

ABSTRACT

The International Circumpolar Surveillance Tuberculosis (TB) Working Group is a new project for which goals and objectives were needed and the likelihood of Russian Federation participation determined. A questionnaire was sent to key informants and literature search conducted. The goals ranked as most important and achievable within five years were improving detection of TB; assessing TB disease incidence and trends in circumpolar regions; increasing awareness of TB; and collaborating on TB research. Laboratory confirmation is a consistent element in case definition across circumpolar regions and may be the most promising initial basis for cross-national comparisons. At least one Russian Federation scientist has expressed willingness to participate in the working group and share data. The International Circumpolar Surveillance TB Working Group has great potential to influence public health in circumpolar countries through members' initial interest and expertise.