Heia Afrika! Tannhelseprosjekt i Lira, Uganda</i>

GLOBUS - (Magazine for UNICEF, FN sambandet and UNESCO)

2006 Nr. 2 'Pengar, våpen og ei sunn utvikling' SIH by Askild Gjerstad

6 SECURITY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

All personnel working internationally for UNN or UiTø should be included in security systems that are clearly understood by all partners and the responsibilities clearly divided.

SIH has prepared the following two documents based on rules and regulations within the two owner's organisations and based on similar documents from collaboration partners i.e. Red Cross, Fredskorpset, Norad, WHO:

- 1. Personal security on projects administered by the Centre for International Health*
- 2. Code of conduct for personnel engaged by Centre for International Health Internationally*

Certain aspects of these routines are that all employees at UNN are included in UNN's insurance with IF/Europeiske insurance. Employees at UiTø must use their private insurance. For visiting war zones extra insurance must be effected for all personnel.

7 FINANCE

The economic status for SIH is as shown in the table below. The numbers are collected from the accounting system Agresso, used by the owner institutions. The management of SIH is based on a requirement of four permanent positions, two from each of the owners. This is not fulfilled before this year (UNN also finance a project full-time position organised under the SIH management headline).

The Medical Peace Work course only displays costs so far. The income for the 2005-course is expected at the turn of the year, and for this year's course the income will not be supplied before 2007. Anyway SIH considers the course as a net profit project. The estimate for this year's course indicates this.

From the total numbers in 2004, we see that the grants and costs from the external projects so to speak are balanced. Last year the external projects contributed to a good result owing to a large grant to the Sri Lanka project. The budget for 2006 gives a more balanced level on grants and costs, but the external projects are planned to contribute to some extent to the management of the centre.

At the end of every year the two owner institutions' financial contributions become object of adjustment. The intention is that the contribution from each of them will be a half of the total management cost.

It is important to emphasise that these numbers represent the SIH co-ordinated projects registered in the accounting systems at UiTø and UNN. SIH also contributes in other projects but then the grants are entered as income at the owner institutions' underlying departments. More and more of these departments address SIH to put the financial coordination of their project to SIH. This will also increase SIH's total budgets in the coming years.

	Annual accounts 2004			Annual accounts 2005			Budget 2006		
	UiTø	UNN	Total	UiTø	UNN	Total	UiTø	UNN	Total
SIH management									
Grants	-35 000		-35 000	-46 573		-46 573			
Personnel costs	630 769	493 348	1 124 117	755 128	1 591 286	2 346 414	1 041 000	1 440 000	2 481 000
Operating costs	444 667	25 985	470 652	280 668	16 359	297 027	330 000	495 000	825 000
Subtotal	1 040 436	519 333	1 559 769	989 223	1 607 646	2 596 869	1 371 000	1 935 000	3 306 000
Peace, Health and Medical Work									
Grants							-76 000		-76 000
Personnel costs	8 920		8 920	25 188		25 188	25 000		25 000
Operating costs	1 612		1 612	57 179		57 179	51 000		51 000
Subtotal	10 532		10 532	82 368		82 368	0		0
External financed projects									
Grants		-516 239	-516 239	-1 699 763	-307 730	-2 007 494	-4 888 000	-514 000	-5 402 000
Investments							1 155 000		1 155 000
Personnel costs		34 606	34 606	189 020	35 200	224 220	965 000	526 000	1 491 000
Operating costs		506 377	506 377	640 091	204 968	845 058	1 883 000	679 000	2 562 000
Subtotal	0	24 744	24 744	-870 653	-67 563	-938 215	-885 000	691 000	-194 000
Total	1 050 968	544 077	1 595 045	200 938	1 540 083	1 741 021	486 000	2 626 000	3 112 000

Table1. The economic status of SIH 2004-06

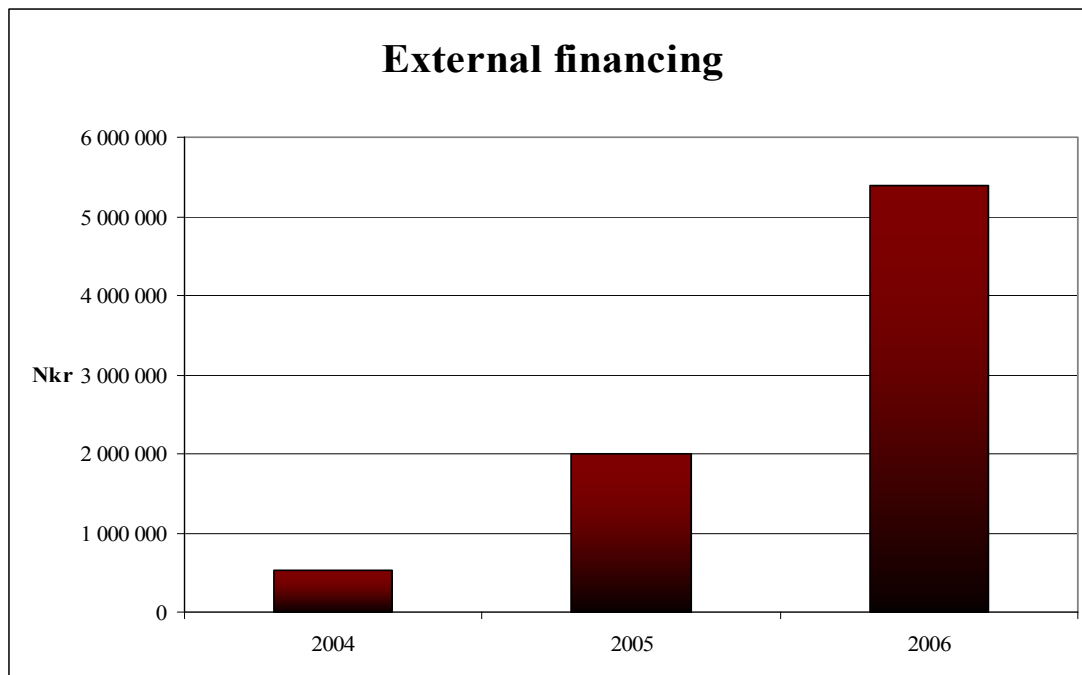


Figure 2: External financing

The figure shows the expansion in amount of external financing. The amount in 2006 is a tenfold increase from the registered grants in 2004.

8 PROJECTS 2003 – 2006

8.1 Health collaboration with Russia

The health collaboration between Tromsø and North West Russia started in the early 1990s with emergency aid being organized from Norway to Russia. Later on a formal collaboration between the health authorities and institutions in Tromsø and Arkhangelsk was developed and is growing in scope every year. Today there is a range of different types of collaboration within primary health care, psychiatry, prevention of infectious disease, emergency aid, equipment, research, clinical subjects such as heart surgery, anaesthesia, mother/child health, nursery including further education, telemedicine, cancer registry, student exchange and so on.



Partners in Arkhangelsk: Yury Sumarokov, Sergey Emmanuilov, Solveig Wiesener, Pavel Sidorov

During 2002/2003 SIH based its start-up planning to strengthen the collaboration with Russia on the report "Evaluation of the Barents Health Programme; project selection and implementation." This report was prepared for the Norwegian Ministry of Health by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, September 2002.

SIH started the work to make an overview of all health related projects and the activities done and ongoing with Russia from UNN and UiTø/DMF. Information, dialogue and meetings with all departments and persons involved were given priority. SIH travelled with different groups to North West Russia in order to create new networks, create opportunities for new activities and meet partners.

SIH has on several occasions invited the press to inform and promote the international health work at UiTø/UNN. In November 2003 the theme was to inform the press about the ongoing health collaborations with North West Russia in relation to the Nordic Dimension programme launched in Oslo October 2003. Participating from UiTø/UNN were: Toralf Hasvold, Jon Erik Odland, Vegard Skogen, Arnt Uchermann, Solveig Wiesener and Kristin Scharffscher.

From the start SIH is involved in strengthening this collaboration by providing support to project managers for funding application, agreements, network, practical issues and initiating new fields of collaboration. SIH function as an information provider to a wide range of institutions, news media, individuals etc. SIH has developed routines for application of visas, international money transfer and other practical issues such as vaccination, insurance, travel advice etc. SIH has an agreement with the Tromsø Emergency Unit, UNN, concerning MRSA testing of international project participants and students. This facilitates the student exchange with Russian students.

The large scope of projects based at UiTø and UNN, some by individuals and some by departments, or smaller groups, has made the coordinating job somewhat an administrative challenge. It has taken time to get a good overview of the many projects. The different project's need for support and coordination has varied from being almost self-running, to a need for more extensive assistance. SIH has a voluntary approach and has invited the different project participants to involve SIH when they feel necessary. Today SIH is working in collaboration with several institutions and individuals. Examples are the Ministry of Health, Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes, Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad, Russian institutions, hospitals and NGOs; as the coordinating centre for health work towards North West Russia.

One of the main partner institutions in Arkhangelsk is the Northern State Medical University (NSMU) with its vice rector for International relations, Yury Sumarokov, as main contact person. NSMU has functioned as Arkhangelsk and North West Russia's coordinator on the health collaboration between the two countries throughout the years. Sumarokov has over the years facilitated countless meetings with hospitals, health care departments, local governments and several other institutions, for the Norwegian project participants working in Russia.

Formal cooperation agreement between Northern State Medical University and University of Tromsø/ University Hospital North Norway

March 2003: Visit from Arkhangelsk with Marina Manukhina, Andrey Soloviev, Pavel Sidorov and Sergey Emmanuilov. Hosts and main participants in Tromsø: Georg Sager, Magne Johnsen, Solveig Wiesener and Kristin Scharffscher. Discussions concerning cooperation agreement.



Signing of contracts: Solveig Wiesener, Yury Sumarokov, Knut Schrøder, Kirsti Ytrehus

December 2003: Visit from Arkhangelsk with Yury Sumarokov as head of delegation. Signing of cooperation agreement by Kirsti Ytrehus, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Knut Schrøder, Director UNN, Yury Sumarokov, NSMU and Solveig Wiesener, SIH.
May 2006: renewal of the cooperation agreement has been signed by the parties.

Collaboration with Ministry of Health and Care Service

The Ministry of Health and Care Service, in particular the department responsible for the Barents Health programme and Task Force for Communicable Diseases, is an important collaborating - and discussion partner for SIH. Advisor Jørgen Kaurin has been SIH's contact with regards to the Barents projects. He has provided good overview of applications, meetings and information about the projects in the region. SIH has good dialogue with the Ministry and contribute with information sharing, contacts and network to the Ministry.

Meetings:

November 2002 at Ministry of Health and Care Service with Harald Siem, Andreas Skulberg, Task Force, Hilde Sundrehagen and Jørgen Kaurin, Ministry and Solveig Wiesener, SIH.
November 2002 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia Department, with Harald Sandhåland, Rossebø and Solveig Wiesener.

March 2003 at Ministry of Health with Andreas Skulberg, Jon Ø. Odland, ISM and Solveig Wiesener SIH. Agenda: Development of a partnership for health and quality of life within the framework of EU's Nordic Dimension.

October 2003 Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social wellbeing. Norwegian project managers' conference. Speakers from Tromsø: Jon Ø. Odland and Toralf Hasvold. Approximately 20 participants from Tromsø. SIH was coordinator from Tromsø.

January 2004 at Ministry of Health and Care Service with Sveinung Røren, Harald Siem, Jørgen Kaurin, Solveig Wiesener. Agenda: Barents Health Programme and Task Force, Baltic School of Public Health, Master of Public Health in Arkhangelsk.

May 2004 in St. Petersburg with the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs.
Agenda: Planning of Task Force activities. Invited from SIH, Betty Pettersen and Solveig Wiesener.

Language training

The collaboration with Russia has shown the importance in giving priority to education and training in languages. The Russian colleagues ask for training in English to better the communication and for use of the internet and teleservices.

The strengthening of interpretation services and education in Nordic languages/Russian is suggested to be a part of all international health collaboration in the High North Region.

SIH has arranged start-up of Russian course in Tromsø beginning autumn 2006 for project participants belonging to UiTø, UNN and HiTø. At the Northern State Medical University in Arkhangelsk, English courses are offered as part of the participation in international health projects. SIH now calculates the cost of language training in all applications to for example the Barents Health Programme.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN RUSSIA:

Arctic Network of Family Medicine.

Heads of project: Odd Nilsen, Toralf Hasvold, Betty Pettersen, ISM, Yury Sumarov, EUSL, Leif Persson, Sundsvald Hospital and Paula Vainiomäki, STAKES,

In 2002 an initiative came from the Northern State Medical University in Arkhangelsk and the University of Sundsvall concerning an Arctic Institute of Family Medicine. ISM and later on SIH have been involved in the collaboration.



Meeting in Tromsø: Arnoldas Jurgutis, Betty Pettersen, Toralf Hasvold, Sergey Emmanuilov, Yury Sumarov, Svetlana Manankova, Odd Nilssen, Yulia Khabarova, Vladimir Popov, Paula Vainiomaki, Marina Wetzer.
In the front row: Mikhail Sovershaev (interpreter), Ruta Radzeviciene, Anders Knutsson

The Arctic Network of Family Medicine consist of members from five different countries; Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Russia. The network's vision is to develop and promote Family Medicine, Public Health as well as social development, in the arctic and sub-arctic areas. The overall objectives are amongst others to support the implementation of evidence-based characteristics of Family Medicine; to outline and carry out research and development projects; to support co-operation of undergraduate and post-graduate training and to improve health in general.

Throughout the period 2002 until 2006 there have been several meetings, conferences and workshops with regards to planning the network. Some of these meetings have involved the following institutions:

Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, Jon Hilmar Iversen,

Northern State Medical University, Yury Sumarokov
Norwegian Ministry of Health- and Care Services, Jørgen Kaurin
University of Tromsø, Odd Nilsen, Toralf Hasvold, Betty Pettersen
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Sweden.
Sundsvald Hospital, Leif Persson,
FOU Centrum, Hans Malker
STAKES- National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Paula
Vainiomäki
SIH, Solveig Wiesener
Telemedicine, Svetlana Bye

A steering committee for the Arctic Network of Family Medicine was established with the following members:

Paula Vainiomäki, professor at STAKES, Finland.
Leif Persson, Sundsvald Hospital, Sweden
Hans Malker, FOU Centrum, Sweden
Betty Pettersen, UiTø

It was agreed that the steering committee apply for financing from the Nordplus Neighbour programme. SIH was asked by the committee to coordinate the application with Odd Nilsen as scientific advisor. Toralf Hasvold took over this responsibility when Odd Nilsen had a sabbatical from the University of Tromsø.

The current status is that the financing from the Nordic Council has ended and the project has terminated. However, the project objectives will be further developed through the establishment of an institute for Community Medicine and the Master in Public Health, Arkhangelsk. (More information under heading Establishment of Institute for Community Medicine)

Bodø University College

Contact person: assistant professor Ståle Sårheim, Department of Social Science.

SIH has network collaboration with Bodø University College.

June 2006: Parallel workshop and seminar program: International Co-operation of Social Work. SIH with Trine Utkilen Sørensen participated and gave a presentation in Kjerringøy, hosted by Bodø University College.

Children's department, UNN

Head of project: Gunnel Axelsson, Children's department

This department has long and extensive experience with health projects in Russia. SIH and the Children's department collaborate on the development of networks and projects.



Network on children's care:
Galina Kuznetsova,
Antonina Grishina,
Trine Utkilen
Sørensen, André
Grundevig, Ellen
Marie Ingulfsvann,
Natalia Kuklina,
Raisa Grosheva

The department has 10 years of cooperation with the Regional Hospital for children in Arkhangelsk and the Children's Hospital in Severodvinsk. The project received funding from the Ministry of Health and Care Services in 2004 to develop 'skills upgrading of nursing for children in Arkhangelsk and Severodvinsk.' During 2005/2006 a method book on treatment for burn damages on children has been translated into Russian. This book is distributed to the hospitals in Arkhangelsk.

Work is being done to develop an instructive video for health personnel on post-operative care for children with heart surgery. In 2006 the Ministry of Health and Care Services approved an application for funding for the project Children's Oncology. The goal of this project is better health and quality of life for children with cancer through skills upgrading, interdisciplinary cooperation and exchange of experience.



Regional hospital for children, Arkhangelsk

Conference: 'The Barents Region Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.'
November 2004 Murmansk. Agenda: Co-operation, Social Protection and Civil society development conference. Vidar Anderssen participated from SIH.

Conference: The Barents Conference about the Health situation of the Indigenous people in the Barents Region at the University of Tromsø, October 2005 by the Centre for Sámi Health Research, University of Tromsø and Troms County. SIH sent out invitations to its entire network.

Conference participation and exchange of personnel

Grant for teachers:

SIH has informed the health professional environment in Tromsø about different types of announcements with regards to grants for professionals to teach at our partner institutions in North West Russia.

June 2006. SIH assisted Terje Larsen, UiTø, in getting financing from the Barents Secretariat to invite two professors from Russia to participate in an ES-ISHR meeting in Tromsø.

Cooperating agreement with the Saint-Petersburg Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies

Head of project: Betty Pettersen ISM/ SIH

From November 2003: "Increased quality and capacity in training and retraining to family medicine in North West Russia by new teaching aids."

This project is based on experiences from a project piloting decentralized retraining in family medicine at Medical Academy of Postgraduate studies. SIH is involved in the administration of the project.

Department of Microbiology, UNN

Head of projects: Vegard Skogen and Dag Hvidsten, Department of Microbiology

Skogen and Hvidsten are the main contact persons at this department with regards to projects in Russia. SIH has participated together with the Department of Microbiology in a range of meetings, conferences and visits in Russia and Norway.

December 2002: visit in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk with Department of Microbiology, UNN and Task Force. Participants were Andreas Skulberg og Janicke Fischer, Task Force, Ingeborg Lyngstad Vik, Olafiaklinikken, Vegard Skogen, dep. of Microbiology, UNN, and Solveig Wiesener, SIH. Visits to: prisons, Red Cross Murmansk, STD Clinics and HIV centres, county health authorities and the Norwegian Consulate.

Discussion themes; strengthening the STD clinic and work, establishment of a new HIV centre, conference for prevention of HIV/Aids, prisoners conditions, especially tuberculosis and HIV/Aids, children and social health care, microbiology laboratory collaboration, primary health care twinning project, centre for prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, Institute of Community Medicine at NSMU and suggestion to prepare a superior plan for collaboration UiTø and Arkhangelsk.



Telemeeting Tromsø – Arkhangelsk



**Dag Hvidsten, Valentin
Pilnikov, Tatjana
Bazukhova, Lubov Refstie,
Maria Neboutchennykh,
Irene Lund, Svetlana M. Bye**

January 2003 visit from Arkhangelsk City Hospital og Northern State Medical University to Department of Microbiology. Hosts and responsible were Dag Hvidsten, Peter Cango, Grethe Wang, Lars Vorland, Svetlana Bye.

January 2003: Videoconference with the department of microbiology, UNN and Arkhangelsk Hospital.

May/June 2003 Seminar on epidemiology in Syktyvkar, Russia.

Arild Vaktiskjold, ISM, participate in the International Symposium “Problems of Adaptation of Human to Ecological and Social Conditions of the North.” SIH assisted with application for funding through the Barents Secretariat.

Educational Network for Oral Health in the Barents region

Head of project: Prof. Eino Honkala, Institute for Clinical Odontology

The first request regarding possible odontology collaboration came from NSMU Arkhangelsk in 2002 to SIH. In June 2006, SIH organized a meeting regarding a possible collaboration in Dentistry between the Institute of Clinical Odontology (IKO) in Tromsø (Prof. Eino Honkala) and Northern State Medical University (NSMU, Dr. Yury Sumarokov, Vice-rector for International Relations).



Eino Honkala and Yury Sumarokov agree on odontology collaboration

Prof. Eino Honkala and Dr. Yury Sumarokov discussed a possible partnership for the first phase of research cooperation between the dental institutions in Tromsø (IKO and Tromsø Regional Dental Health District) and in Arkhangelsk (Faculty of Dentistry, NSMU, Arkhangelsk Regional Dental Clinic for Adults and ARDC for Children).

The two institutions have developed a project proposal together and have applied for funding at the Barents Secretariat in September 2006. SIH has been asked to function as administrator and facilitator for the collaboration. The partnership plan to start up their research project October 2006

Educational programme in Hospital Hygiene and Infection Control

Head of the programme: Trine Utkilen Sørensen, formerly head nurse at UNN, currently full time employed at SIH.

The collaboration was initiated by Russian health personnel who were interested in developing an educational programme in hospital hygiene and infection control. The collaboration became formalised autumn 2003 when a working group with participants from both countries started developing the plan for a decentralised educational programme in 'Hospital Hygiene and Infection Control'. SIH was involved in the process of applying for funding and the programme received support from the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care services autumn 2004. The programme has received funding from UNN and University College Tromsø. A pilot was launched September 2005 in collaboration with NSMU of Arkhangelsk, HiTø and UNN. The educational programme has been translated into Russian. The evaluation of the pilot from both the Norwegian and Russian side has been very positive. A new class of 18 students begin the programme on the 4th of September 2006. The pilot project will end spring 2008.



**Collaborating on hospital hygiene: Unknown, Raisa Grosheva, Kirsten Gravningen, Tatiana Bazhukova, Guri Albriktsen, Mari Wolff Skaalvik
In the front row: Marina Nevzorova, Ekatarina Vlasova og Trine Utkilen Sørensen, Anna Titova.**

Other nursing projects at UNN are:
Competence building of nurses in emergency specialist care
Nursing Service
Cooperation within nursing service

Exchange of experience conference

In April 2005 SIH, together with similar department at NSMU in Arkhangelsk, organized a conference in Arkhangelsk called **‘Tromsø- Arkhangelsk International Cooperation in the Medical - Social field – an exchange of experience’**.

This was an important conference in that it sought to bring together project partners from Tromsø and Arkhangelsk with the intention of exchanging experiences from several years of collaboration. The setting enabled the project partners to discuss both positive and negative experiences from working together. It was also a great opportunity to discuss new interdisciplinary alliances in the different projects. The goal of the conference was to evaluate the projects and to create synergy in order to further develop and strengthen the collaboration between Tromsø and Arkhangelsk.



Participants at the experience conference in Arkhangelsk

Establishment of an Institute and a Master programme in Public Health in Arkhangelsk

Head of project: Odd Nilssen, ISM

This project aim to establish an Institute of Public health/ community medicine and a master programme in Public Health at the Northern State Medical University, Arkhangelsk.

The objective is to raise the awareness of Public Health issues amongst medical doctors, health workers and health administrators.

November 2003: Meeting in Arkhangelsk with Odd Nilsen, ISM, Jørgen Kaurin, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Solveig Wiesener, SIH. Agenda: To discuss the centre in Arkhangelsk, the Baltic Sea School of Public Health, the Interreg programme, the Northern Dimension and the pilot study of the institute. Application to Barents Health programme in 2004/2005/2006.

In February 2006 Sergey Emmanuilov at the Health Care Department in Arkhangelsk signed a letter of support for "Establishment of Barents Institute of Public Health and International School of Public Health in Arkhangelsk."

Financing from autumn 2006 through 2007 has been granted from the Barents Health Programme. The other partners in the project are the University of Umeå and Mittuniversitetet in Sweden, the University of Tampara in Finland and the Northern State Medical University

Arkhangelsk. Odd Nilssen and Brigit Dale at ISM are developing the project including the financing.

Experimental and clinical research – collaboration with City Hospital # 1, Arkhangelsk

Head of project: Professor Lars Bjertnæs, UiTø/UNN

Bjertnæs collaborate with colleagues at the City Hospital # 1 in Arkhangelsk on experimental and clinical research of severe sepsis and acute lung injury. This is a frequent complication due to serious infectious diseases that occur on a high frequency and mortality rate in North West Russia. The research main goal has been to improve intensive medical practice. The group has published 23 articles in three leading international periodicals, and also received several international prizes. By the end of 2005 three anaesthetists from Arkhangelsk had completed a Norwegian medical doctorate degree, and a further two are preparing their doctorate. Former doctoral research fellow, Mikhail Y. Kirov, is from 1st January 2006 appointed professor and vice rector at the Northern State Medical University in Arkhangelsk.



Research collaboration Tromsø – Arkhangelsk on severe sepsis and acute lung injury. From left Kristine Wærhaug, Vladimir Kuklin, Solveig Johnsen, Lars Bjertnæs, Mikhail Y. Kirov, Vsevolod Kuzkov

The following is a quote from Professor Lars Bjertnæs:

“From being neglected by university- and ministries with relations to the Barents cooperation, the Centre for International Health (SIH) has functioned as a door-opener and initiator to improve our group’s national recognition. This has resulted in the group being invited to important gatherings and meetings where the result of our work has been presented. The director of SIH has also made our group’s work known for the expert panel for the High North 2020 policy.”

Family Medicine - General Practice in the Arkhangelsk region

Head of project: Toralf Hasvold, UiTø.



Network seminar on primary health care (Not in order of appearance) Toralf Hasvold, Sergey Shchukin, Nina Baranchik, Aino Snellmann, Elena Andreeva, Galina Rusanova, Valentina Iakimovitch, Olga Popova, Tatiana Baeva

The project is cooperation in the field of general practice in the Arkhangelsk Region.

The aim is to improve the health service for the Russian people.

SIH has had an administrative role coordinating meetings such as the Experience Seminar in Tromsø in May 2003. SIH has further assisted the project with regards to application for funding at the Barents Health programme and with organising of a seminar on rehabilitation in Bardu in November 2004.

Helse Nord International Conference in Tromsø September 2005

‘Making it work’- International Networking for Rural Health.’

SIH invited the following persons on behalf of Toralf Hasvold: Alexander Vyazmin, prorektor of the NSMU, Sergei Shchukin, medical doctor from Kegostrov, Galina Rusanova, medical doctor from Krasnoflotsky and Marina Zhestovskikh - a specialist from the Unit for International Affairs.

Interdisciplinary project: Qualitative development of pathological services in North West Russia

Head of project: Irene Lund, Pathological department, UNN

The project seeks to exchange skills, establish networks and develop interdisciplinary collaborations. May 2003 summary meeting with guests from Arkhangelsk: Nadezda Bobykina og Elena Kremenskaja, Regional Children’s Hospital in Arkhangelsk, Lidia Kovaliova, Kristina Savitcheva, Igor Maljavskiy and Andrey Valkov from the Regional Hospital in Arkhangelsk, Svetlana Manankova Bye from NST (interpreter), Kristin S. Scharffcher from SIH, UiTø/UNN, Vidar Isaksen from PAA, Merethe A. Lorentzen NMK/PAA, Kate Myräng NMK/PAA and Irene Lund NMK/PAA.

SIH is asked to assist the project in developing cooperation agreements and with other administrative tasks.

Medical Students UiTø and sex education

June 2003: SIH assist medical students at UiTø to develop an intention agreement between the Medical Students Sex Education (MSO) and the Northern State Medical University led by Andrey Soloviev.

Norwegian - Pomor University Centre

May/June 2003: In connection with the celebration of the 10-years anniversary for the Norwegian – Pomor University Centre on the 31. may 2003, Solveig Wiesener and Kristin Scharffscher, SIH, Magne Johnsen, UNN and Toralf Hasvold, UiTø, travelled to Arkhangelsk to meet with project partners and to participate in the celebration.

Occupational- and Environmental Medicine (AMA), UNN

Head of project: Morten Skandfer, AMA

Last winter 2006, SIH was contacted by the Department of Occupational- and Environmental Medicine at UNN for advice on how to work internationally, and specifically in Russia. The conclusion of these meetings was that there is a great interest in starting up collaboration with the corresponding departments/institutions in North West Russia. Contacts were established and the department travelled to Murmansk in May 2006 to have partner meetings for discussions of possible collaboration projects. SIH is involved in the internal process in the department with regards to preparing the project participants for international work.

SIH with Trine Utkilen Sørensen will participate at a conference in Murmansk, together with AMA, in October 2006. The conference theme is ‘housing and urbanization,- rehabilitation, administration and financing.’ The conference is financed by Murmansk Oblast, The Barents Secretariat, Husbanken and Finmark County Council. Also present at the conference is Åslaug Haga, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development.

Perinatal Care projects in North West Russia

Head of projects: Arild Vaktiskjold, Jon Øyvind Odland and Odd Nilsen, ISM.

The Institute of Community Medicine is involved in several projects on perinatal care:

1. Improvement of pregnancy care and reduction in child mortality and morbidity in Monchegorsk and Lovozero.
2. Intervention and improvement in the care of pregnant women and reduction of the perinatal mortality and morbidity in the Komi Republic, Arkhangelsk City and Naryan-Mar, Nenets Republic.
3. Creation of an electronic database on monitoring of life-threatening complications of pregnancy and delivery

Plastic surgery

Head of project: Eivind Bjordal, UNN and Paul Egil Gravem, Haukeland Hospital.

Haukeland Hospital represented by the Unit for International Cooperation and the Plastic Surgery Department at UNN have entered into collaboration with Northern State Medical University of Arkhangelsk to develop training in plastic surgery. The collaboration is coordinated by SIH and the Unit for International Cooperation. Partner meetings have been taking place in Tromsø and Arkhangelsk, and the planning forward includes focus on palate-split surgery on children. Starting point is set to autumn 2006 depending on result from the application for funding at the Ministry of Health and Care Services. UNN with Eivind Bjordal and SIH and Haukeland Hospital with Paul Egil Gravem have made a coordinated application to the Barents Health programme for funding of a plastic surgery cooperation and development of a plastic surgery department in Arkhangelsk.



Project co-ordinator plastic surgery Elena Danilova

The project “Treatment of children and youth with intersexual conditions in Arkhangelsk” was moved in 2003 from UNN to Haukeland University Hospital with Robert Bjerknes as responsible for the project. The project organised in 2003 training periods for two medical doctors from Arkhangelsk at the Children’s clinic and Plastic Surgery at Haukeland University Hospital. A surgeon from Bergen has been in Arkhangelsk to assist in developing teaching and training methods. In January 2004 SIH was approached concerning a possible involvement in the project. SIH with UNN are now in dialogue with Bergen and Arkhangelsk concerning the collaboration including assistance in applications for funding from the Barents Health Programme. The project has expanded to include children born with other types of deformity.

Psychiatry

Head of projects: Tordis Høifødt Sørensen, UNN and Reidun Olstad, IKM
‘Quality improvement of the psychiatric services in Arkhangelsk Regional Hospital’ and
‘Suicide intervention training programme in Arkhangelsk’

These professionals have long and extensive experience in North West Russia, and their projects include research, education and clinical work.

The main goals of the projects are:

Improve the quality of treatment of schizophrenia.

Increase knowledge of group processes and increase the use of groups as an integral part of acute psychiatric hospital treatment.

Increase the knowledge of milieu therapy by visit of Russian treatment staff to Norway.

Continuation of improving physical standards in the acute wards.

Evaluation of the combined effects of material improvement, education and the use of groups as integral parts of the milieu therapeutic treatment.

Suicide prevention

Support in project development of adequate communication-network concerning patient treatment.

SIH has collaborated with the project participants on administrative tasks, information sharing, networking etc.

Radiography education

Head of project: Edgar Hansen, University College Tromsø

Northern State Medical University of Arkhangelsk suggested cooperation with UNN and HiTø with regards to developing an education in radiography and radiographic techniques.

SIH has been coordinating the collaboration. Two courses in radiological protection are starting up autumn 2006 and spring 2007. Radiologists from Arkhangelsk will be joining the course which gives 15 ECTS. Financing for the Russian students have been applied for.

Further the project is planning an exchange of radiologists between the two countries inspired by the experience in the programme for hospital hygiene and infection control. UNN will receive two radiologists for training during 2006.

Reference group Helse Nord (Uchermann group)

Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Nord) has appointed a reference group that is working on health issues related to the Russian - Norwegian context. The group is led by director of Helse Finmark and the secretariat's functions have been managed by Arnt Uchermann, Helse Nord.



Part of reference group Helse Nord: Solveig Wiesener, Arnt Uchermann, Erik Fjeldstad, Jørgen Kaurin, Kirsti Ytrehus

The group has in the period 2003-2006 consisted of the following members:

Are Eriksen/Erik Fjeldstad/Bjørn Engum, Director Helse Finmark

Jan Erik Johnsen, Barents Secretariat/Troms County Council

Georg Sager/ Kirsti Ytrehus, Dean Medical Faculty, University of Tromsø

Jørgen Kaurin, Ministry of Health and Care Services

Tor Einar Larsen, Helse Nord,

Magne Johnsen, UNN

Solveig Wiesener, SIH.

Arnt Uchermann, Helse Nord, secretary

The group has exchanged information on activities and projects related to collaborations between Norway and Russia. Some of the specific themes for discussions are development of political strategies/documents such as Northern Dimension, Barents health programme, HIV/ Aids, education, oral health, telemedicine and community medicine. The group was used as advising group during the planning of the activities in relation to the Nelson Mandela concert June 2004. The group has been important for SIH in its start-up period giving information and advice.

Regional centre for children and youth's mental health

Head of project: Pål Christian Bergstrøm, Bufdir, and Willy Tore Mørch, UiTø.

This project seek to develop new treatment methods for children and families ('the amazing years.') in collaboration with Karelen. SIH has during 2005 and 2006 assisted with regards to contacts, discussions, applications for funding and so on.

Rehabilitation

Head of project: Geir Nilsen, 'Mellomveien' Dep. of Rehabilitation, UNN and Torill Davida Nilsen, Occupational Therapy, UNN.

Cooperation between UNN and Arkhangelsk

The collaboration seek to stimulate professional development and skills upgrading on occupational therapy, physical therapy and rehabilitation with Arkhangelsk. SIH has assisted in applying for funding from the Barents Health Programme. In 2005 the project was granted funding. March 2005: Information meeting concerning status in the progress of the project activities.

Student exchange programme with Russia

Head of programme: Tormod Brenn, ISM

February 2003: Meeting with Kirsti Anderssen, Lisbeth Trollvik, Stig Eide, UiTø, Magne Johnsen, UNN and Solveig Wiesener, SIH. SIH has a coordinating role.

May 2003: Meeting with Faculty of Medicine. Lisbeth Trollvik confirms that the students exchange programme belongs under the administration at the faculty. SIH will assist whenever necessary. Tormod Brenn, ISM, offers to be scientific coordinator for the programme.

May 2003: Meetings in Arkhangelsk at Northern State Medical University concerning student exchanges.

The student exchange programme has continued on a regular basis since 2003.

SIH has assisted in applications for funding from the Barents Health Programme.

Telemedicine/videoconference

Contact person: Svetlana Bye

SIH has close contact with the Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine concerning the projects in Russia. Several of the projects have calculated the use of telemedicine and videoconferences for lectures and meetings. The two centres have regular meetings discussing technical agreements, tele/video usage, language training, e-health projects, conferences etc.

Used Medical Equipment to North West Russia

Head of project: Magne Johnsen, UNN

The University Hospital North Norway has for more than a decade sent used medical equipment to North West Russia. This is an ongoing project.

8.2 Disaster and Emergency Medicine

– A new field of collaboration between North Norway and North West Russia

Barents Rescue Exercise 2005

Head of project: Olaf Jacobsen



From Banak Airport (Barents Rescue 2005)

The goal of Barents Rescue 2005 was to contribute to better communication, coordination and collaboration between countries and civilian/ military units which may be involved in crisis in the Barents region. Several employees at UNN were involved in the exercise.



Raymond Teigen, Olaf Jacobsen, Oddvar Larsen, Arne Lindstad



14th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Promotion of the *Barents Rescue Exercise 2005*, May 2005

A poster exhibition was included in the scientific programme at this conference. The poster “Barents Rescue Exercise 2005 – An Experience in Planning an International Arctic Search and Rescue Exercise” was accepted in the official journal and at the conference.

Responsible for preparing the poster were project leader for The Barents Rescue 2005, Olaf Jacobsen, Northern Norway Health Authority and Raymond Teigen, anaesthesiologist, Nordland Hospital. Among very experienced participants from all over the world the planning

of the Barents Rescue Exercise 2005 was discussed and promoted. This international event, within the field of emergency and rescue, attracted attention among the delegates. SIH was invited to join the event.



**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon
with Jan Due, UNN, Head of NorHosp at
Banak Airport during Barents Rescue 2005**

Barents Rescue Exercise 2005

During the exercise in Finmark, SIH was invited to host and follow a Russian delegation from Murmansk and Arkhangelsk. These were Yury Sumarokov, Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Igor Mosyagin, MD, PhD, Chief of the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine from Northern State Medical University. The visit was financed by the Barents Secretariat.

The evaluation of Barents Rescue 2005 concludes that contacts, network and international collaboration are very important to improve emergency preparedness in the North and that there is a need for a closer collaboration in the Barents region.



**Prime Minister Kjell Magne
Bondevik meets Igor Mosyagin
during Barents Rescue 2005**

Arkhangelsk International Scientific and Practical Conference

‘International Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Medicine: Experience and Perspectives’, May 2006

Follow-up of the Barents Rescue Exercise 2005:

As a direct result of the rescue exercise a conference in Arkhangelsk was organized by the Northern State Medical University of Arkhangelsk and SIH. The conference was financed by the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and Ministry of Health and Care Services. The speakers from Norway were Jan Due, Mads Gilbert, Olaf Jacobsen and Raymond Teigen. Solveig Wiesener and Trine Utkilen Sørensen, SIH and Svein Are Osbakk, UNN, participated at the conference and in planning groups for setting up further collaboration plans.

The conclusions from the conference suggest a great need for common directives in the field of emergencies in the Barents region. It is further recommended to put together a working group that will develop strategies and directives based on a common understanding of the need for better emergency preparedness.

This conference was a start-up of collaboration between several different health institutions, Ministry of Defence, educational institutions as well as regional and central authorities to develop education, skills and research within the field of disaster and emergency medicine.

October 2006: Planned meeting in Murmansk with Trine Utkilen Sørensen, SIH and Dr. Vladimir Boianov at the Murmansk Regional Disaster Medical Centre. Agenda: to discuss the continuation of the network and the experiences done after the Barents Rescue Exercise 2005.

8.3 Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Nord)

SIH is often in discussions with the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Nord) with regards to how our work may be combined with the region’s desire to strengthen its international involvement on health issues. A coordination of the international health work in the North of Norway has been discussed with chair of the board of Helse Nord, Olav Helge Førde, since 2003. In February 2004 SIH had a meeting with Director of Helse Nord, Lars Vorland to discuss this cooperation and in March 2004 a formal note was sent by Director of UNN, Knut Schrøder and Director of SIH, Solveig Wiesener, to Vorland with a request for a formalised cooperation. This note has been the basis of several meetings with the leadership of UiTø, UNN and Helse Nord.

The note outlines some of the reasons for a broad coordination and integration of international health work in the north:

“In the international political work goal and activities are formulated which Norway is affiliated to. This is an ongoing process partly through UN organisations, the EU, the Nordic Council and other international organisations. One example is the work in the Barents region that started after an initiative from then foreign minister Torvald Stoltenberg. The Northern Dimension is likewise an initiative connected to the EU system and emphasizes the development in Northern Europe.”

Further;

“It is an extensive task to get a good overview of the different funding options. A clear tendency today is that funding institutions prefer larger and more comprehensive projects than previous. The request for more comprehensive projects linked to international goals and plans

suggest that individual projects at UNN and UiTø will be too small to benefit from these types of funding institutions. As such it is a request that SIH as coordinator and service centre may have several institutions to collaborate with.”

Meeting May 2005 with Magne Johnsen, UNN, Tormod Brenn UiTø, Arnt Uchermann, Bjørn Engum, Helse Nord, Trine U. Sørensen, Ingvill K. Ceide and Solveig Wiesener, SIH.
Agenda: collaboration with Helse Nord, Nordic Dimension, Nelson Mandela concert activities, student exchange, visa and consulate issues etc.

8.4 The High North Policy 2020 – Health report

One example of a concrete cooperation started with regards to the Norwegian government’s priority of the High North Region which led Foreign Minister Gahr Støre to launch his High North Policy in Tromsø, November 2005. SIH and the Barents Secretariat coordinated an input for a project overview of the health cooperation between Tromsø and North West Russia to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The note ‘Health on the agenda in the High North’ was sent to Gahr Støre before his speech in Tromsø. During the minister’s speech he mentioned that Tromsø’s Centre for International Health had reminded him of the important health cooperation that exist and the successful collaboration between the health professional environments in Tromsø and Arkhangelsk.



**Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Støre meets SIH
(Photo: Rune Stoltz Bertinussen, Krysspress)**

As a follow- up of Gahr Støre’s launching of the High North Policy, SIH arranged two meetings to gather both the professional health environments in Tromsø as well as the leaders of Helse Nord to discuss a common health policy for the High North. The first meeting involved a broad range of individuals and institutions working in North West Russia, including UNN, UiTø and Tromsø University College.

Present at the Helse Nord leader’s meeting were Secretary of State Wegard Harsvik, Jørgen Kaurin, Advisor, Ministry of Health- and Care Service, Sveinung Røren, Director, Ministry of Health- and Care Service together with leaders from Northern Norway Regional Health

Authority (Helse Nord): Lars Vorland, Director Helse Nord, Bjørn Engum, Helse Finnmark, Knut Schrøder, Director UNN, Magne Johnsen, UNN, Gerd Ersdahl, Troms County Governor, Oddvar Larsen, Helse Nord, Karin Straume, Finnmark County Governor, Tore Gutteberg, SIH, Ulf Christensen, Rector University College Tromsø, Arnfinn Andersen, University College Tromsø, Kristian Fanghol, Helse Nord, Trine Utkilen Sørensen, SIH, Laila Dalhaug, Barents Secretariat, Henning Aanes, Nordland County Governor, Anita Brekken, Kirkenes Hospital, Solveig Wiesener, SIH, Ingvill K. Ceide, SIH

The chair of the meeting was leader of the expert group for the High North Policy, Rector Jarle Aarbakke with SIH as secretariat. After the meeting Jarle Aarbakke suggested and got acceptance in the expert panel for the High North policy that Health and Society will be one of the major themes in the continued work with Barents 2020.

At the meeting a committee was appointed by director in Helse Nord, Lars Vorland and rector Jarle Aarbakke, with the mandate to prepare a report on health cooperation in the High North 2020. The members of the committee are:

Special advisor	Oddvar Larsen	Helse Nord RHF (chair)
Dean	Toralf Hasvold	Faculty of Medicine (UiTø)
Director	Solveig Wiesener	Senter for Internasjonal Helse
County Medical Officer	Karin Straume	County Governor Finnmark
Dean	Arnfinn Andersen	University College Tromsø
Head Clinic	Anita Brekken	Helse Finnmark
Head Medical Service	Magne Johnsen	University Hospital North Norway
Advisor	Laila Dalhaug	Barents Secretariat

Advisor in Helse Nord, Arnt Uchermann, contributed with valuable information to the report.

Meetings:

The committee met five times during 2006. The first strategy draft was delivered Aarbakke and the expert committee in March 2006. Final summary meeting in Kirkenes in August 2006. The report '*Health collaboration in the High North*' delivered the expert committee on the 1st of September. One of the conclusions in the report is that Helse Nord is given a coordinating role with regards to the efforts on the Norwegian side. Professional coordination and advisory functions are suggested given UNN/UiTø.

In order to assist the committee in its work, SIH organized two meetings in Tromsø where the different health professional environments with experience in Russia were invited. The agenda for these meetings were to inform the groups about the report being made, and to get their input and suggestions to the committee with regards to their own experiences working in Russia.

For the meeting 11.01.06 the following departments were present: the Children's Department, Department of Microbiology, Telemedicine and the Department for Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Participants: Gunnel Axelsen, Svetlana Bye, Kirsten Gravningen, Guri Albrigtsen, Lars Bjertnes, Vegard Skogen, Jan Haanes Marton, Veronika Vorobjova, Trine Utkilen Sørensen, Solveig Wiesener and Ingvill K. Ceide

For the meeting 16.01.06 the following departments were present: Pathological Department, Department of Clinical Psychiatry, Bufetat, Institute for Community Medicine, Department of Rehabilitation. Participants: Irene Lund, Reidun Olstad, Tore Sørli, Pål Kristian Bergstrøm, Arnfinn Sundsfjord, Aril Vaktskjold, Brigt Dale, Odd Nilssen, Anne Winter, Toril Nilsen, Trine Utkilen Sørensen, Solveig Wiesener og Ingvill K. Ceide

Meeting with Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre at SIH, January 2006:

Agenda: health collaborations in the High North Region. Present: From Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Foreign Minister Gahr Støre, Spokeswoman Anne Lene Dale Sandsten, Barents advisor Olav Berstad, Advisor Anne-Kirsti Karlsen; Director Helse Nord Lars Vorland, Manager UNN Magne Johnsen, Director Telemedisin Steinar Pedersen, Director SIH Solveig Wiesener, Dean DMF, Arnfinn Sundsfjord, UNN Vegard Skogen, ISM Jon Øyvind Odland, Dean DMF Toralf Hasvold, Scientific Advisor SIH, Tore Gutteberg, Trine Utkilen Sørensen and Ingvill Ceide, SIH.

8.5 Botswana - HIV/ Aids and medical education

UNN was included in the Norad programme under the Health Sector Agreement (HSA) between Botswana and Norway. This programme closed in 2003 with a possible prolongation financed by Botswana Ministry of Health (MOH). The programme included two different projects administrated by UNN: Twinning of hospitals with quality management systems at the Princess Marina and Nyangabgwe Hospitals and Tromsø Regional Hospital (now UNN).

Involved from UNN were Hans Petter Bergland, Anne Husebekk and Tore Gutteberg. SIH was asked to take over the administration and closure of this project in January 2003 by Hans Petter Bergland.

The main areas of twinning were in developing a system to provide emotional and social support to health personnel caring for HIV/AIDS patients, skills in self-assessment and diagnostic skills in relation to HIV/AIDS and malaria. Involved in this project from UNN were: Inger Gadgil, Solfrid Zwarg Medby, Håkon Augdal and Birgith Eliassen. The project did not succeed in financing an extension of the project period.

In October 2002 the Botswana Ministry of Health extended an invitation to the Faculties of Medicine at the Universities of Bergen and University of Tromsø to assist in the development of an internship programme in Botswana in collaboration with the Norwegian Health Inspectorate to assess whether selected hospitals qualify as internship sites and to assist in the development of a programme to establish a Medical School at the University of Botswana.

With the *Programme for Botswana Medical Students in Norway 1995-2012* due to run until 2012, two programmes with the same goal - educating medical doctors - would run in parallel. Headed by Toralf Hasvold and Bjørn Straume UiTø/SIH have been involved in those programmes. Currently there is no financing of this programme at UiTø/SIH.



Visit in Tromsø March 2004: Head of Department, ISM, Bjørn Straume, Advisor Daphne Molosi, Ambassador Naomi E. Majinda, Student advisor Espen Bjørkedal and Medical student, Malebogo Moalosi.

Press coverage: Pingvinen, NRK radio, TV Tromsø and local newspapers.

Medical education: Students from Botswana attend medical study in Norway. The University of Bergen (UiB) and UiTø have a joint agreement, and UiB is the coordinator of the Norwegian part. ISM headed by Bjørn Straume is the co-partner on behalf of UiTø. This project is still running. SIH was involved in the programme from 2003.

HIV/Aids project: SIH headed by Tore Gutteberg has been planning a HIV/Aids project with the twinning hospitals in Botswana which included the Centre for Telemedicine. The project had been promised financing from MOH in Botswana. The project has not yet been launched.

Student exchange: In 2004, four medical students from Tromsø had their elective period at the twinning hospital in Botswana. These were Marie Figenschou, Linn Såve Nymo, Ingvild Jensen Lægreid and Camilla Uhlin Hansen. The main focus was on HIV/Aids and mother/child care.

8.6 Sri Lanka – Establishing a Faculty of Health Care Sciences

Background

This particular collaboration between the University of Tromsø and the Eastern University Sri Lanka (EUSL) started in the year 2000 with a cooperation agreement between the two institutions. The agreement contains the intension of a broad collaboration with focus on institution building, competence building and student – and teacher's exchange. In October 2002 SIH is requested to continue the process on behalf of UiTø. SIH's contact persons in Sri Lanka are Vice Chancellor Prof. Mookiah and project leader Prof. Rev. Guy Rajendram.



Project manager Are Eriksen and initiator of collaboration Jessa Tambinayagam

The establishment of a Medical Faculty has been one of the priorities at EUSL. Rector Jarle Aarbakke has given his support on behalf of the University in Tromsø to support EUSL in this process. The formal support from UiTø has been important with regards to facilitating the necessary political process. In November 2002 the University Grants Commission in Sri Lanka recommends the establishment of a Medical Faculty at EUSL.



Sri Lanka delegation visits Tromsø in September 2004. In the middle project manager EUSL Rev. Guy Rajendram and Ole D. Mjøs

A delegation from Tromsø travelled to Sri Lanka in July 2003 in order to start the planning of the collaboration. Participating from Norway was Are Eriksen, Senior advisor UNN, Shriharan Sivasingarajah, technical support engineer ISM and Solveig Wiesener, director SIH. The main themes for discussion at EUSL were the following:

- Establishing a Medical Faculty
- Bachelor of Science in nursing
- Diploma programme in pharmacy
- Telemedicine
- Development of the teaching hospital in Batticaloa
- University guest house in Batticaloa – rehabilitation
- Student exchange programme – Trincomalee
- Peace studies

In addition, during a visit to Jaffna, the University of Jaffna took part in discussions regarding collaboration with UiTø on establishing a Faculty in Fisheries and concerning collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine in Jaffna and EUSL.

SIH informs the Centre for Peace Studies, the Norwegian College of Fisheries Science and the department of Linguistics about the interest from EUSL in collaboration with these institutions. The Centre for Peace Studies with Prof. Ole D. Mjøs organized a conference in February 2003 on Peace, Development and Rehabilitation with focus on Sri Lanka. Mjøs is a strong supporter of the collaboration with EUSL

The Board of the DMF/UiTø and the Board at UNN have throughout the period continually been informed about the progress of the collaboration.

In July 2003 Are Eriksen is working full time with the project, paid for by UNN. Project leader in Sri Lanka, Rev. Rajendram visits Tromsø in September 2003. The intention of the visit was to meet with members of the management of UiTø, UNN and HiTø and to discuss the framework for further collaboration and support.

SIH sought different solutions with regards to funding of the project. Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been informed from an early stage about the collaboration. In a meeting in March 2003 SIH, represented by Jens Revold from NFH, informed Norad about the planned collaboration. The bilateral aid from Norway to Sri Lanka does not include health projects, however SIH was successful in obtaining funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a feasibility study in Sri Lanka called Peace – Health – Education. Part of the feasibility study was a study trip to Sri Lanka April 2004. During the visit the team from Tromsø met with several officials at the two collaborating institutions in Batticaloa as well as key persons from ministries, Sri Lankan and local authorities, WHO, Norwegian NGOs and Embassy. The Norwegian delegation consisted of Are Eriksen, Kristin Scharffscher and Tore Gutteberg, SIH; Vidar Vambheim and Klaus Melf, Centre for Peace Studies; Bjørn Oddvar Eriksen and Rune Henning, UNN; Lisbeth Trollvik, UiTø; Trond Kristiansen, Telemedicine; Mari Skaalvik, HiTø.



Director of Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, Dr. Thevaradja meets Director of UNN, Knut Schrøder

On the 7th of October 2004 a collaborative agreement was signed by all the involving partners: Eastern University Sri Lanka, Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, EUSL Campus and Centre in Trincomalee, WHO Sri Lanka and the University of Jaffna, Jarle Aarbakke on behalf of UiTø/DMF, Knut Schrøder on behalf of UNN, Ulf Christiansen on behalf of HiTø, Ole D. Mjøs on behalf of Centre for Peace Studies, UiTø, Steinar Pedersen on behalf of Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine, Solveig Wiesener on behalf of SIH.

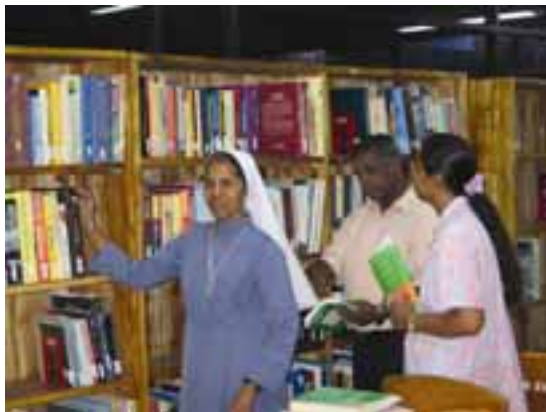
Throughout the period SIH has informed the Sri Lankan population in Tromsø and Norway about the progress of the collaboration.

SIH was unable to extend funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the feasibility study. An application for a continuation of the project, and later an application for Tsunami funds, was unsuccessful. SIH started informing the Norwegian Red Cross about the collaboration and they showed a great interest in the work. Norcross decided to finance the project after having received a full project proposal from SIH. The following activities are listed in the collaboration agreement with Norcross called 'BSc Programme in Nursing at Eastern University of Sri Lanka': Improve school premises, equipment and educational tools, academic strengthening and support, additional activities.

Nursing education

The project concerning nursing education is a follow-up of one of the components in the feasibility study **Peace - Health - Education**. A steering committee was established in connection with the **Peace - Health - Education** project, involving representatives from the following institutions:

- Eastern University of Sri Lanka (EUSL)
- Batticaloa Teaching Hospital (BTH)
- University of Tromsø, Tore Gutteberg appointed by Board of DMF 13.01.2005
- Tromsø University College (HiTø)
- Centre for International Health (SIH)



Sister Josepha Joseph in the new library in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka300



Rev. Sister Josepha Joseph and Mari Wolf Skaalvik meeting in Tromsø



BSc Nursing students practicing skills

Nursing as part of the health services has been suffering due to a shortage of nurses in general and from a lack of nurses qualified at BSc- level. Furthermore there are severe geographic misdistributions and insufficient facilities for both on-campus and in-service training. The health problems and challenges that need nursing competence have become even more important after the Tsunami disaster in 2004.

Up until now nurses in Sri Lanka as a main rule have been trained on the basis of O-level in a three- year programme giving a diploma in nursing. This has affected the recruitment of staff to nursing schools and for programmes at BSc- level in nursing which requires a Master degree as a minimum competence.



In back rows: Bachelor nursing students. Lecturers and project managers in front row: Olaf Jacobsen, Oddvar Hagen, Solveig Wiesener, Sister Josepha Joseph, Nina Foss

This project focusing on nursing education is in accordance with the decision made by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka to impart BSc-level nursing education at the universities. EUSL will be among the first universities to commence this programme. A group of 28 certified nurses have been admitted to a supplementary two-year programme for a BSc degree in nursing. The main purpose of the project is to contribute to establishing and carrying out a BSc level two-year programme in nursing as a supplementary for experienced nurses holding a diploma in nursing. Throughout the project period a four-year program for BSc in nursing based on A-level is to be developed.

Opening of medical studies at Eastern University of Sri Lanka including International conference on Peace Capacity Building for Health Professionals, August 15th - 18th 2006

The new Faculty of Health-Care Sciences received their admission list with 52 medical students. After the Bachelor Programme in Nursing the Medical Education has now come in place. This event can be compared with the uptake of the first medical students in Tromsø in the year 1972. It was the enormous lack of health professionals in the region which led to the establishment of a medical school, and indeed the University of Tromsø. As we know, this resulted in both a top level health care system in North Norway and an exemplary development of Tromsø and the region.

In a similar way, but aggravated through many years of war, the tsunami of 2004, and other natural disasters, there is a manifest need for health professionals and the development of an accessible and sustainable health care system in Eastern Sri Lanka. This was the reason that EUSL got interested in “The Tromsø Model”, and asked UiTø for collaboration in the health and peace field.

While the Bachelor's Programme in Nursing was already established last autumn, Batticaloa has welcomed their first 52 medical students this August. Courses for other health professions are under planning. The new Faculty of Health-Care Sciences was inaugurated on August, 11th 2006.

Combined with the inauguration an international conference on Peace Capacity Building for Health Professionals took place in Batticaloa, from August 15th -18th. Again, Tromsø with its unique master level module on Peace, Health and Medical Work served as inspiration. It is the strong wish of our partners to include peace-skills into the educational programme in medicine and health sciences in Batticaloa. Collaborating partners for this conference were EUSL, WHO Sri Lanka and SIH Tromsø. Klaus Melf, SIH, was present at the opening of the Faculty and gave a speech on behalf of Prof. Ole D. Mjøs to congratulate and support the event. Melf was also participating as lecturer at the conference with two sessions on 'Defining Peace' and 'European Experiences of Bringing Peace Issues into the Medical Curriculum'.

The partnership collaboration between Sri Lanka and Tromsø continues, involving medical studies, nursing and medical peace work programmes.

8.7 Uganda – Strengthening children's oral health in Lira

Project goal:

Establishment of a dental clinic in Lira Regional Referral Hospital, student training at the clinic for Ugandan dental students and the development of public health out-reach programmes on dental health in Lira. The partnership is in dialogue with Institute of Clinical Odontology at UiTø concerning future student exchange for Norwegian dental students to the clinic in Lira.

Partners:

Makerere University, Department of Dentistry
Lira Regional Referral Hospital
Centre for International Health, UiTø/UNN

Background:

Makerere University and the University of Tromsø have previously collaborated during the planning and organising of the Women's World Conferences that took place first in Tromsø and later on in Kampala in the year 2002. During these conferences questions were discussed with regards to a possible institutional collaboration with Tromsø. On behalf of Rector Aarbakke at the University of Tromsø, SIH has facilitated the signing of an academic cooperation agreement with Vice Chancellor Dr. Livingstone at Makerere University. It is on this background that Makerere University and SIH, with the Foundation Children's Oral Health, represented by Peter Marstrander, Charles Macwange and Bjørn Figenschou, together with Lira Regional Hospital have taken the initiative for this project. The aim is to develop dental health service for children in the Lira region.

Centre for International Health is managing the project, while the director of Lira Regional Referral Hospital, Dr. Jane Aceng, and Dr. Isaac Okullo at the Department of Dentistry at Makerere University are managing the collaboration on the Ugandan side.



Partners from Uganda and Norway meeting in Tromsø. Isaac Okullo, Charles MacWange, Fred Nyankori, Solveig Wiesener, Ingvill K. Ceide, Bjørn Figenschou, Andrew Ocerro, Jane Aceng



Peter Marstrander, Bjørn Figenschou and Charles MacWange visiting clinic in Lira.

Funding:

The project received funding for a feasibility study from Fredskorpset and SEMUT (UiTø) and the study was carried out throughout the period August 2005 to January 2006. The feasibility study included one visit to Uganda by a Norwegian delegation and a reciprocal visit to Norway by the Ugandan counterparts. The Ugandan delegation gave several lectures during their visit at the Institute for Clinical Odontology, UiTø.

Fredskorpset is continuing its funding with an exchange of personnel between Norway and Uganda over a period of two years. The first two dentists are travelling to Uganda October 2006 and the Ugandan counterparts will be starting their work in Tromsø February 2007. The overall timeframe for the collaboration is five years, and Fredskorpset has positively signalled an extension of the funding period depending on the results of the first round of exchange.

Throughout the project period SIH has informed the Institute of Clinical Odontology about the progress of the project. Dentists Peter Marstrander (IKO), Charles MacWange, Troms County Council and Bjørn Figenschou, play a central role in the project and are also members of the board of the Foundation Children's Oral Health Care Lira.

SIH is in dialogue with Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen, and Anne Aastrøm, with regards to a possible joint research project on children's oral health in Uganda.

8.8 Malawi – Rehabilitation education

Establishment of education programmes in physiotherapy and occupational therapy in Malawi

Partners:

- Centre for International Health (SIH), University of Tromsø (UiTø), Tromsø, Norway
- Tromsø University College (HiTø), Tromsø, Norway
- College of Medicine (COM), Blantyre, Malawi
- Rehab Technician School, (RTS), Run by Malawi against physical disabilities, MAP, Blantyre, Malawi



Patient Queen Elisabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi



Project partners from Blantyre, Malawi and Tromsø

Aim:

The project aims to assist the partners in Malawi in planning and starting up MSc programmes in physiotherapy and occupational therapy at the College of Medicine. Currently there are no such programmes on offer in Malawi.

Key elements:

- Develop curriculum
- Provide teaching staff
- Establish research capacity

Funding:

The project is funded by Fredskorpset

Progress of events:

The University of Tromsø, Faculty of Medicine, was first approached in 2002 by Professor Robin Broadhead, Principal of College of Medicine, with the intent of collaboration between the two institutions. Although collaboration did not materialise immediately, the connection was kept warm until a project idea was launched in 2004.

After a visit to Malawi during spring 2005 by physiotherapist Nina Emaus, NAFKAM and ISM, and Solveig Wiesener, SIH, the project idea was created and an application was submitted in June-05 to FK Norway for a feasibility study. The application was granted in July-05.

The feasibility study was conducted through a visit to Tromsø in November-05, by Dr. Nyengo Mkandawire and physiotherapist Ceadric Pahuwa and a return visit to Blantyre in December-05 by physiotherapists Nanna Hauksdottir (HiTø) and Nina Emaus (UiTø) and project co-ordinator Vidar Anderssen (SIH). The feasibility study report was submitted together with the main application by February -06.

FK Norway accepted the project, and granted funds for the first round of exchange. Plans presented to FK Norway involve a total of 3-5 rounds of exchange, according to standard FK project outline. Separate applications will be submitted for each round. First round involves 2 participants from Norway (externally recruited) and two participants from Malawi.

Aiming to provide a research based education programme fitting the need in Malawi, the partnership also submitted an application to *The Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Higher Education* (NUFU). Provided funding, a study will be launched surveying the spread of various physical disabilities in the Malawian population.

Two physiotherapists Stig Andre Haug and Lise Edvardsen have been recruited to go to Blantyre in October-06 for a twelve-month posting. Their main tasks will be to work as clinicians and to participate in teaching/supervision for Rehab Technician students at RTS. For the next rounds of exchange, when the new teaching programmes have been established in Blantyre, teaching staff will be sent from HiTø for similar length postings.

8.9 Peace, Health and Medical Work

Start of a new field of expertise

During a meeting 30.October 2003 Rector Jarle Aarbakke requested SIH to coordinate the work on developing education and research within Medical Peace Work/Peace through Health. One of the guests at the meeting was Prof. Johanna Santa Barbara from the Peace-through-Health group at McMaster University in Canada, who made the point that collaboration between the two institutions would be of great interest.

Present at the meeting were in addition Prorector Gerd Bjørhovde, Professor Knut Holtedahl, DMF, Klaus Melf, medical doctor and master student in Peace and Conflict Transformation, Vidar Vambheim, Centre for Peace Studies, and Solveig Wiesener og Kristin Scharffscher from SIH.



Klaus Melf, Head of the new field Medical Peace Work

SIH's work in the peace-health field has had two main activities – start up of a module called Peace, Health and Medical Work at the Medical Faculty and an EU pilot project under the Leonardo da Vinci programme for development of Medical Peace Work. When Kristin Scharffscher left SIH in October 2004 Klaus Melf was temporarily employed in November and December 2004 to develop the module in Peace, Health and Medical Work.

Director of UNN, Knut Schrøder, Dean Kirsti Ytrehus and Solveig Wiesener agreed in a meeting on the 3. January 2005 to employ Klaus Melf at SIH.

The reasons for this were:

- Additional resource during the period when Are Eriksen was engaged for FORUT in Sri Lanka
- Management and coordination of application to EU on 'Medical Peace Work'.
- Start up of module "Peace, health and Medical Work" in February- May 2005.
- Preparation of a possible health conference in relation to the Nelson Mandela Concert June 2005.

The contract began with January through March 2005 and was prolonged until 30. June 2005. Klaus Melf was later employed as project manager for Medical Peace Work until 31.12.2007.

Module development

On 23. March 2004 SIH invited broadly to a brainstorming meeting in regard to a possible elective module in the peace-health field in Tromsø. The following people were present: Jochen Peters (CPS), Odd Edvardsen (TMC), Mads Gilbert (TMC), Tordis Høifødt (Åsgård), Knut Høltedahl (ISM), Nina Emaus (ISM), Kristin Jakobsen (med.stud, 5. year), Karoline Skogmo (med.stud, 1. year), Klaus Melf (CPS), and Kristin Scharffscher (SIH).

The participants agreed that the module should be developed in collaboration between DMF and CPS, with SIH in a secretary function. To offer the course for both health professions and peace students, it was necessary to register it on master's level with the possibility of gaining 10 credits. All but the TMC-representatives continued the module planning during spring/summer 2004 in the 'peace-health working group', supplemented by Lars Småbrekke, Institute of Pharmacy.

In addition, these persons followed the group's work per e-mail: Ole D Mjøs, Chair CPS, Jarle Aarbakke, Rector and Toralf Hasvold, responsible for International health and environmental medicine and scientific coordinator for the masters in Public Health at ISM.

From 7.-10. April 2004 Kristin Scharffscher, Klaus Melf, Karoline Skogmo and Ingeborg Skogen (med. student 1. year) participated at the European IPPNW Student Conference 'Peace through Health' at Glencreen (Ireland). They had a meeting with Dr. Neil Arya, coordinator of the first (spring 2004) undergraduate module in Peace through Health at McMaster University. Klaus Melf gave a presentation on the CPS-concept of Peace Medicine during the conference.

On 26. August 2004 the board of the Institute for Community Medicine (ISM) decided that ISM takes on the professional responsibility to organise the module 'Peace, Health and Medical work'. The financial backing of the new module was ensured by the board of DMF on 15. September 2004. The existing working group should function as programme board until 31. December 2005.

Module description

The optional module 'Peace, health and medical work' (HEL-3011) is aimed at students who are interested in health-related international work. As the world's first of its kind, this Master-level module creates awareness about the potential role of health professionals in violence prevention and sustainable peace building. The module provides theoretical and analytical tools for comprehending the basic mechanisms of global medical peace work, and it introduces necessary skills, knowledge, and values.

The students learn about different threats to peace and human security (such as proliferation of arms and unequal access to healthcare), and the various ways in which health professionals can act to counter such threats. Further, the module focus on positive and negative impacts of humanitarian aid and development assistance, and outline the peace building capacity of health professionals when working both, from Norway or in violent-prone settings abroad. Most lecturers have international fieldwork experience and in addition to regular lectures, teaching methods include awareness game, seminar, film presentation, case studies, panel debate and experiential exercise.

The course consists of 30 hours teaching, the reading of 500 pages obligatory and 500 pages elective literature, and a home exam (essay with app. 5000 words).

Progress of events

The first course was held in spring 2005 with an intensive teaching week from 21st to 25th of February 2005.



17 experts were involved in teaching, supervision or examination, including as externals: Kirsten Myhr, Ullevål University Hospital, Bjørn Oscar Hoftvedt, Norwegian Medical Association, and Preben Marcussen, Norwegian Red Cross. As special guests were invited Dr. Neil Arya, McMaster University, Dr. Paula Gutlove, Institute for Resource and Security Studies (Boston, USA), and Dr. Gunnar Westberg, IPPNW Co-President (Gothenburg). Beside of the teaching, several guest speakers participated in a public plenary debate in town centre. This was organized as 'International Seminar' with the title 'Dilemmas in International Work: How aid can support peace – or violence'. 34 students with different background (medicine, nursing, pharmacology, psychology, peace studies, community development, law, political science, et al.) followed the lecture week, and 16 of them delivered and passed the home exam.



First class of Peace, Health and Medical Work (2005)

May 5th – 8th 2005, Klaus Melf was invited as keynote speaker at the McMaster-Lancet Challenge Conference 'Peace through Health: learning from Action' in Hamilton, Canada. He delivered a speech on 'Challenges in Medical Peace Education' and presented some research data from Norway.

After evaluation of the 2005-pilot Solveig Wiesener, Ingvill K. Ceide, Knut Holtedahl and Klaus Melf discussed on 12. August 2005 the continuation of the module with the ISM working committee on study issues ('AU-studier'). At this information meeting participated from ISM: Hasse Melbye, Ingebjørg Bye, Inger Njølstad, Åge Wifstad and Brigit Dale.

An international seminar on Health as a Bridge for Peace (HBP) was held at STAKES in Helsinki, 6.-7. September 2005. Klaus Melf was asked to give a keynote on the Tromsø experiences in medical peace education. The seminar was organized by Physicians for Social Responsibility-Finland, the Finnish Medical Association Duodecim, and the Finnish National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), in collaboration with the UN and WHO. It gathered about 60 specialists in the field. An International HBP Network was launched as main result.

Klaus Melf was invited to become a member of the IAUP (International Association of University Presidents) / UN Commission for Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. On 7. December 2005 he presented 'The Norwegian Centre for Peace Studies and the Tromsø University Model of Medical Peace Education' to the Commission at the UN Headquarter in New York.

The second run of the elective module 'Peace, Health and Medical Work' was conducted in spring 2006.



Guest speakers at the intensive teaching week (March 13th -17th) were Mike Rowson from University College London, Marshall Wallace from the US based organisation Collaborative for Development Action, Hanna Mollan from the Red Cross and ICRC, Ilse van Lingen from Forum, Stephan Kolb from Klinikum Nuremberg, Germany and Leo Van Bergen from the Free University of Amsterdam. As part of the teaching week, Mike Rowson presented 'Global Health Watch: The Alternative World Health Report' during the Wednesday morning meeting of the UNN professionals (March 15th, 2006).

31 health and social science students/professionals from USA, Sweden, Chad, Botswana, Norway and Ghana registered for the course. 24 students delivered exams in June 2006.

On behalf of Toralf Hasvold, coordinator of the International Health module, Klaus Melf gave two sessions at the ISM-Master Program in Public Health ('Folkehelse') on 6. April 2006. The lectures were titled 'Introduction to Medical Peace Work' and 'What works to prevent interpersonal violence'. The second presentation was also held later this day during the International Symposium 'Peace and Place', organized by the Centre for Peace Studies. Klaus Melf delivered a paper on this topic for the conference proceedings (To be published in autumn 2006).



Second class Peace, Health and Medical Work (2006)

Master student, Line Hauge, at the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) delivered on 15. May 2006 a proposal for a one-year thesis project on 'Health Workers as Agents for Peace: A Case study in Southern Sudan'. CPS asked Klaus Melf to supervise this research work.

Two representatives from Mogadishu University (MU), Somalia, visited UiTø on 18th -19th of May 2006 to discuss collaboration mainly in the area of peace studies and health capacity building. Dr. Abdullahi Farah Asseyr, medical advisor and head of MU Health Affairs was in particular interested in medical peace work. He asked for help in developing an own educational program at MU.

Together with Eastern University of Sri Lanka, SIH organized an International Conference on 'Peace Capacity Building for Health Professionals' from 15th -18th of August 2006 in Batticaloa. Conference proceedings (under construction) will include Klaus Melf's two papers on 'Defining Peace' and 'European Experiences of Bringing Peace Issues into the Medical Curriculum'.

On 18th September 2006 the Mayor of Hiroshima, T. Akido, visited SIH, to get informed on the Tromsø peace-health module, and to reflect on future collaboration in the field of disarmament education and student exchange.

Dr. Neil Arya, Waterloo University, Canada, offered collaboration in two book projects. Klaus Melf became co-author of a chapter on 'Educating Health Professionals on Peace and Human Rights' in the third edition of Levy, B., V.W. Sidel (eds.): 'War and Public Health'. American Public Health Association (To be published in autumn 2006). In the McMaster textbook 'Peace through Health', edited by Joanna Santa Barbara and Neil Arya, and to be published in autumn 2006 by Kumarin Press, Klaus Melf is main author of a chapter on 'Expanding the Bounds of Violence: Changing agenda in action and peace education'.

8.10 Medical Peace Work - EU's Leonardo da Vinci project



Leonardo da Vinci

Seizing a chance

The Norwegian Leonardo da Vinci (LdV) agency, the National Institute of Technology in Oslo (Teknologisk Institutt), arranged an information seminar in Tromsø on 24th of May 2004. During the seminar, Senior consultant Halvdan Farstad presented the LdV program and its possibility for financial support of European collaborations. Solveig Wiesener and Vidar Anderssen were invited to come up with an idea of a pilot project for innovation and development of new fields of education. The field of medical peace work was suggested and was promptly welcomed by the LdV agency.

Kristin Scharffscher, Vidar Anderssen and Klaus Melf travelled to an LdV project writing seminar in Oslo, in the beginning of September 2004, and were encouraged to send in a pre-proposal to the next application deadline: 1st of October 2004. As possible European partners could be attracted the University College London (UCL), the Slovenian Institute of Public Health, and the Dutch and the German affiliate of IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War).

The pre-proposal was evaluated as very promising, and SIH was asked to send in a full application due to 11th of February 2005. Additional partners from England, Netherlands and Norway could be added, and the network members came together in a pre-project meeting at UCL in London on 17th -18th of January 2005. SIH with Solveig Wiesener, Ingwill K. Ceide and Klaus Melf headed the meeting and finished the LdV application in the weeks which followed.



Project description

Medical Peace Work - A new European field of expertise in health work, violence prevention and peace building.

The Challenge

Medical research in recent years has increasingly acknowledged that violence on all levels is a serious health problem; health professionals need to take more responsibility for its

prevention. Curricula, teaching material and training courses in medical peace work are hardly available, teaching initiatives quite sporadic and incoherent.

The MPW project wants to power a new field in medicine and health sciences dealing with the role and professional responsibility of health workers in violence prevention and sustainable peace building.

This new field draws on the experiences of 'Health as a Bridge to Peace' (WHO) and 'Peace through Health' (McMaster University), as well as on other relevant concepts and disciplines such as Global Health, Violence Prevention, Health & Human Rights, and Medicine & War.

Objectives

In order to strengthen the peace capacity of health professionals, the MPW project will not only refine theory and conceptual framing, but also develop web-based teaching material and a resource centre for medical peace education. Major outcomes will include a multi-media distant learning course and a handbook in MPW.

Target groups

A - Medical students and practicing doctors

B - academic staff, trainers and other specialists involved in medical education and/or vocational training for physicians

Secondary targets are health institutions and NGOs in conflict areas

Partnership

The project is developed by a partnership of medical organisations and teaching institutions. It includes Norwegian Medical Association, Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine, IPPNW Germany, NVMP Gezondheidszorg en Vredesvraagstukken, Johannes Wier Foundation, International Federation of Health and Human Rights, University of Primorska, University of Bradford, Medact, University College London, and University of Tromsø.

Main results

At the Medical Peace Education Conference in Tromsø in June 2007 the partners will present:

- Multi-media distant learning course with 7 study modules
- Teaching film material (60 min. new-shot, 120 min. from archive)
- Web-based information centre (with teaching resource databases)
- Hand Book in Medical Peace Work

Conference proceedings with product CD will be available in October 2007.

Progress of events

During summer 2005 the proposal was accepted by the EU with a total funding support of about 2,7 Mio. NOK. The two-year project started on 1st of October 2005 by signing the contract between LdV and UiTø.

In a kick-off meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 26th - 28th of October 2006 all eleven partners were present, and established different working groups for content development of the planned online course and textbook. The MPW resource site www.medicalpeacework.org was launched.

On initiative of the Swiss Occidental Leonardo (SOL) the Swiss-based organizations could be added to the project. During a study trip to Geneva on 6th - 10th of February 2006 SIH could visit the following new partners and discuss their involvement:

- Dr. Pierre Perrin, Chief Medical Officer, ICRC
- Dr. Gaya Gamhewage, Health Action in Crises, WHO
- Dr. Philippe Ruscassier, Head of Training, MSF-CH
- Dr. Daniel Halpérin, Head of the Violence Prevention Unit, and Dr. Laurent Subilia, Head of the Centre for Migrants Health, University Hospital of Geneva

The MPW-partners gathered again in Berlin, 3rd - 5th of May 2006 to review the outline of the seven modules and to learn about online course production. The drafting of the 120 lessons started.

Stephan Kolb and Klaus Melf offered a workshop on 'Medical Peace Education' during the IPPNW World Congress 'Mission of Physicians: War or Health?', 7th - 10th of September 2006, in Helsinki. They distributed the project fact sheet to the 400 conference participants.

The next partner meeting will be held from 12th - 13th of October at Oud Poelgeet, The Netherlands. Main focus will be the development of the online course.

8.11 TV Campaign 2005 – Conference on Violence against women

SIH, in collaboration with the TV Campaign 2005, organised a conference for health professionals with the title 'Violence against Women – a global health challenge'.

The conference was held 20th - 21st of October 2005 with a total of 191 participants.

The conference was funded by the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, FOKUS – Kvinner and the University of Tromsø. The speakers came from the whole country, including from local institutions, as well as from the United Nations Development Fund for Women, Monica Munoz, former Chief of Latin America and Caribbean Section, and Dr. Inge Baumgarten from the regional WHO-Europe office in Copenhagen who presented the Global Campaign to Prevent Violence.

Jan Egeland addressed the audience via videoconference.



Jan Egeland
Foto: UNphoto, Mark Garten



Organizers of the conference "Violence against women" Heidi Lydersen, Marion Heimlund, Bjørg W. Jacobsen, Klaus Melf, Solveig Wiesener

Background

Violence against women is one of the world's biggest social challenges. Every third woman on a global scale is exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, or other forms of violence during their life. Health professionals have a special role in prevention and opposing violence against women. They are in close contact with both those who practice violence and those who are victims of violent acts, and they have a professional responsibility with regards to prevention and reduction of health threats.

Goal for the conference

To put focus on violence against women, practically, in research and education within medicine and health educations. One goal is to give the health professionals tools to use when facing women who have been victims of violent acts. The main focus is for health professionals and other relevant professions to gain more knowledge about violence in close relations and about women in conflict situations and war.

8.12 TV Campaign 2006 – Doctors Without Borders

The theme for this year's TV Campaign is "Outside of the media's focus - medical help without borders". Doctors Without Borders want the money from the TV Campaign to go to medical projects in countries such as Uganda, Somalia, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Haiti.

A county campaign committee in Troms has been created which will be giving advice and suggestions to the leader of the county campaign leader Lena Nymark and Doctors Without Borders in the planning of the campaign in the region.

The committee:

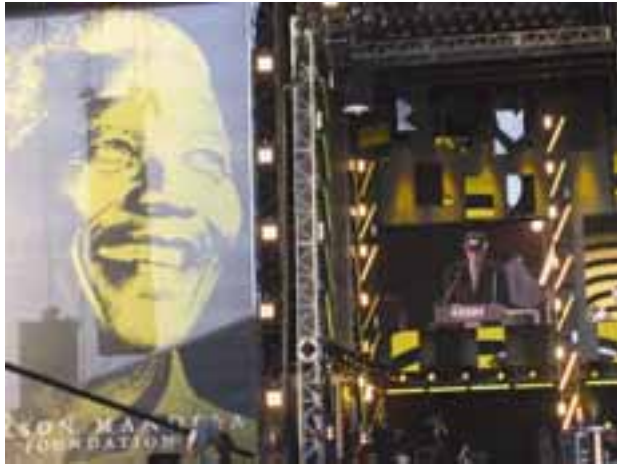
UNN (Tore Lier og Hanna Husom Haukland)
Centre for International Health, (Solveig Wiesener og Ingvill Konradsen Ceide)
University College Tromsø (Ulf Christiansen og Toril Hansen)
Tromsø Sports Club (Knut Borch)
Red Cross (Magnus Engeseth og Johnny Tetlid)
Norwegian People's Aid (Nina Borch Johansen)
Sparebank Nord Norge (Ragnar Berg)
NHO (Ann-Kristin Edvardsen)
LO (Randi Hansen)
County Governor Troms (Kjellrun Kristiansen)
Norwegian Medical Association - Troms (Lars Nesje)
Norwegian Nurses Organisation (Hanne Marit Bergland)
Deputy Mayor Troms County (Ane- Marthe Aasen.)

SIH has taken on the responsibility to inform and promote the TV campaign via our contacts and networks.

8.13 Nelson Mandela Concert and 46664 activities

In April 2005 SIH got requests from Rector Jarle Aarbakke and Pro-rector Gerd Bjørhovde at UiTø to assist in the activities related to the Nelson Mandela concert 11th of June 2005. SIH was involved in many of the arrangements and conferences that happened. In particular the county medical officer's conference on HIV/Aids, the open lecture on the situation in North

West Russia, the meeting with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the panel debate at the University of Tromsø.



Nelson Mandela at the concert in his name

SIH was hosting several Russian guests who participated in the different activities and of course joined the concert. The meeting with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the 11th of June was organised by SIH in close collaboration with Tore Godal at WHO.

As a follow-up of the Nelson Mandela activities, SIH prepared an overview to Tromsø Kommune of the work done at UiTø and UNN with regards to projects on communicable diseases and HIV/Aids. SIH also participated in the planning of the event to celebrate the 46664 movement, 11th of June 2006.

8.14 Global Health – Research Council of Norway

The professional health environment in Tromsø acknowledges that it needs to strengthen its efforts on global health research which HIV/Aids is a part of. Tromsø has joined a national network 'Global Health' to strengthen Norwegian competence in this important area.



Tore Gutteberg and Solveig Wiesener (SIH) meet the Minister of Development Hilde Frafjord Johnsen

History of events

The Research Council of Norway is launching calls for new research proposals on Global Health research – a new priority, in 2004: New funding of global health research will provide knowledge that can improve the health and living conditions of people in the South

The Research Council of Norway made the first call for research proposals and the application deadline is April 1, 2004. The purpose of global health research funding is to make Norway assume national responsibility for conducting research on diseases that affect people in developing countries.

The Research Council asks UiTø in July 2004 for response with regards to the call for proposals and Dean at the Faculty of Medicine, Kirsti Ytrehus, request SIH to coordinate this response on behalf of UiTø/UNN. The Research Council has created a Planning Committee which will develop a proposal for global health research.

September 2004 Bergen: **Conference on global health research- status and challenges.** Host Norwegian Research Council. Participants and panel debate: Tore Gutteberg, UNN, Knut Holtedahl, DMF/ISM, Sølvi Anderssen, research adviser DMF, Nina Emaus, DMF/ISM, Solveig Wiesener, SIH.

Participants from most of the research and educational institutions in Norway attended the conference. The outcome of the discussions is supposed to be used as a background developing a Norwegian policy on Global Health

Follow- up initiative after the conference: CIH Bergen, SIH and the University of Oslo, together with Norad and the Research Council agreed on establishing a Norwegian network for global health research. 'Norwegian Network for International Health Research.' The aim being to strengthen the network between Norwegian institutions that are working on global health issues (research and education). CIH Bergen suggested a 'think tank' to discuss this network. SIH is coordinating the response from UiTø/UNN.

The interim board consist of the following members:

Gunnar Bjune Professor, Section for International Health, University of Oslo
Tore J Gutteberg, Professor, Department of Microbiology, UiTø
Gunnar Kvåle, Professor, Centre for International Health, University of Bergen
Berit Rostad, Institute for Social Sciences, NTNU
June Jacobsen Steen, Rector, University College Agder

The Interim Board had the first meeting on 9th of February 2006. Gunnar A. Bjune was elected as chair and Gunnar Kvåle as vice chair of the Interim Board. The aim of the Forum is to promote high quality research and training aiming at improving health and health care for marginalized population groups in low- and middle-income countries. The main objectives are to:

- Improve and enhance the involvement of Norwegian research institutions in global health research and training
- Improve funding for relevant and high quality global health research from the Norwegian government and other sources
- Contribute to national and international processes and initiatives in the field of global health and health research

November 2004. SIH confirm UiTø/UNN's participation in the network and send a list of researchers to be put on the network list.

Global Health Research Report from the Planning Committee. SIH coordinated the response from UiTø/UNN to the report with following report: 'Institutional mapping of main activities

in the field of Global Health Research at UiTø/UNN.’ A wide range of researchers from UiTø/UNN were involved preparing the report.

December 2004: SIH informs Rector Jarle Aarbakke and Pro-rector Gerd Bjørhovde about the Research Council’s emphasis and focus on international/global health

SIH has played a role in introducing the health professional environment in Tromsø to the relevant partners, in particular through working closely with the Research Council on feedback on the response and the overview of the activities in UiTø/UNN with regards to global health research. Further SIH has developed a framework application to Norad on behalf of the health professional environment in Tromsø. SIH is in dialogue with the GAVI Vaccinations Fund with regards to a possible collaboration with UiTø/UNN.

Norad asks SIH and Telemedicine to be linked as contact institutions to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Foundation was interested in identifying technology-based or technology-related solutions for health systems management and human resource development, including identification of solutions for other constraints. Further one aspect of immunization program management that would be interesting to get some feedback on, is the feasibility of using “smart technologies” such as electronic-based vaccination cards, etc. SIH and Telemedicine responded to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on behalf of UiTø and UNN.

October 2005 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) – Norway Collaboration
CIH in Bergen, University of Oslo, SIH (UiTø/UNN) and Norwegian Research Council approached the BMGF in order to finance a common research project: This joint initiative by the Norwegian Universities and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) aims *through the integration of essential health research and health interventions within a national African context, to improve child health and to reduce the burden of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS*. The joint initiative wishes to link essential interventions with research and capacity building.

11th of June 2005 SIH, together with Dr. Tore Godal, planned and hosted a meeting in Tromsø with a representative from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and members of the interim board for the Norwegian Network for International Health Research. The international health work done at UiTø and UNN was presented at the meeting.

8.15 WHO

In February 2006 SIH went on a study trip to Geneva where several meetings with a range of organisations and institutions was on the programme. SIH met with several departments at WHO, amongst them the Department of Human Resources for Health. The WHO participants were Dr. Manuel Dayrit, Barbara Stilwell, Hande Harmanci, Nelli Kartoglu, Carmen Dolea, Francis Dmaswa, Boear Diallo.



A possible collaboration with SIH was suggested by WHO with regards to: Putting evidence together for publishing and spreading; normative and scientific collaboration; sharing of knowledge about the different countries, and on thematic areas; collaboration with national WHO offices in the countries SIH works in. SIH-members can join THE connection (THE stands for Technical HRH Expertise) - a global network that is sought to bring technical HRH expertise to the countries to support them in their health workforce strengthening

As a follow up after the visit in Geneva, SIH invited Magne Johnsen, UNN, Tore Gutteberg, SIH, Toralf Hasvold, Faculty of Medicine, Vinjar Fønnebø and Nina Emaus, NAFKAM, to a meeting to discuss the proposal concerning collaboration with WHO.

SEDCAP – Strengthening the Educational Capacity in the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Five African Countries

Centre for International Health (SIH) was invited as partner to the launching meeting of WHO programme “Strengthening of Educational Capacity in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in five African countries”: SEDCAP in HIV/AIDS. The launching meeting took place in Gabarone, Botswana 29-31st of May 2006.

The programme is initiated by WHO’s Department of Human Resources for Health. SEDCAP in HIV/AIDS is a programme that aims at assessment of health workers skills to improve education in five African countries, specifically connected to prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Planned duration of the project is one year. During the project period self assessment of five health care educational schools, one from each of the five countries will be conducted. In addition assessment of newly educated candidates’ practice from these institutions will be conducted. These assessments will form the basis of revision of curriculum in the five educational schools. The specific subject of interest for improvement is prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

SEDCAP is closely connected to “The World Health Report 2006”. The goal stated in the report is: “to get the right workers with the right skills in the right place doing the right things”. The report shows a lack of skilled health personnel in most African countries, among them countries which are also heavily inflicted by HIV/AIDS. It underlines the need to develop education and an effective workforce that can meet with the specific history and situation of people in each country.

SIH was one of the partners invited; the only institution represented from Scandinavia. SIH’s two participants were Nina Emaus and Nina Foss; both experienced in teaching in health education, curriculum work, teaching methodologies and also health care assessments and

research. The process of assessment of teaching and of performance, revision and implementation of revised curriculum will proceed led by a task group/ country team in each country. WHO representatives will take part in the assessment part in each country. Partners will be informed during the process, and contribute when needed or relevant.

From UiTø/UNN's side, the involvement in SEDCAP on HIV/AIDS will give opportunity to:

- get to know and take part in development of new assessment tools in health education and health professionals performance: specifically 1) Self assessment tool, and 2) Performance needs assessment (PNA).
- get access to information of the concrete assessment and revision processes in each country.
- have possibility for participating more actively in the processes in the countries we are already involved in; Malawi and Uganda
- learn more on participating processes in international health care and educational work
- be included into international network on health education and on HIV/AIDS
- continue collaboration with WHO's Department of Human Resources for Health; which is of great value to most of our international collaboration.

September 2006: Meeting in Norad with Paul Fife and Bjarne Garden. From SIH Solveig Wiesener and Ingvill Ceide attended. Discussions on possible cooperation on the SEDCAP project, particularly in Malawi.

WHO is involved in different ways in other SIH projects. One example is the WHO country representative in Sri Lanka who is a partner in the project to establish a Faculty of Health Sciences in Batticaloa. In 2004 SIH got a request from WHO Geneva concerning an opening as representative at the WHO office in North Korea. SIH announced the job opening at UiTø and UNN, without result.

9 STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONALIZATION

In SIH's mandate from 2002 it states that one of the centre's functions should be support and service for foreign students and research fellows at UiTø and UNN.

In this regard there have been meetings with the student administration at the Faculty of Medicine as well as the central university administration. Both strategic plans and single student cases have been discussed.



Medical students in Arkhangelsk

Meeting March 2004: SIH is invited by the Faculty of Medicine to a meeting with all the student advisors at the faculty. The meeting concluded with a request for closer collaboration and for an international student consultant based at SIH. The head of studies at the Faculty of Medicine should follow this up. This was further requested at a meeting 31. March 2004, during the Faculty of Medicine's Study programme Conference at the Scandic Hotel. Strengthening of the international work for students at the faculty was one of the conclusions of this meeting.

February 2005: The administration at the Faculty of Medicine announces the position as international student consultant.

2nd of August 2005: It is decided that the position is not offered to any of the candidates.

22nd of August 2005: Line Krane is temporary employed as student consultant with responsibility for the international student cases.

SIH deals with a range of requests from students looking for advice and suggestions concerning their elective periods, establishing contacts abroad and opportunities for international training/practice. The international study work at the faculty ought to be strengthened. SIH wish to be an important actor in this work.

SIH collaborates with several institutions and organizations working on internationalization of higher education. SIH has joined meetings, conferences and workshop to discuss the international work with students. With SIH's growing portfolio with Norway's cooperation countries it will be easier to apply for funding for students connected to our projects. We see a great potential for growing activity.

Some examples are:

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) is a Norwegian agency that promotes international cooperation in education and research. SIU is a public administrative body under the Ministry of Education and Research. SIU was established as of January 1, 2004 based on the Centre for International University Cooperation, created in 1991 by the Norwegian Council of Universities (UHR).

SIU is a knowledge and service organisation with the mission of promoting and facilitating cooperation, standardisation, mobility, and the overcoming of cultural barriers to communication and exchange within the realm of higher education on an international level. The Centre is charged with the important task of coordinating national measures according to official Norwegian policy within the field of internationalisation. The Centre is Norway's official agency for international programmes and measures related to higher education. It is commissioned by several national and international public organisations to administer programmes within all levels of education.

September 2005: SIU Conference in Bergen; 'Strategies and Relevance for Cooperation in Higher Education'. Participating from SIH: Vidar Anderssen and Ingvill K. Ceide.

The Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Higher Education (NUFU). NUFU is a Norwegian programme of academic research and educational co-operation based on equal partnerships between institutions in Norway and in the South.

The goal of the NUFU programme is to support the development of sustainable capacity and competence for research and research based higher education in developing countries,

relevant to national development and poverty reduction; and to contribute to enhanced academic collaboration in the South and between South and North.

SIH has assisted in administration of a NUFU application, June 2006, for a research proposal in collaboration with Malawi.

University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. UiTø is one of the founders of UArctic. SIH has had meetings with representatives of the UArctic to discuss a possible collaboration on the issues of international health and student exchanges such as the North2North programme. Meeting in April 2004 with James Mercer, UArctic, Bjørn Straume, Geir Gotaas, Kirsti Ytrehus, Jørgen Fosslund, DMF, and Solveig Wiesener, SIH. Agenda: Students programmes and exchange, developing a centre for arctic medicine at the University of Oulo, Finland. Trine Utkilen Sørensen, SIH, was invited to inform about the educational programme in hospital hygiene and infection control, at a conference in Oulo, Finland, May 2005.

The Department of Research and Academic Affairs has invited to an information meeting October 4th 2006 concerning updated information about the University of the Arctic

Other student activities have been to use our network to put students in contact with institutions or persons working abroad. Examples are students travelling for their elective periods to Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Botswana, Poland, Egypt, Russia and Kenya. Further SIH has assisted in the organizing of Russian students coming to Tromsø.

October 2006: Nina Foss and Klaus Melf from SIH participate as speakers in a SEMUT organized course on cultural understanding and communication for students and personnel at UiTø.

SIH, in collaboration with the Centre for Peace Studies and the Institute for Community Medicine, organize a master module course on 'Peace, Health and medical Work'. The course has had almost 60 students over the two years it has been offered. Please see chapter 7.9 'Peace, Health and Medical Work' for more information. The next course will be March 2007.

10 EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS

Atlas Alliance

April 2005: Meeting with Solveig Wiesener to discuss possible collaboration projects, in particular in Uganda and Malawi.

The Barents Institute

The official inauguration of the Barents Institute was held on the 1st February 2006. Growing international political focus, major economic interests, increasing pressure on the environment and deep social divides across the national borders contribute to the need for new research in social, industrial and political science in the circumpolar north and the Barents Region. The Barents Institute will be an international research institute located in the northernmost part of Europe, in the crossroads between East-West borders, and in the immediate vicinity of the rich natural resources of the Barents Sea.

SIH has had meetings with the Institute to discuss possible collaborations with UiTø and UNN. The Barents Institute is included in the High North 2020 report on health as one of the collaborating institutions in the Barents.

The Barents Secretariat

The Secretariat serve the Norwegian - Russian relations in the north and provide grants to projects. The primary task of the Barents Secretariat is to assist the Barents Regional Council, Norwegian Authorities and other major regional structures. The Secretariat has an extensive network of contacts and cooperates closely with EU institutions and international organizations. SIH has close collaboration with the Barents Secretariat, both with regards to networking, strategy planning as well as receiving funding for a number of projects from the secretariat.

Centre for International Health, University of Bergen.

The University of Tromsø and the University of Bergen have strong traditions in close and positive collaboration. Both in research, education and development programmes, the trend now is to establish large programmes with several collaboration partners from different countries. In Norway the international health environments are relatively small. A closer collaboration between the Norwegian institutions will strengthen our possibilities to be partners in those big programmes. Tromsø and Bergen have specialities in which their competence is in front both nationally and internationally. CIH and SIH play a central role in the coordination of this work.



Solveig Wiesener, SIH and Bernt Lindtjørn, CIH Bergen

CPS - Centre for Peace Studies, University of Tromsø

SIH is working together with CPS in the development of peace education for health professionals and peace mainstreaming of international health projects. CPS is represented in the peace-health working group which stands for the preparation of the elective module 'Peace, Health and Medical Work' (HEL-3011). The Centre is also involved in SIH's collaboration project with Eastern University of Sri Lanka, which beside of health capacity building focuses on peace capacity building. One master student in peace studies is currently supervised by SIH-staff.

European Union

SIH currently has one major EU funded project through the Leonardo da Vinci programme; Medical Peace Work (see chapter 7.10 for more information). Other EU related activities are participation in conferences and seminars such as for the 6th Framework programme and the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

FOKUS Kvinner (Forum for Women and Development)

As a follow-up of SIH's conference for health personnel on violence against women in connection to the TV campaign 2005, SIH has discussed possible collaborations with FOKUS. One of the project proposals is a possible collaboration concerning improvement of maternal health/reduction of child mortality in Haiti. The Maternity department at UNN and Kvinneuniversitetet i Nord are interested in this project.

FN Sambandet - The United Nations Association of Norway

SIH and FN Sambandet collaborate in a number of activities and collaborate on information exchange and advice on different projects and activities.

The following are some examples:

October 2003: SIH, FN Sambandet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organise a seminar on Poverty and Health in Tromsø. Former Minister of International Development Hilde Frafjord Johnsen introduced the seminar. Themes for discussion were the Millenium Goals on health and how may the North of Norway contribute. Speakers were Toralf Hasvold, ISM, Torill Iversen, NST, Claus Klingeberg, UNN and Tore Gutteberg, SIH and Department of Microbiology. Debate moderator was Professor Ørjan Olsvik, Institute for Medical Biology. In the panel were also Vegard Skogen, department of microbiology and infectious diseases, Inger Gadgil, UNN, Vinjar Fønnebø, Leader of NAFKAM.

International Seminar:

SIH has organized several international seminars in cooperation with FN Sambandet.

Two of these are:

February 2005: 'Dilemmas in International work' with panel debate.

October 2005: Violence against Women – with Monica Munoz, Chief UNIFEM

Fredskorpset

SIH currently has two projects funded by Fredskorpset, in Uganda and Malawi. (See chapter 7.7 and 7.8 for more information). SIH has close contact with Fredskorpset and participates in meetings and conferences hosted by the organization. In September 2004 SIH organized a joint meeting with Fredskorpset in Tromsø with Tor Elden, Director General, to inform the professional health environments at UiTø and UNN about the opportunities in Fredskopset and their funding programmes.



**Rev. Desmond Tutu and Tor Elden,
Fredskorpset**

GenØk and UNEP/GRID-Arendal

Global Virtual University UN. Meeting between Terje Traavik and Olga Goldfain from GenØk, Åke Bjørke from UNEP/GRID-Arendal and Solveig Wiesener.

Agenda: opportunities for collaboration.

Haukeland University Hospital, Unit for International Cooperation

Several collaboration projects and close contact. Joint meeting with SIH and the Unit for International Cooperation in Tromsø, January 2006.

Some collaboration areas: Conference in Arkhangelsk, Unit for Int. Cooperation with Jon Wigum Dahl participates; Fredskorpset Forum – common initiative on capacity building; Russia, plastic surgery, emergency medicine; Uganda - Dental health, physiotherapy, construction; Sudan – hospital in South Sudan.

Harvard University – Harvard School of Public Health

SIH with Ingwill K. Ceïde participated at a course on Health and Human Rights June 2006.

SIH was able to inform the participants about our work on Medical Peace Work and the master module 'peace, health and medical work.' Head of the course, Professor Michael Grodin, Boston University, was invited by SIH to speak at the conference on Medical Peace Work June 2007 in Tromsø, and is considering the offer.

Komfy Anokye Teaching Hospital in Ghana - Education of pathologists

Head of project: Helge Stalsberg, UNN

Collaboration to strengthen the pathology service in Ghana. UNN's Department of Pathology has received two bioengineers from Ghana for specialist training in pathology. Helge Stalsberg visited the Komfy Anokye Teaching Hospital in Ghana in 2005 in order to develop the project. SIH assisted in applying Fredskorpset for funding for a feasibility study. This was not approved by Fredskorpset.

KVINNFORSK - Senter for kvinne- og kjønnsforskning

Kvinnforsk work to ensure one of UiTø strategic priority areas: women- and gender research, including the interests of women in research in general.

SIH and Kvinnforsk continually update each other on the different activities and participate in common meetings and conferences. KVINNFORSK was involved in the planning of the conference on women against violence by SIH October 2005.

Medecins Sans Frontiers

Meeting in Geneva February 2006 with Dr. Philippe Ruscassier, Head of Training MSF, Solveig Wiesener, Klaus Melf and Ingvoll Ceide, SIH.

Agenda: To inform about the medical Peace Work project. MSF is interested in Medical Peace Work as possible online-training for delegates. Dr. Philippe agrees to be member of the reference group, and that it will be useful for him to be in the partnership meetings. He would like to give the employees of MSF a chance to do the course once it is finished.

NAFKAM – The National Research Centre in Complementary and Alternative Medicine

SIH is in close contact with NAFKAM and the two centres are keeping each other updated on their different projects. Director of NAFKAM, Vinjar Fønnebø, is one of SIH's main advisors. The following are some examples of meetings and joint activities:

December 2004: SIH invited to the formal opening of NAFKAM.

March 2005: Discussions with Tore Gutteberg, SIH and Jianpin Liu, NAFKAM, concerning possible collaboration on HIV/Aids projects with China.

August 2005: joint meeting with Norad to inform about the international work at UiTø.

March 2006: Vinjar Fønnebø and Nina Emaus from NAFKAM invited to a meeting to discuss a WHO proposal for collaboration with SIH.

Collaboration with China

9th -10th of October 2004: Chinese Minister of Health visits the University of Tromsø and the University Hospital North Norway.

The Executive Minister of Health from the People's Republic of China, Gao Qiang, visited Tromsø in October 2004. A new agreement on health cooperation between China and Norway had just been signed in Oslo. The executive minister had meetings with director Knut Schrøder at UNN and Rector Jarle Aarbakke at UiTø, as well as representatives from NAFKAM and SIH. NAFKAM is responsible for the Norwegian contribution to the partnership.

20th of October – 9th of November 2004: SIH with Solveig Wiesener is invited to join a delegation to China to discuss possible collaboration.



Rheumatologist diagnosing in Beijing observed by Tove Riise and Xiaotong Li from Tromsø

Participants on the visit:

Terje Alræk Ph.D, researcher., NAFKAM, Director Norway - China collaboration in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

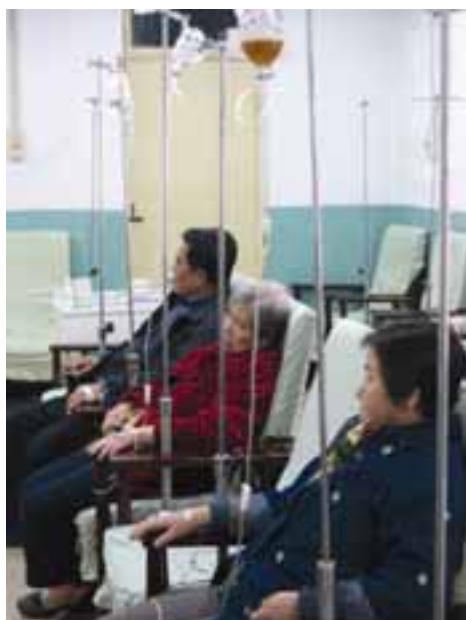
Solveig Wiesener Director, Centre for International Health UiTø/UNN

Tove Riise
Xiaotong Li
Liv Kjustad

Dr./specialist Rheumatology, UNN
Dr./specialist Rheumatology, UNN
Dr./specialist Rheumatology, Hospital Buskerud HF, Drammen

The visit was based on an invitation from our collaboration partner China-Japan Friendship Hospital (CJFH) in Beijing. The delegation combined different collaboration areas, and the visit included the following:

1. Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital
2. Follow the start-up of a project including 3 Norwegian medical doctors in rheumatology
3. Discussions of further collaboration within the Norway-China Health Collaboration Agreement
4. Visit the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) for following up our discussions in Tromsø with the Chinese Executive Minister of Health., Mr Gao Qiang.
5. Visit Innovation Norway and the Royal Norwegian Embassy
6. Visit Xiyuan Hospital for discussions regarding further collaboration within TCM.



Traditional cancer treatment in Beijing

SIH had several meetings in Beijing with the Ministry of Health China, Department TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine), State administration of Traditional Medicine, Norwegian Embassy, Innovation Norway with Werne Christie, Xiuyan hospital, Jon Hilmar Iversen and Vegar Nore from MOH Norway and the Research Council.

China and Fredskorpset

Head of project: Torkel Snellingen, Institute of Clinical Medicine, UiTø.

Collaboration between Tromsø-Oslo and Beijing

Prof. Snellingen has extensive collaborations in China and other countries in Asia, funded by Fredskorpset. SIH has had several meetings with Snellingen with regards to giving advice, network contacts and discussions on possible collaborations.

September 2006: Snellingen is in discussions concerning a possible involvement of the Faculty of Medicine in a newly established research network funded by Fredskorpset. SIH is requested to support the project.

Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have prioritized the Millennium Goals in their strategy planning and focus for their international work. SIH is incorporated these strategic priorities for our work. Both Norad and MFA are important collaborating partners on many levels, including advising, funding, network and so on. SIH has participated in a number of meetings, seminars and conferences at both institutions. SIH is continually informing Norad and MFA about the different activities on international health in Tromsø, both by travelling to Oslo and by receiving them in Tromsø. Visits include Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Støre, former Minister of Development Hilde Frafjord Johnsen, and Paul Fife, Head of Health Section Norad.

One concrete example of collaboration is from 2004 when MFA financed SIH's feasibility study with regards to establishing a faculty of health sciences in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. (see chapter 7.6 for more information).

Meetings and activities:

January 2004 with MFA, Solveig Wiesener, Kristin Scharffscher and Are Eriksen, SIH.
Agenda: Collaboration in Sri Lanka and possible projects in Africa.

January 2004 with MFA, Solveig Wiesener, Tore Gutteberg, Kristin Scharffscher, SIH.
Agenda: Collaborations in Botswana, HIV/ Aids work, Malawi, framework application.

December 2004 SIH administer a Norad framework- application on behalf of UiTø, UNN and Tromsø University College, which bid professional service in the field of health, HIV/Aids and the social area. The application involved a number of research fellows and different health professional environments at the three institutions. The application was not approved by Norad.

April 2005 mini seminar in Norad on collaborations in the health sector with Solveig Wiesener, Nina Emaus and Are Eriksen, SIH.

May 2005 with Paul Fife, Head of Health Section Norad, Solveig Wiesener and Nina Foss, SIH. Agenda: Strategic partnership, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Malawi.

17. August 2005 contact meeting to strengthen the cooperation between UiTø and Norad.
Agenda: UiTø is invited by Norad to inform about the international work at the university. SIH by Solveig Wiesener presents the international health work at UiTø. NAFKAM by Vinjar Fønnebø presents 'Capacity building and staff retention within health'.

In connection with the Norad meeting SIH administer a pre-meeting to discuss a strategy with the health professionals on the 15 August. Present: Anne Husebekk Claus Klingenberg Knut Høltedahl Kaare Nilsen Nina Emaus, Tore Gutteberg, Trine Utkilen Sørensen, Vinjar Fønnebø, Ørjan Olsvik, Line Linstad, Solveig Wiesener, Klaus Melf, Ingvill Konradsen Ceide and Vidar Anderssen.

November 2005 with Paul Fife, Head Health Unit and Solveig Wiesener.

Agenda: Sri Lanka, Uganda, Malawi, framework application, HIV/Aids projects, Global health research.

September 2006 with Paul Fife, Head Health Unit, Bjarne Garden, Norad, Solveig Wiesener and Ingvill K Ceide, SIH. Agenda: Capacity building and WHO's SEDCAP project with possible collaboration in Malawi.

Norut

The Norut Group Ltd. is a research group consisting of non-for-profit limited companies.

February and March 2003: Meeting with SIH

Agenda: Possibilities for future international health projects and research in the High North. Present from NORUT: Grethe Hoel and Geir Bogen, advisor for international business development NORUT Group Ltd.

Norwegian Board of Health

SIH has participated in meetings and conferences hosted by the Norwegian Board of Health

March 2003: Conference on international health projects. Participating from Tromsø:

Hans Petter Bergseth, UNN and Solveig Wiesener, Kristin Scharffscher, SIH

Norwegian Cancer Society – (Kreftforeningen)

Meeting in December 2004 with the Norwegian Cancer Society to discuss possible collaboration in North West Russia. The following persons were present: Kjell Mo, Kari Holthe, and Bjarne Rosted from the Cancer Society, Solveig Wiesener from SIH.

The Cancer Society participated at the Experience Conference in Arkhangelsk in April 2005

Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine (NST)

SIH has close contact with the Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine concerning several of its projects. Many of our projects have calculated the use of telemedicine and videoconferences for lectures and meetings in the collaborations. The two centres have regular meetings discussing technical agreements, tele/video usage, language training, e-health projects, conferences etc. One example is the seminar on external financing where SIH was invited by Telemedicine as speaker on how to apply for external funding, April 2004, Participants were: the leader team of Telemedicine, SIH, the Research Council, Innovation Norway, Telenor and Norut.

NST is one of 11 partners in SIH's EU project on Medical Peace Work, responsible for the technical and pedagogical part with regards to developing a net based educational programme. NST is a partner in several of the projects in North West Russia, and was invited by SIH to a workshop for the Arctic Network of Family Medicine in Lithuania April 2005. NST did a presentation with regards to developing a web site for the network.

SIH has since 2003 been in dialogue with Toril Iversen, doctor and consultant at NST, with regards to her educational project for women in Afghanistan. Iversen has worked in Afghanistan several times and discussions for a possible collaboration have been on the agenda. Toril Iversen has participated in many of SIH's events, such as the International Week with former Minister of Development Frafjord Johnsen.

Red Cross:

SIH has close collaboration with the Red Cross on a range of activities and projects. The following are a few examples:

November 2002: Visit with Red Cross to Murmansk, Kirovsk and Apatiti in Russia for the opening of the Red Cross Psychoneurological Activity and Training Centre for the disabled in Kirovsk. The project is financed by the Barents Health Programme. Red Cross projects on rehabilitation, psychiatry, tuberculosis and HIV/Aids are interesting with regards to possible collaborations with UNN/UiTø. SIH had meetings with regional health authorities in Murmansk, Kola Science Centre and Murmansk Red Cross.

January 2004: Meeting to discuss possible collaboration with Norwegian Red Cross, International Section: Present were Geir Andreassen, Olaf Røseth, Marianne Monclair, and SIH with Solveig Wiesener and Are Eriksen.

Agenda: Collaboration on research, delegate training, development of Medical Peace Work, humanitarian law and debriefing of delegates. With regards to debriefing: SIH made an agreement with Åsgård on a formal framework agreement for Red Cross delegates when they return from international duty.

November 2004 and January 2005: International Humanitarian Law. Cooperation and participation of a course for the Norwegian Defence led by Red Cross in Haraldevollen. Discussions on continued cooperation on Medical Peace Work and training of Norwegian Defence students at University of Tromsø.

February 2005: Red Cross speaker at the master module 'Peace, health and medical work'

April 2005: Meeting with Emergency and International Section in Oslo:

Agenda: project in Sri Lanka

October 2005: National Red Cross Congress in Tromsø – SIH organising seminars on international humanitarian law. Red Cross representative speaker at conference for health personnel on Violence against Women. Organized by SIH in connection with the TV Campaign 2005.

March 2006: Red Cross speaker at the master module 'Peace, health and medical work'

April 2006: Meeting with Red Cross at SIH in Tromsø.

Agenda: sharing of knowledge and discussions related to possible project collaboration in Russia.

September 2006: Meeting with Red Cross in Oslo. Agenda: Possible collaboration with SIH on health projects in Latin America, including Haiti and Colombia.

International Committee of the Red Cross:

Meeting in Geneva February 2006 with Hervé Le Guillouzic, Eric Burnier and Pierre Perrin, Head of Health Unit, ICRC, Klaus Melf, Solveig Wiesener, SIH and Yvonne Constantin, SOL Swiss Leonardo. Agenda: To discuss cooperation with regards to educational programmes within Medical Peace Work for Red Cross delegates and health personnel.

Pierre is Chief Medical Officer and member of the ICRC-Assembly. He is committed to a current reform of the training program for health delegates. He suggests that MPW-modules could serve as electives for their staff. He wants to be the contact person with SIH.

International Federation of the Red Cross

SIH visited the IFRC in Geneva and had meetings with amongst others Bruce Eshaya Chauvin, Head Health and Care dept., Bernard Gardiner, Jean Roy and Marianne Monclair, Health and Care department.

Semut – Centre for Environment- and Development Studies, University of Tromsø

January 2004. Course Introduction to International Work

Collaboration with SEMUT and NORUT.

Participants from SIH: Solveig Wiesener, Are Eriksen and Kristin Scharffscher.

Autumn 2005: Feasibility study on children's oral health care project in Uganda. SEMUT contributed with money and participated in meetings during the Ugandan delegation's visit in Tromsø in November 2005.

January 2006: SEMUT was invited to SIH's meeting with the Unit for International Cooperation at Haukeland Hospital.

Agenda: exchange of experience and discussions of possible collaborations.

May 2006: SEMUT assists SIH in administration and coordination of NUFU application.

October 2006: Nina Foss and Klaus Melf from SIH participate as speakers in a SEMUT organized course on cultural understanding and communication.

Troms County Council

SIH and the international department at Troms County Council have good contact on issues related to international health, specifically in North West Russia. The contact involves information sharing about the different projects and discussions for a common strategy for lobbying to put health on the political agenda. Further SIH has been in discussions with Troms County Council with regards to the Interreg programme and opportunities for financing of health projects through this programme. Troms County Council has financed a part of the start-up travel cost for the Medical Peace Work project.

Tromsø Mine Victim Resource Centre

SIH and the Mine Victim Resource Centre update each other on the different activities and participate in common meetings and conferences. SIH has promoted the Mine Victim Centre in a number of settings, national and international. Mats Gilbert from The Mine Victim Centre has participated in SIH's course on 'Peace, Health and Medical Work', including the panel debate. During a visit in Tromsø by a Sri Lankan delegation in 2003, hosted by SIH, the Mine Victim Centre presented their work based on their experience with mine victims in Cambodia.

Tromsø University College (HiTø)

SIH has close contact with HiTø and collaborate on a range of issues and projects. HiTø is participating as partner in several projects such as the Sri Lanka- and the Malawi collaborations. Further HiTø is represented in the North West Russia collaboration, and as member of the High North 2020 Health Report committee. The Faculty of Health Sciences of HiTø has a multi-disciplinary program in the health sciences in close co-operation with the University of Tromsø's programs for education in the health professions. Most of the international health projects based at UNN involve such professions as nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and radiography. As such the link between SIH and HiTø is obvious and of great importance.

Unifem - United Nations Development Fund for Women

SIH with Ingvill K. Ceïde has informed UNIFEM in meetings in New York with Chief of Latin America and the Caribbean Section, Marijke Velzeboer, and in Ecuador with Chief of the Andean region, Lucia Salamea, about the work in Tromsø on international health. Former Chief of UNIFEM, Monica Munoz, was invited by SIH to give a speech at the Conference on

Violence Against Women October 2005 in Tromsø. UNIFEM is very interested in pursuing a possible collaboration with SIH on women's health/violence against women.

University Hospital of Geneva

Meeting with Head of the Violence Prevention Unit, Dr. Daniel Halpérin and Dr. Laurent Subilia, Klaus Melf, Solveig Wiesener and Ingvill Ceïde, SIH.

Agenda: Medical Peace Work and possible collaboration.

This department offer medical psycho-social support for those confronted with violence. The department is involved in establishing a Centre for Migrants Health, an interdisciplinary centre that works with victims of torture and war. The Centre is co- funded by the Swiss Red Cross. They are trying to build up a network and would like to include SIH in this work. They also suggest a possible collaboration with regards to the interfaculty Master Program in Humanitarian Action at the University of Geneva and are very interested in Medical Peace Work.

Co-owners:



University of Tromsø - Faculty of Medicine
University Hospital of North Norway

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