



JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE

Planetary Health Alliance

An Affiliate of Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Joyce Cheng and Vennela Avula, MS1s

Mission

To build a planetary health community at Johns Hopkins through advocacy, education, and research focused on the relationship between environmental and human health, as well as sustainability in healthcare.



Objectives

1. Increasing interest in and awareness of planetary health, environmental justice, and sustainable healthcare practices among medical students at Johns Hopkins University.
2. Fostering interdisciplinary collaborations between faculty members, researchers, and students across schools at Johns Hopkins University.
3. Advocating for sustainable healthcare practices and increasing awareness for the impact of the environment on human health through distribution of information to the public in Baltimore and across the United States.
4. Initiating projects related to environmental health and sustainability in healthcare.

Background

- Established in 2019
- Prior activities:
 - First-year medical student selective
 - Three one-hour sessions over the span of 3 weeks
 - Past topics: intro to planetary health, food systems, COVID-19
 - Environmental health research database
- Current leadership board
 - Joyce Cheng, M1
 - Vennela Avula, M1
 - Marcelina Kubica, M1
 - Preetham Bachina, M1

2021-2022 Activities

- Collaborated with Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) to write testimony in support of legislation proposed in the Maryland General Assembly
 - SB273/HB275 – PFAS Chemicals
 - SB783/HB596 – Environmental Human Rights Amendment
- Supported the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative's legislative advocacy through creating social media infographics
 - SB528 – Climate Solutions Now
 - HB108 – Energy Efficient Homes

2021-2022 Activities

SB528

CLIMATE ACTION NOW

SB528 includes innovative policy solutions, funding mechanisms, and opportunities for collaboration that will advance racial equity and environmental justice in Maryland.

Low-income families pay 550% more than non-low-income residents for energy.



These households have less access to healthy homes, medical bills, school supplies, and food.



Energy efficiency can reduce energy costs and increase comfort, air quality, safety, and community resilience.



SB783/HB596

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT



SB783/HB596 will add two new critical protections in the Declaration of Rights in Maryland's constitution.

1. Each person has the fundamental and unalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment.
2. The state, as a trustee, shall protect, enhance, and conserve Maryland's natural resources on behalf of present and future generations.



2021-2022 Activities

- Co-hosted JHU campus-wide Climate & Justice Teach-In Event

SUSTAINABLE HOPKINS INNOVATIVE PROJECTS
PRESENTS

30 | 2022
MARCH

JHU CLIMATE & JUSTICE TEACH-IN

**Intersectional and interdisciplinary discussions
focused on climate change & environmental justice!**



REGISTER HERE!

Environmental Health & Justice Panel
PROF. PETER DECARLO, PROF. PETER WINCH, PROF. PANAGIS GALITASATOS
2-3pm | ZOOM

Sustainable Community Planning & Transitions Panel
PROF. LUIS QUINTERO, PROF. MICHAEL LEVIEN, PROF. MEGAN WEIL LATSHAW,
LEANA HOUSER
2-3pm | ZOOM

Climate & Environmental Justice in Baltimore Panel
PROF. BEN ZAITCHIK, DICK WILLIAMS
3-4pm | ZOOM

Climate Activism and Politics Panel
PROF. LAURA MASON, DR. GWEN DUBOIS
4-5pm | ZOOM

Food System & Climate Justice Panel
PROF. NICOLE LABRUTO, PROF. JESSICA FNAZO
5-6pm | ZOOM

2021-2022 Activities

- Increased student group membership
- Connected with community groups and mentors (ILSR, CPSR, GHHI, Dr. Mel Pavelack)
- Established affiliation with Medical Students for a Sustainable Future (MS4SF)
- Established relationship with student group at UMDSOM
- Established social media presence
 - Follow us on Instagram **@hopkins_planetaryhealth**



Climate Health Curriculum

- First-year medical student selective
- Lack of other formal integration of planetary health into the medical school curriculum
- Climate and Health Certificate program at the school of public health
- Future steps
 - Complete a Planetary Health Report Card (PHRC)
 - Revamp first-year selective course for fall 2022
 - Incorporate environmental/climate health thread into preclinical curriculum
 - Utilize cases and resources from the Climate Resources for Health Education

Other Future Activities

- Write op-eds on environmental justice in Baltimore
- Improve med school composting program
- Collaborate with the JHU Sustainability Leadership Committee (SLC) to improve sustainability of the Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Collaborate with MedChi to write environmental resolutions
- Plan a “toxic tour” with community advocate Glenn Ross



Thanks for your support!