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May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

HHESS

3-3-88

8:30 a.m.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 2/19/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

DATE: 2/29/88

The Health, Education and Social Services Committee has considered SB 380 (title am)

"An Act making a special appropriation to the University of Alaska Anchorage for the establishment of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with _____ the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published _____
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

John Ellis

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bill Hudson - No Rec.

George Stanley - No Rec.

RENE PRO. No Rec.

Steve Korman no rec.

John Ellis
Co-chairman's signature

Steve Korman

SENATE AMENDMENT

By The Finance Committee

To: _____ SENATE BILL No. 380

To: _____ HOUSE BILL No. _____

PAGE: 1 LINE: 7

After the word "Alaska" INSERT: Anchorage

INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH STUDIES

The structure of the Institute is outlined in the attached packet. The following budget is a basic operating budget ensuring the success of the Institute. A commitment by the state will trigger funding at the National Institute of Health and from the private sector.

BUDGET

Personnel (with benefits):

Director	\$67,500
Administrative Assistant	39,500
Secretary	29,000
Telecommunications	14,000
Printing (newsletters, publications)	23,000
Postage	8,000
Computers, printers, hard disc drive	21,000
Travel	48,000
Grants/development National advisory boards Research work groups	
<hr/>	
Total	\$250,000

100-100000
10200

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 1988

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Senator John Binkley

RE: SB 379 and 380: Establishment of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies

Alcoholism, suicide and mental depression are not new issues. Certainly we have already spent millions of dollars and countless hours attempting to solve or at least adequately address them. One thing we do know is that Alaska is not alone in suffering from these problems. Other circumpolar areas and nations, including Canada, Siberia, Greenland and Scandinavia also suffer from them.

SB 379 calls for the establishment of an Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies within the University of Alaska as a major new step toward finding solutions to the health problems of Alaskans and inhabitants of other circumpolar regions. A companion bill, SB 380, requests a \$250 thousand special appropriation to be used as seed money in establishing the institute and seeking federal and private monies.

The foundation for this proposed institute has already been created in the University of Alaska's Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program, opening the door to a new era of scientific exchange with the Soviet Union. The Alaska Legislature last year adopted a Joint Resolution of support (SJR 26) for this program.

The newly-created institute would be established as a world headquarters for circumpolar health studies, providing information, coordination, research and training for the international medical and health sciences community.

Because of that program, the World Health Organization has expressed interest in designating such an institute as a collaborating center for WHO. A linkage with the WHO would bring rapid prominence to the new institutue.

Working with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the institute would set up a medical data base on research done in Alaska as well as in other countries,

and would begin the task of bringing other circumpolar scholars to Alaska to jointly explore common solutions.

Certainly creation of this institute will not cure all alcoholism, suicide and depression. By working together however, we can hopefully come up with solutions to the common problems we share with other circumpolar nations.

I hope you join me in supporting this proposal. I have included a more detailed description of the institute, and also copies of letters of support that either I or Dr. Ted Mala have received.

ATTENTION: SENATOR JOHNE DINKLEY
FOR MS. MOLLY MCCAMMON

A PROPOSAL FOR THE
Institute for CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH Studies

A RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-SIBERIA MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

(907) 786-4746

ANCHORAGE
JANUARY 1988

Introduction

The foundation for an Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies (ICHS) is now being created in the University's Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program. The Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program is generating rapidly growing excitement within Alaska, nationally and internationally. The Program provides a unique opportunity for the University and for Alaska to pioneer in northern health studies and education in an unprecedented linkage with the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences. The establishment of the U.S.-U.S.S.R Joint Committee on Health has provided impetus for the University of Alaska's historic Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program. This represents the first agreement ever of its kind between the United States and Siberia.

Scientific exchange with the Soviet Union opens exciting new doors. It also overcomes the largest political obstacle in establishing comprehensive circumpolar coordination on important northern health research. Thus, the Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program should be viewed, in part, as a first step in launching an Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies under the auspices of the University of Alaska. A discussion of the current status of the Alaska-Siberia program is provided at the conclusion of this proposal.

Need

The Institute will be a cornerstone of new economic development for Alaska and a linkage point for circumpolar relations. It will provide impetus for establishing the research-center-as-basic-industry in Alaska, a component of our state's new infrastructure for economic development.

Alaska, as the only U.S. presence in the North, is the logical location for a national circumpolar health institute. Alaska stands to gain much from an increased emphasis, locally, nationally and internationally, on circumpolar health research and education. And we stand to gain much from becoming the home base for such activity.

- o First and foremost, a better understanding of health issues specific to circumpolar environments will create direct health benefits for every Alaskan.
- o Secondly, the establishment of a center of excellence in research and teaching, opening previously unopened doors of mutually beneficial international communication and exchange, will bring economic advantages and prestige to the state as a whole and to the University.
- o Thirdly, opportunities for training and academic study will become available to Alaskans who currently must leave the state for such education or find it beyond their reach.

Background

Economic growth in Alaska and elsewhere in the circumpolar region over the past several decades and an interest in making the best possible use of circumpolar resources have focused the attention of the United States and other circumpolar countries on developing the necessary knowledge and skills to operate effectively in circum-polar areas. As economic growth continues in the North, our understanding of related health issues must continue to expand.

The Secretariat for the Union for Circumpolar Health (Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Canada, Soviet Union and the United States) is currently lodged in Anchorage under the leadership of the director of the Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program. In conjunction with that assignment, the World Health Organization has expressed interest in designating a Circumpolar Health Institute within the University as a collaborating center for WHO. Such already established linkages with international interests should bring rapid prominence to the ICHS.

The Alaska Legislature adopted a Joint Resolution of support (SJR 26) for the Alaska-Siberia program during the 1987 session.

Mission Statement

The Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies is to be established as a world headquarters of circumpolar health studies, a center of excellence based at the University of Alaska, serving information, coordination, research and training needs of the international medical and health sciences community.

It will be the Institute's mission to achieve the policy goals in circumpolar health as established by the World Health Organization and those of the U.S. National Arctic Health Science Policy (see attachment), and address the recommendations of the Polar Research Board, Committee on Polar Biomedical Research outlined in a report titled "Data Coordination and Career Stimulation in Polar Biomedical Research" (see attachment), within the framework of the University of Alaska's 1986 long range plan.

Institute Objectives

1. To establish an institute in Alaska which provides for the exchange of medical and health sciences data and which serves as a depository of information from and accessible to all participating nations.
2. To orchestrate research on health needs specific to Northern residents throughout the circumpolar region, including Alaska. Climate, environment, the economic implications for industry, and other Northern-related factors which are common to all circumpolar nations, and the concerns of the target populations, will provide a basis for determining study needs. Setting ethical standards for the impacts of research on subject populations will be a priority.

3. To develop the medical scientific research capabilities of the University, providing a mechanism to attract noted scientists and scholars to Alaska and broadening interaction for both our faculty and our students with other centers of health science research throughout the United States and circumpolar nations.

4. To meet the University's objectives in design of a distinctive academic program in the health sciences. Both by attracting the involvement of international experts on Northern health and by developing information resources, the Institute will contribute to academic instruction and research capabilities for faculty and students.

5. To provide instruction and training for the key research target groups: Alaska Natives, long-term settlers, short-term settlers, and transient workers. Thus those populations whose health needs are being studied will be able to contribute as researchers and trained specialists themselves, particularly important in remote areas.

6. To create an ongoing exchange process that initiates and implements meetings between U.S experts in the health sciences and their counterparts in other circumpolar countries.

7. To create a new component of Alaska's economic development infrastructure, adding new research activities to the array of successful basic industries in the state.

Structure

The ICHS is proposed as an institute originating under the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. The Institute will be a component of the University's statewide system and will be located in Anchorage, reflecting the University mission to make medical and health sciences a priority of the Anchorage campus.

The Institute will be made up of a Research and Instruction branch and an Administration and Information branch. Research and Instruction will house the closely linked tasks of teaching and research. Administration and Information will house the complementary tasks of both public and scientific information and services. Once appropriately endowed, it will also handle the important development tasks that will go with making the Institute largely self-sufficient in funding.

It is critical that each of these program components be incorporated into the Institute's structure from the beginning. There is an overlapping linkage among them, and in concert they carry out the mission which is a response to needs laid out by the University, and to national and international policy goals.

Strategies

In keeping with the challenges which the University System has set for itself, the Institute is designed with three substantive program components: instruction, research and service.

Development will also be a significant function for the Institute, not only in the areas of grant and contract management but in other fundraising activities which will heighten awareness of the Institute and its objectives. It will be an integral part of the Institute's strategies for success.

The following strategies will be implemented to carry out each of the program components.

I. Instruction

1. **Curricula.** The Institute will serve to expand and specialize the University curricula in medical and health sciences. Development of curricula components which focus on health studies in the North will be integrated into programs including the empirical and applied sciences, international business, and public policy and will enhance the University mission in circumpolar understanding. Expanded curricula should be incorporated in the general education programs and particularly in professional schools and graduate programs.

2. **Faculty.** Both permanent and visiting faculty, drawn to the Institute's unique resources, will be affiliated with the ICBS. They will provide an instructional resource with specialized expertise for the University programs with which the Institute is associated.

3. **Professional Training.** A primary function of the ICBS will be the training of professional health specialists, providing skills and knowledge necessary to work successfully in remote Northern areas. Training of Northern rural residents will be a significant component.

4. **Non-Degree Instruction.** Development and presentation of conferences, seminars, workshops, and short courses will serve a broad constituency, both professionals in medical and health sciences and the general public. Initial topics, reflecting research focus, will include: nutritional guidelines for Northern regions; understanding of and innovation in alcoholism problem solving; processes of disease and human adaptation in the North; and physiological effects of chronic stress among Natives and industrial seasonal workforces.

II. Research

1. **Research Management.** The Institute will serve the research coordination needs of the international medical and health sciences community for circumpolar studies. An important aspect of international cooperation in research is the development of methodology and technique consistent from one locale to another. Locally-based scientific advisory boards in each participating circumpolar country will work together to establish method-ological guidelines. As a computerized repository for research data for Northern areas, the Institute will provide, for the first time, centralized data management for research results and worldwide access via the university BITNET computer system.

2. **Self-Generated Funding.** Circumpolar nations involved with the ICHS will, of course, pursue independent research. It is anticipated that largely external funding can be obtained for Alaskan research projects initiated by the Institute.

3. **Scope of Research.** As the University has noted in its long range plan, northern medicine and health sciences are of increasing importance to Alaska. Because of the extensive history of research in Siberia, bringing Soviet and Western research together will be extremely beneficial for Alaska and Western nations. Both basic and applied research will be conducted through the Institute. Initially, based on the existing Alaska-Siberia research agreement, areas of research will include: physiology, immunology, nutrition, stress studies, and alcohol abuse problems. Also, Baseline information will be compiled from existing research data. Research responding to the objectives of the National Arctic Health Science Policy and the priorities identified by the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will include areas of environmental health, biomedical engineering and socio/cultural studies such as ethnomedicine.

In accordance with current federal standards, protection of individual and community privacy and integrity and development of opportunities for community involvement will be cornerstones of the Institute's field research program.

III. Service

1. **Information Services.** The Institute will develop and maintain a data management system for circumpolar research data. Storage and retrieval capabilities will be developed to serve the needs of the research community. Data will also be available for academic instruction and professional training as well as for applied research needs. An Institute newsletter will be published.

2. **Clearinghouse and Reference Services.** The Institute will provide clearinghouse services for research proposals and ongoing projects within Alaska and throughout circumpolar countries. This will facilitate the coordination of research.

A reference library will be established for University and public use.

3. **Translation Services.** Translation services for circumpolar languages will be provided for published studies and for new research results as they come in.

4. **Academic Services.** In keeping with the goal of providing a broad spectrum of student programs and services, the Institute will offer an opportunity for the development of affiliated student organizations and activities, i.e., travel, study and information exchange opportunities for health professionals and students in other circumpolar regions.

5. **Public Services.** By making the results of study and data collection available to government and to the public, the Institute will provide information useful to public policy making on Northern health issues. The Institute will solicit individual volunteer and community participation in public events and activities intended to foster interest in inter-national and cross-cultural exchanges on health issues.

IV. Development

1. **Grant Coordination.** The Institute will aggressively pursue private and federal support. The Institute's appeal to funding sources includes not only its health sciences orientation, but also its circumpolar focus and the fact that it will be at the forefront of peaceful East-West exchange of scientific information and resources. Thus there is an opportunity to work with a broad range of national funding sources.

2. **Contract Management.** The Institute will seek contracts to carry out research being initiated by government and private institutions in the field of circumpolar health.

3. **Special Fundraising.** The Institute will undertake projects and events which will generate fundraising opportunities. Developing Alaskan public interest in the Institute's work will foster public support for the University.

V. Regional Programs and Advisory Boards

1. **Regional Programs.** Programs will be brought on line sequentially over a period of several years. The Siberian Program, currently established, will be the flagship program for the Institute. The Canadian Program will be initiated in FY 1990. The Scandinavian and Greenlandic Program is scheduled for FY 1991; the Antarctic Program, for FY 1993. This sequential approach is intended to allow for coordinated program development and for development of funding sources.

2. Advisory Boards. Boards will be established to provide peer review, to guide the development of research projects for Alaska, and to guide the overall international activities of the Institute. Advisory boards for each field of research will include both Alaskan and national representation.

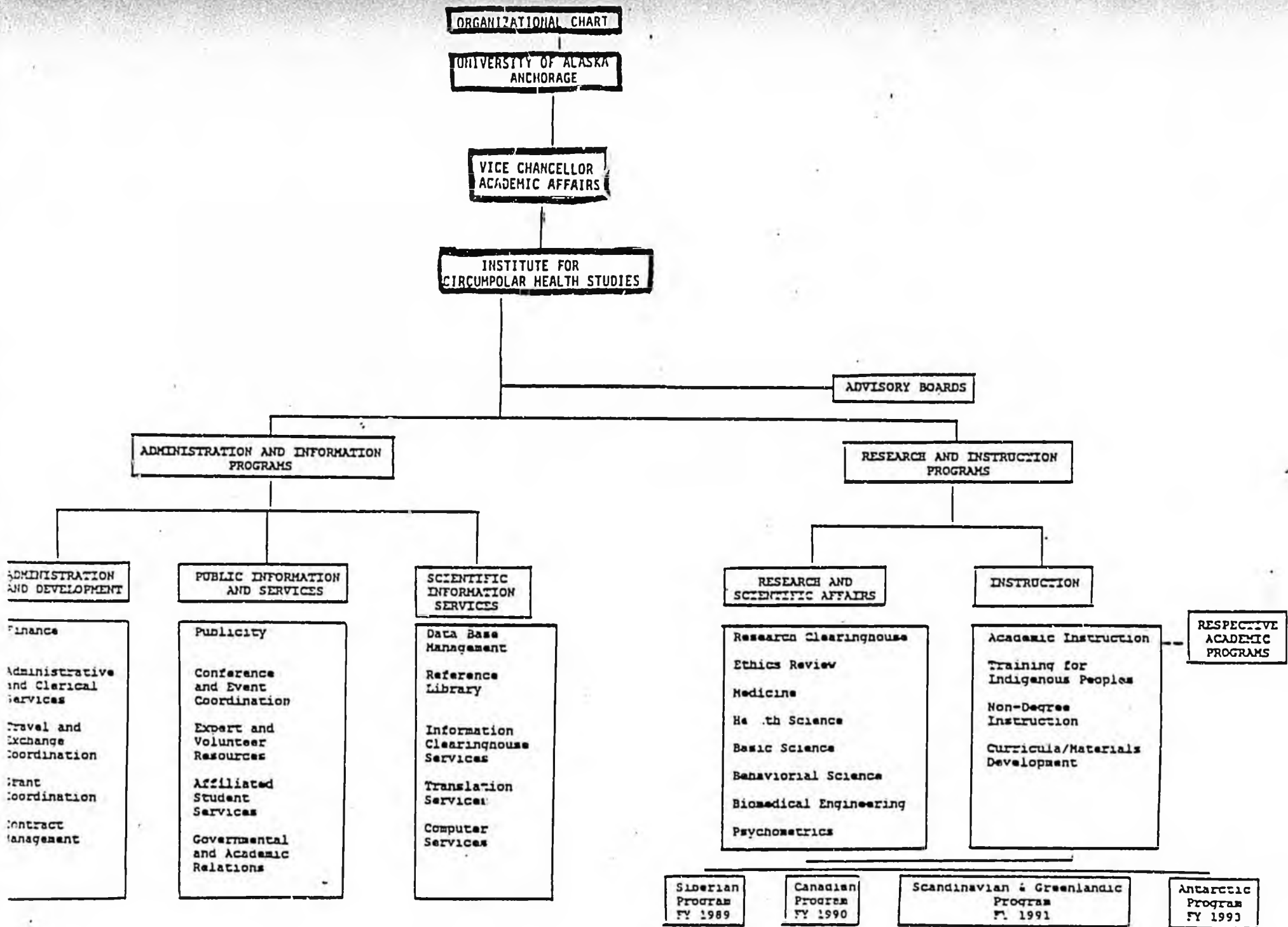
Implementation

Seed money from the State of Alaska is critical for the establishment of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies. A \$250,000 start up budget would provide the critical operating money for Institute staff and services not generally funded through grants. With seed money, it will be possible for the Institute to demonstrate the serious commitment of the State of Alaska, as it seeks additional funding from private and federal sources.

From the private sector, the Institute will focus initially on endowment of chairs to meet the faculty instruction and research needs of the Institute.

Initial staffing will include a full time director for the Institute and program coordination and support staff. Faculty affiliations will be established in coordination with the Office of the Chancellor of Academic Affairs, University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Development of the initial implementation plan for the Institute will be accomplished by the University of Alaska-Siberia Medical Research Program in conjunction with its advisory boards. Activities within Program Components will be identified. The critical success factors by which to measure those activities and target dates for completion will be established.



NOTE FOR SENATOR BINKLEY:

This proposal represents the long range goals for an Institute. It is not THE solution to all of our problems but it IS a start. The 250,000 grant which we are asking you to consider would allow us to bring on grant writers to look for the outside funding that we need to accomplish our goals. Working with the Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services, we will be able to set up our medical data base on research that has been done in Alaska as well as in other countries and begin the task of bringing other circumpolar scholars to Alaska as well as our people going to other places to jointly explore common solutions.

We are not proposing a cure all to alcoholism, suicide and depression but what we do hope to achieve is a concerted effort to bring circumpolar researchers and data together to work towards a common solution to problems we all share.

Ted Malu

INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH STUDIES

The structure of the Institute is outlined in the attached packet. The following budget is a basic operating budget ensuring the success of the Institute. A commitment by the state will trigger funding at the National Institute of Health and from the private sector.

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Grants/development National advisory boards Research work groups	

Total \$250,000

Senator Johne Binkley

Senate Finance Committee
P.O. Box V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4985



Finance Committee
Co-Chairman

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 1988

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Senator Johne Binkley *Johne*

RE: SB 379 and 380: Establishment of the Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies

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I hope you join me in supporting this proposal. I have included a more detailed description of the institute, and also copies of letters of support that either I or Dr. Ted Mala have received.

12901 Kuparuk Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99516
February 7, 1988

Senator John Binkley
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Binkley,

I wish to express my support for Senate Bills 379 and 380, establishing an Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies and providing a special appropriation to fund it.

The potential long range benefit to all Alaskans from these bills is of such vital importance that I urge speedy passage of both.

In addition, I strongly support Governor Cooper's proposal for the establishment of a Science and Technology Endowment to provide ongoing funding for these types of endeavors in the future.

Sincerely,
Roberta Helmuth

12901 Lupinus Rd
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
Feb. 6, 1988

Senator John Bickley
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box 1 (MS-3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RECEIVED FEB 10 1988

Dear Senator Bickley:

I strongly support and urge passage of Senate Bills No. 379 and 380, which provide for the establishment of an Institute of Circumpolar Health Studies at the University of Alaska and funding for this Institute.

I trust that these bills will be passed at the earliest possible date, as they will benefit all Alaskans.

I also support Gov. Cooper's proposal for the establishment of a Science and Technology Endowment.

Sincerely,

Carl M. Smith

American Psychiatric Association

1400 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 682-6000

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*Deputy Director,
Business Administration*



February 10, 1988

Senator John Binkley
Senate Finance Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Binkley:

I have just finished a meeting with Dr. Theodore A. Mala and have learned of your very exciting bill which you are introducing in the Senate which would establish an Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies within the University of Alaska. I would like to personally congratulate you on your support of this very innovative idea and to say that I wish you every success. Even though this proposal has not yet been shared with the American Psychiatric Association's Council on International Affairs, I'm sure that this component as well as our Office of International Affairs would be very pleased with this possibility. I know that Dr. Mala's work is outstanding and that he has accomplished a great deal in bringing our country together with others in the circumpolar region and I am particularly excited about his work in Siberia.

If this new Institute is, in fact, approved, I am sure that the American Psychiatric Association would be eager to cooperate in any way that it can to facilitate communication and collaboration.

Thank you for your excellent proposal and my best wishes for every success.

Sincerely,

Melvin Sabshin, M.D.
Medical Director

cc: Deobrah B. Geeseman, M.D.
Governor Steve Cowper
Dr. Theodore Mala



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Health
Washington DC 20201

DEC 16 1987

Theodore A. Mala, M.D., M.P.H.
Program Director
Siberian Medical Research Program
University of Alaska
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Dr. Mala: *Ted*

Thank you for sending me the material on the visit to Alaska by the Soviet medical delegation. You and the University of Alaska deserve a great deal of credit for your efforts in developing this interesting and potentially very productive initiative.

As you know, the development of this type of State government/private sector program with the Soviets is something we strongly encourage. Programs such as these are particularly timely in view of the recent Summit Meeting and the desire being shown by both countries to increase peaceful collaboration.

Again my congratulations and my best wishes for the successful development of activities under this initiative.

Sincerely yours,

RE
Robert E. Windom, M.D.
Assistant Secretary for Health

THE SALK INSTITUTE

3 December 1987

Dr. Theodore A. Mala
Program Director
University of Alaska
Siberian Medical Research Program
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Doctor Mala:

It is only now that I have seen your letter of 26 October. The delay is a reflection of more to do than time in which to do it. All my efforts for this past year have been devoted to attempts at control of AIDS via immunization of seropositive individuals and this leaves time for little else.

Your project is surely most worthy and I would like to be helpful. I will have to be away for virtually all of this month. I know that I cannot become involved in still another activity and although I don't know how much help I can be in a few hours of conversation, we can see. Let me hear from you as to when you might be able to visit here.

Sincerely,



Jonas Salk

Mr. Walter J. Hickel,
Box 101700,
Anchorage,
Alaska 99510-1700,
USA

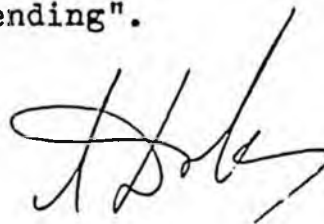
December 4, 1987

Dear Mr. Hickel,

I was glad to receive your letter and thank you sincerely for your invitation to visit Alaska.

Together with you I hope that ties between Alaska and Siberia will gradually develop to the benefit of both nations and those coldest places of our two countries could become the partners in the warmest relationships. Anyway, the start has been made and, as we say in Russia, "a good beginning makes a good ending".

With warm regards.



Sincerely,

Anatoly Dobrynin