



## Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

## Climate and Health A New Frontier in Medical Education

Virginia Climate and Health Education Collaborative May 7, 2021 Samantha Ahdoot, MD, Chair

## VA Climate and Health Education Summit

- VCU School of Pharmacy
- VCU School of Medicine
- UVA School of Nursing
- UVA School of Medicine
- Lynchburg University Physician Assistant Program
- VA Tech/Carilion School of Medicine
- Georgetown School of Medicine
- George Washington School of Medicine
- Emory School of Medicine
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Additional Partners: Shenandoah University,
- Eastern Virginia Medical School



## Defined by Change

- Medical education is defined by change
- New issues/fields always emerging
- Decades of emerging interest, research, creation of new specialty groups, advocacy and collaboration precede new fields and certifications.



## Defined by Change-Internal Medicine

## **ABIM Certifying Exams**

- 1936: General Internal Medicine
- 1941: Cardiovascular Disease, Gastroenterology and Pulmonary Disease
- 1972: Endocrinology, Diabetes, & Metabolism; Hematology; Infectious Disease
- 1987: Critical Care Medicine
- 1999: Interventional Cardiology
- 2008: Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine
- 2015: Adult Congenital Heart Disease
- 2021: Neurocritical Care

https://www.abim.org/about/exam-information/exam-administration-history/



## Defined by Change-Pediatrics

## **ABP Certifying Board Exams**

- 1934- Pediatrics
- 1961 Pediatric Cardiology
- 1974 Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Neonatal-
- Perinatal Medicine (https://www.abp.org/content/history-abp)
- 1987 Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (Downes JJ, Crit Care Clin, 1992)
- 1992 Pediatric Emergency Medicine (Emergency Care for Children, Growing Pains. NAS, 2007)
- **2002** Pediatric Developmental-Behavioral Medicine (Althouse, J Pediatr, 2007)
- **2019** Pediatric Hospitalist Medicine <a href="https://www.abp.org/news/first-pediatric-hospital-medicine-certification-exam-given">https://www.abp.org/news/first-pediatric-hospital-medicine-certification-exam-given</a>



## Climate Change and Health An Emerging Issue in Medicine

**2007**: American Academy of Pediatrics Climate Change and Child Health Reports

**2010**: Centers for Disease Control Climate and Health Program

**2012**: Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health Masters Certificate in Climate and Health

**2014**: National Medical Association Climate Change and Health Physician Survey



## 2016- U.S. Healthcare Climate Leadership



American College of Physicians (ACP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), American Medical Association (AMA), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), National Medical Association (NMA)...

- •American Academy of Pediatrics- Policy Statement and Tech Report 2015
- American College of Physicians Policy Statement and Toolkit 2016
- •U.S. Global Change Research Program- Climate and Health Report 2016
- •American Public Health Association- Year of Climate Change and Public Health 2017



## A New Health Issue Emerging in Virginia



#### Virginia AAP supports **Regional Greenhouse** Gas Initiative, 2015

**Medical Society of Virginia** Resolution 2016-PASSED

#### Energy Water Waste Purchasing West Broad Street 804/643-6631 nia Chapter utive Committee ara L. Kahler, MD, FAAP President el T. Bartle, MD, FAAP Transportation etary-Treasurer y L. Chung, MD, FAAP diste Past President

#### American Academy of Pediatrics DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN"



#### Virginia Chapter

ond, VA 23220

TO: Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee FROM: Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics DATE: January 28, 2015

Support for SB 1428 RE:

On behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am requesting your support for Senate Bill 1428 (McEachin), Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Commonwealth Resilience Fund established. This legislation introduces vital protection for children from the impacts of rising global temperatures, worsening storms and rising sea levels.

Global warming is a major threat to the health, safety and security of children in Virginia. As global temperatures rise, many other major changes are occurring, including melting glaciers, worsening storms and rising sea levels. These fundamental changes ultimately impact human health, and children are at particularly high risk.

#### **Protecting Human Health in a Changing Climate**

Whereas, a warming world poses significant risks to human health, from: extreme weather events; heat illness; air pollution; allergies; food and water contamination; infectious disease<sup>i</sup>; and...



## 2017- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action



#### **Mission**

Clinician leaders advocating for climate change solutions that protect the health of our patients and communities.

### Vision

Clinicians have the knowledge and mission to play a vital role in protecting the health and prosperity of Virginia's families and communities from climate change. VCCA brings this critical perspective into climate-related policymaking in our state.

### **Pillars**

Education, Advocacy and Community Outreach



## Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

### Education

Delivering conferences and presentations on climate and health at VA medical centers since 2017.

## Advocacy

Supporting climate solutions that protect our patients by protecting the climate.

## **Community Outreach**

Informing Virginians about why climate solutions protect the people and places they love.



## Membership



- Clinicians = all licensed health care providers:
   Physicians, Nurses, Advanced Practice Providers,
   Pharmacists, Therapists, Healthcare Students, etc.
- Over 450 general members
- ~15 members in the Steering Committee
- Geographically concentrated in Northern Virginia and Richmond, with expanding presence throughout the state



## **Building Partnerships**







**Hospitals** 







**Medical Societies** 































## Education



### Health in a Changing Climate Understanding the Impacts on Virginians

#### April 2017

Conference, Inova Fairfax Hospital Climate Change and Health in Virginia

#### January 2018

VCU and UVA Schools of Medicine

Pediatric Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP

#### February 2018

Conference, Bon Secours Health System, Richmond Health in a Changing Climate Understanding the Impacts on Virginians

#### March 2018

Inova Fairfax Hospital
Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Nitin Damle, MD

#### May 2018

Practical Strategies to Promote Student Health, Fishersville VA Lecture on Environmental Health & Climate Change, Jerome Paulson, MD, FAAP

#### September 2018

Conference, Bon Secours Health System, Portsmouth Health in a Changing Climate Understanding the Impacts on Virginians

#### January 2019

Inova Fairfax Hospital
Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Homan Wai, MD, FACP

#### February 2019

Winchester Hospital *Grand Rounds, Jerome Paulson, MD, FAAP* 

#### May 2019

Inova Health System

Ask the Expert Lecture, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP

#### October 2019

Carilion Children's Hospital

Pediatric Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP

#### October 2019

Conference, Carilion Medical Center with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Roanoke

Health in a Changing Climate Understanding the Impacts on Virginians

#### November 2019

Winchester Hospital
Physicians Assistant Program
Lecture on Climate and Health, Nick Snow, MD

#### November 2019

Virginia Commonwealth University Dept. Clinical Pharmacology

Lecture on Climate Risks for Pharmacology, Casey Washington, PharmD

#### March 2020

Inova Fairfax Pediatric Residency Program

Lecture on Climate Change and Children's Health, Tim O'Mara, MD, FAAP

#### April 2020

Eastern Virginia Medical School Lecture on Climate Change in Virginia Jerome Paulson, MD, FAAP

#### August 2020

Georgetown School of Medicine

Pediatrics Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP

#### September 2020

Inova Fairfax Hospital Internal Medicine Grand Rounds Michael Donnenberg, MD

#### February 2021

Conference, University of Virginia School of Nursing Protecting Human Health in A Changing Climate



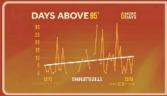


# Health in Virginia's Changing Climate

• 2021 WEBINAR SERIES •

## **VCCA Climate and Health Materials**

#### Health Impacts of Climate Change in Virginia



#### Temperature

Summer heat is becoming more dangerous, putting Virginians at increasing risk of heat illness.

Student athletes, the elderly and outdoor workers are at a particularly elevated risk.

Over just four days in July 2020, 275 Virginians went to an Emergency Department or Urgent Care for heat illness. Virginia Department of Health

#### Lyme Disease

Warmer winters and earlier springs create more favorable conditions for tick and mosquito survival, reproduction and disease transmission.

Between 2006-2017, reported cases of Lyme Disease in Virginia increased 4.6 fold, from 357-1652. Virginia Department of Health

Virginia counties with Lyme Disease carrying ticks increased from 12 in 1996 to 72 by 2016. Eisen et al., Journal of Medical Entomology 53 (2016)





#### Pollen

Increasing pollen counts can increase asthma symptoms. Over the past 30 years in Richmond, the peak pollen count has increased by 35%.

The number of individuals with asthma is on the rise. In 2016, there were 4,120 admissions of Virginians due to asthma (a rate of 4.9 per 10,000).





Society Consortium

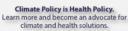
The Medical

#### **Harmful Algal Blooms**

Algal blooms in Virginia's rivers are increasing due to warming water and pollution. These blooms can cause respiratory, skin and neurologic illness in people and pets. The State St

Reports of Algae Blooms are on the Rise

Graph: Virginia Institute of Marine Science



www.ms2ch.org

Virginia Chinicians for Climate Action www.virginiaclinicians.org info@virginiaclinicians.org

#### Act Now to Protect the Health of Virginians

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action's (VCCA) Report on Transportation Emissions in the Commonwealth finds vehicle emissions are contributing to serious health impacts in the Commonwealth. VCCA's over 400 doctors, nurses and allied health professionals recommend policy reform to improve Virginia's air quality by reducing transportation pollution.

The Annual Health Costs of Transportation Pollution in Virginia:

92 Premature Deaths

2,600

Asthma Attacks in Children

\$750 mil

Non-Fatal Heart Attacks

3,310
Cases of Bronchitis & Respiratory Symptoms

Respiratory Symptoms in Children

\*These figures more than double when also factoring in transportation pollution coming from out of state

Transportation Pollution Harms the Most Vulnerable Among Us



CHILDREN: Air pollution is particularly harmful to children, whose lungs, hearts and brains are still developing. Exposure to air pollution is associated with increased child asthma attacks and new-onset asthma, as well as harm to brain development, potentially harming children's long term cognitive function.



OLDER ADULTS: Air pollution increases the risk of heart and lung disease in adults, including exacerbations of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as well as heart attacks and stroke.



220

New Cases of Asthma

10,000

Lost Work Days

PREGNANT PEOPLE: Air pollution exposure has been associated with pregnancy complications, including babies being born too early and too small.



Socially vulnerable communities, which includes those in minority groups, lower wealth and non-English speaking populations, experience 61% higher death rates in Virginia due to air pollution.



## Advocacy

JuliaGohlkeSpeech

## 4<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly Advocacy Day

January 19, 2021





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual VCCA Advocacy Day 2020



## Advocacy

### The Health Voice for Climate Solutions

- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative-PASSED!
- Virginia Clean Economy Act-PASSED!
- Solar Freedom-PASSED!
- Clean Cars-PASSED!
- Environmental Justice-FAILED
- Worker Heat Protections-referred for regulatory implementation



## Virginia Becomes Clean Energy Leader

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2020

Contacts: Office of the Governor: Alena Yarmosky, Alena.Yarmosky@governor.virginia.gov





## Governor Northam Signs Clean Energy Legislation

**RICHMOND**—Governor Ralph Northam is accelerating Virginia's transition to clean energy by signing the Virginia Clean Economy Act and by amending the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act that requires Virginia to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

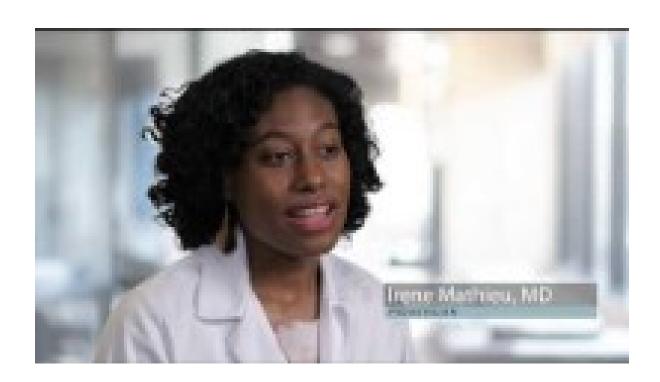
"These new clean energy laws propel Virginia to leadership among the states in fighting climate change," **said Governor Northam**. "They advance environmental justice and help create clean energy jobs. In Virginia, we are proving that a clean environment and a strong economy go hand-in-hand."

The **Virginia Clean Economy Act** was passed as House Bill 1526 and Senate Bill 851, which were sponsored by Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. and Senator Jennifer McClellan, respectively. The Act incorporates clean energy directions that the Governor issued in Executive Order Forty-Three in September 2019. It results from extensive stakeholder input and incorporates environmental justice concepts related to the Green New Deal.



## Community Outreach

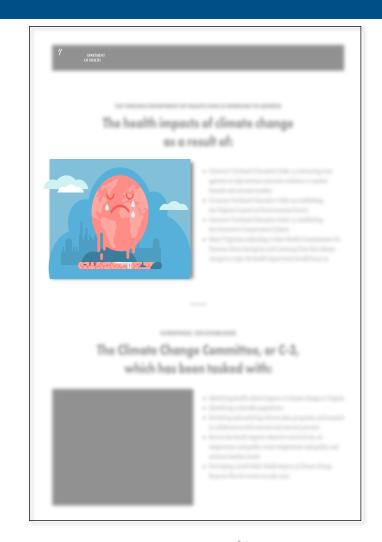
## Dr. Irène Mathieu





## Virginia Department of Health C-3

- ♦ Summit held June 2019
- → Plan WAS expected in 2020...
- **♦2022?**





## VA Climate in Health Education

Just getting started!

More to come tomorrow....



## US Climate in Health Education

## Climate and Health Programming in US Medical Schools (not comprehensive)

- Stanford University School of Medicine
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of Colorado
- Emory University
- Harvard University
- University of Minnesota
- Washington University
- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- University of Wisconsin



## Climate in Health Education

- Student interest groups
  - Electives
- Schools of Public Health Offerings
  - Integration into curriculum



## VA Climate and Health Education Summit

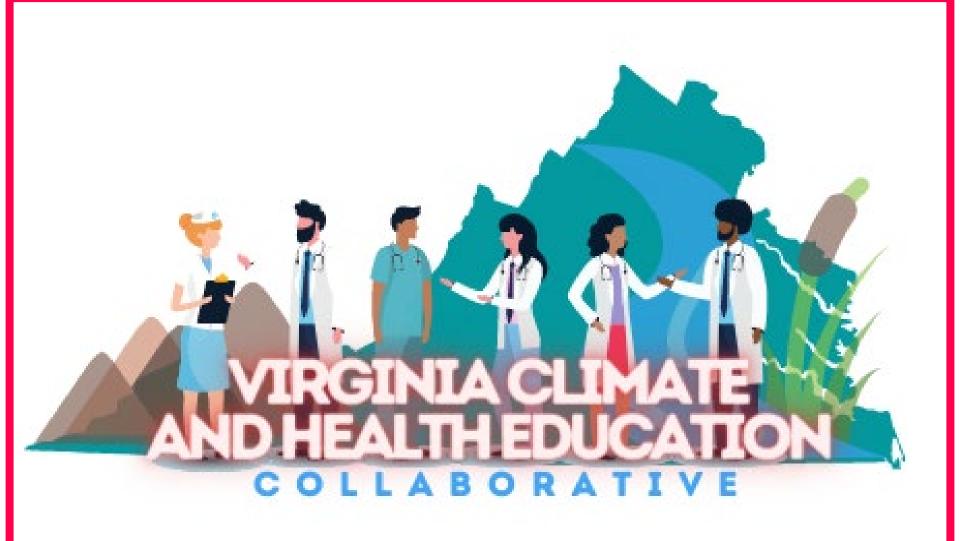
## **Goals for Participants**

- 1. Learn about climate and health programs
- 2. Understand challenges and strategies for success
- **3. Create** *short and long-term* plans for program integration

4. Have fun!





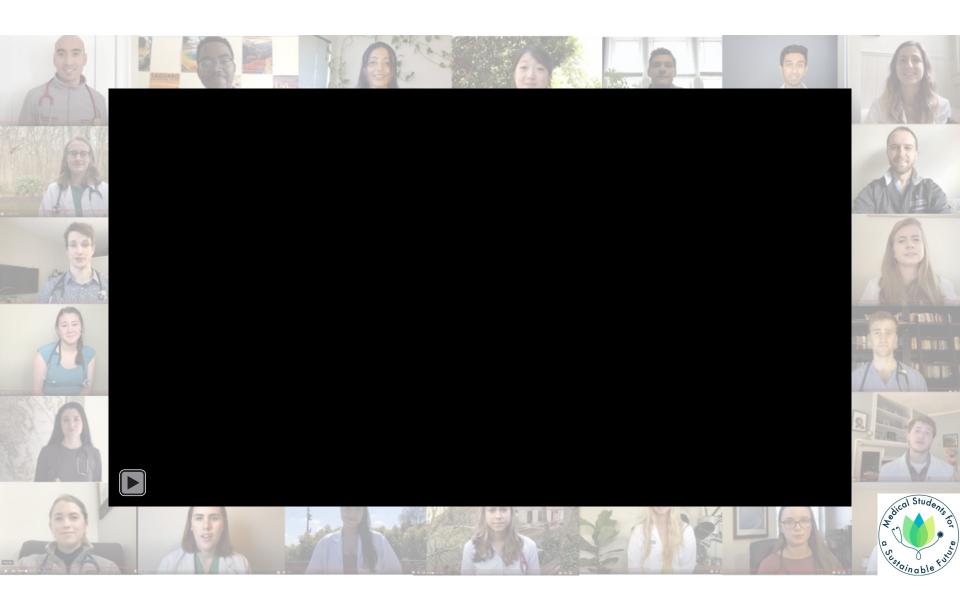


# From Hope to Action: Transformational Change with Medical Students for a Sustainable Future

Harleen Marwah

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action Meeting

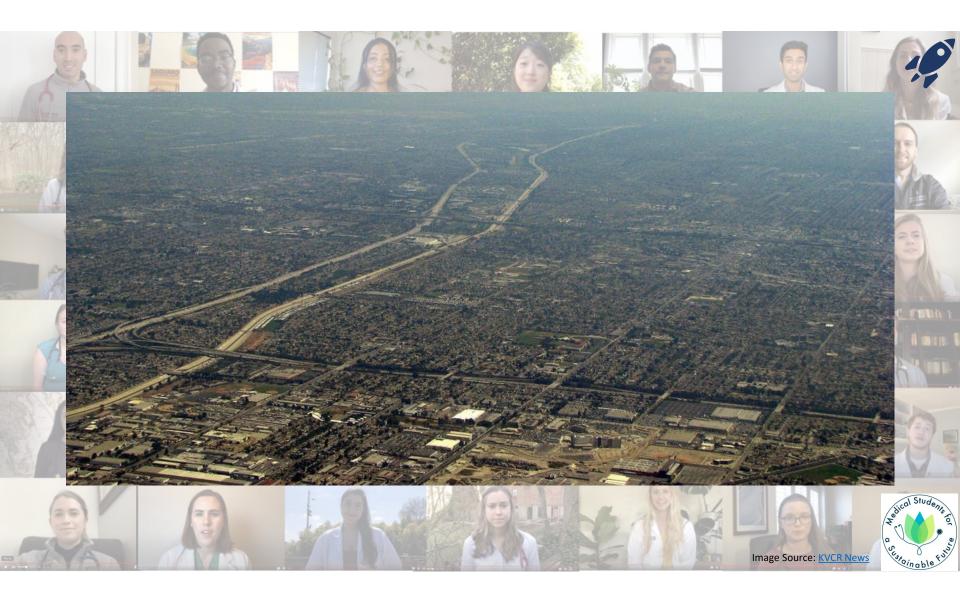




## Agenda















"Today, we can look into the eyes of our children and grandchildren, and we can finally, after so many years of discussion and delay, tell them that we have joined hands to bequeath a more habitable world to them and to future generations."

> Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, December 12, 2015







## Medical Students for a Sustainable Future



## Who is MS4SF?

MS4SF is a growing community of medical students who understand climate change is an urgent threat to health and justice.

We catalyze action to prevent and address the health harms of climate change by:

- Preparing future doctors to care for patients in the context of climate change,
- Equipping students with skills to advocate for their patients, colleagues, and communities with regards to the climate crisis,
- Cultivating a collective voice and building resilience through purpose driven work, and
- **Centering** justice in incorporating anti-racism throughout all our work-streams.



Advocacy

Curriculum

Research

**Partnerships** 

Communication

Climate Smart Health Care

Ocean Health

Plant-Based Health

Finance

Planetary Health Report Card





## Medical Students for a Sustainable Future



**Number of Students** 

< 7.5</p>
7.5 - 15
15 - 22.5
22.5 - 30
> 30

We are a network of over

410

medical students

We come from

105

medical schools across 36 states, D.C. and other countries Global Level:
Partnerships with international medical

National Level: Leadership Board and Sub-Chair Roles

> Regional Level: Local Hubs for Regional Action

> > School Level: Chapters and Affiliates







#### To our Medical Students for a Sustainable Future community:

When we started Medical Students for a Sustainable Future last year, our goal was to create community, develop a collective voice, and build hope through action. I did not anticipate the beautiful energy that we would be tapping into: a growing group of leaders working together to build a healthier, more equitable

> ust read through this newsletter in its ve and meaningful ways that medical ng in climate work.

by reading incredible pieces from our cy Co-Chair Sarah Schear, this one from

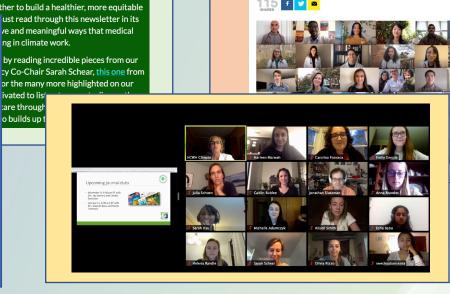
ivated to lis are through o builds up t

#### **Guide to Climate and Health Curriculum Reform in Medical Schools**

Medical Students for a Sustainable Future (MS4SF)

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<ol><li>Penn State: M4 Elective and Syllabus: Climate Change, Health, Health Delivery, and Sustainability [2 weeks]</li></ol>	ncare 19
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Published on April 22, 2020 — 0 Comments

Medical Students Call to Flatten the Curve on

Climate Change: Lessons from COVID-19

by Medical Students for a Sustainable Future at medical schools across the country





A GUIDE TO

### **CLIMATE & HEALTH CURRICULUM REFORM** IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

MS4SF

Medical Students for a Sustainable Future

#### **EDITORS**



CONNECT WITH US

MS4SF



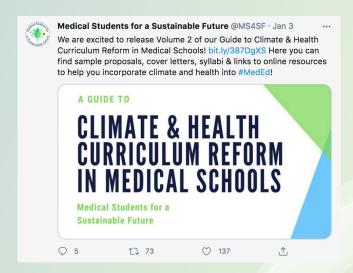






## Curriculum

We encourage medical education to include the intersection of climate change, health equity, and health care delivery.





## Inside the Guide

**Proposals** 



Sample Syllabi



Lesson Materials



**Online Learning** Race and Climate



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## **HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

MS4SF is a non-partisan, national network of medical students who recognize climate change as an urgent threat to health and social justice, and are catalyzing action to prevent and address the health harms of climate change.

As health professionals we must be prepared to face the unprecedented strain climate change will impose on our de the intersection of climate change.

nation to create standardized

Contact: Sarah Hsu and hsu sara

**Brown University**. 10

**ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM** 

An Introduction and Call for Curricula Submissions

The adverse health impacts of climate change disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. It exacerbates existing social, economic, and political disparities compounding

> must be prepared to address the root causes reat BIPOC patients. To date, there is no of climate change. While we have provided ss these injustices. If you are aware of

#### LESSON MATERIALS

1. American College of Physicians Climate Change a. Toolkit can be found here.

b. Includes: Sample powerpoint use in grand rounds, chapter p

#### 2. General Intro to Climate Change and Health Powe

a. A PowerPoint to introduce climate change and health conce (sarah\_hsu@brown.edu) at Brown University.

#### 3. University of Minnesota Climate Change & Health a. UMN Global Health Center Climate-Health Center

b. Climate Change and Health Presentations Google Drive Fo

- i. This set of nine short slide decks created by a team at introduce the connection between climate change and intended to be used by instructors and programs when climate and health in existing courses.
- ii. Topics of the slide decks include:
- 1. Introduction and Resources
- 2. Air Pollution
- 3 Severe Weather 4. Extreme Heat
- 5. Increasing Allergens
- 6. Changes in Vector Ecology
- 7. Water Quality Impact
- 8. Environmental Degradation
- 9. Water and Food Supply c. Contact: Aaron Rosenblum

#### 4. Global Consortium on Climate and Health Educat

a. Columbia University Mailman School of Public health provide exchange ideas and tools to integrate training on health imp b. GCCHE includes 200+ member health professions schools

c. You can find the goals, structure, and resources offered by

#### 5. Planetary Health Report Card (PHRC)

a. PHRC is a medical-student driven initiative designed to inspire medical schools to introduce climate change and planetary health into medical school curriculum, research, community engagement, and student support. You can find the full report and metrics at their website.

PLANETARY HEALTH COMPETENCY

& CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

#### **CFMS Health and Environment Adaptive Response Task Force. 2**

**Contact: Medical student members of HEART** 

Authors (2017-18): Finola Hackett (University of Alberta), Itai Malkin (University of Ottawa), Blake Hol Power (Memorial University), Julia Sawatzky (University of Alberta)

Editors (2018-19): Sasha Létourneau (Queen's University), Natalya O'Neill (University of Toronto), Fin Hackett (University of Alberta), Kira Genise (University of Ottawa), Jacqueline Mincer (Dalhousie University of Ottawa) Kelsev MacQueen (University of Calgary), Tiffany Got (University of Toronto)

#### With support and feedback from the following experts:

- Dr. Courtney Howard, Board President, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Tibetha Kemble, Director, Indigenous Health Initiatives Program, University of Alberta
- . Dr. Jim Talbot, Univ. of Alberta Faculty of Medicine, Former Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alb
- . Dr. Laura Muldoon, Director of Society, the Individual and Medicine curriculum, University of Ottawa
- . Dr. Atanu Sarkar, Memorial University, Community Health and Humanities
- . Dr. Duncan Webster, Division of Infectious Diseases, Dalhousie University
- · Dr. Curtis Lavoie, Department of Pediatrics, University of Ottawa

#### PERSONAL ONLINE LEARNING

CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH PRE-

CLERKSHIP ELECTIVE SYLLABUS

#### 1. IPCC Climate Change and Health Program

a. Free, self-paced, interactive online course taught by the lead author of the health chapter of the most

#### 2. Harvard Online Program: The Health Effects of Climate Change

a. Free 7-week course offered by Harvard University

#### 3. Yale Online Program: Climate Change and Health: From Science to Action Specialization

a. Three six-week courses (\$50 or audit for free)

b. If you need CME credit or want an official Climate Change and Health Certificate, use this link (Cost = \$2,000 for all 3 classes \$900 for one class)

#### 4. Emory's Virtual Climate Change and Health Zoom Droop-In Classes

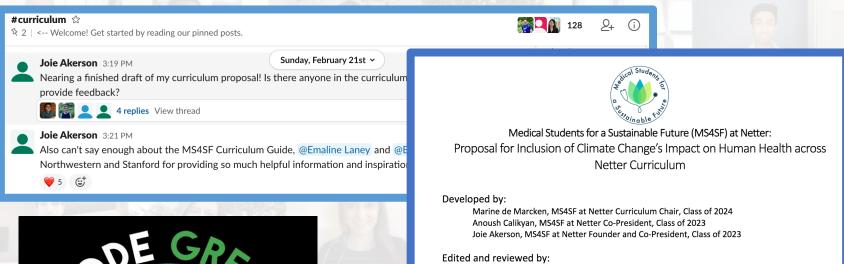
- a. Run by Dr. Rebecca Philipsborn at Emory School of Medicine, with live Zoom lectures given by some of the leading US physician climate advocates. b. Recordings are available at this link
- 5. The CARE Climate and Resilience Academy
  - a. Short, free online courses ranging from 1 to 2 hours to acquire knowledge on community-based adaptation and climate advocacy.
  - b. 1-year paid learning journeys for CARE staff that combine e-learning and coaching to apply their acquired learning on climate and resilience to their projects.
  - c. Find downloadable "trainer packs" on climate resilience

#### 6. List of Readings on Environmental and Racial Injustice

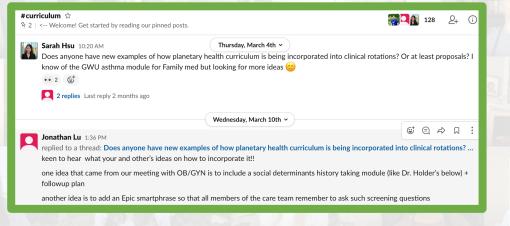
a. This resource was compiled by Brown University alum and Sunrise organizer Nina Wolff-Landau. Additional articles crowdsourced by MS4SF members. Includes articles, books, and podcasts.











Dr. Emily Sbiroli, Chief Resident at UC San Diego Health





LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	Advocacy	Curriculum	Climate Smart Health	Research	Communications & Partnerships	Plant- Based Health	Ocean- Health
Learner  "I have never thought about this issue before, I want to learn more."		<ul> <li>Listen to the Podcast</li> <li>Read the Curriculum Guide</li> </ul>					
Engager "I care about this issue and am seeking ways to get more involved."		<ul> <li>Write for the podcast</li> <li>Write an op-ed or editorial</li> </ul>					
Organizer "I want to lead and create opportunities for others to be change makers."		<ul> <li>Join the leadership team</li> <li>Advocate for change at your school</li> </ul>					



## The work of our inspiring community has been highlighted by the media and academic journals.

LEADING TO HEALTH | ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HEALTH AFFAIRS > VOL. 39, NO. 12: CLIMATE & HEALTH

Pressured By Students, Medical Schools

Grapple With Climate Change

Michele Cohen Marill

## Climate Change Is A Health Crisis, And Doctors Aren't Prepared

The health of every child born today will be affected by climate change. So why is the subject missing from medical school teaching?

By Aditi Malhotra | 05/23/2020 08:00 am ET | Updated Jun 04, 2020

Editorial | Published: 05 November 2020

Make the climate crisis your own research priority

Nature Medicine 26, 1665(2020) | Cite this article

1788 Accesses | 17 Altmetric | Metrics

















# "On the other side of crisis, There is **opportunity**There is **resilience**There is **hope**"







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