Advocating for equitable climate solutions to protect health
The mission of the Consortium is to mobilize and amplify the voices of U.S. doctors, in partnership with public health experts and fellow health professionals, to successfully advocate for equitable climate solutions that protect and promote the health of all people.

Dear Colleagues,

We would have been dubious if someone told us in 2019 that 2020 would be a year of overlapping crises: pandemic disease, racial injustice, economic meltdown, and threats to the stability and future of our democracy. However, we would not have been surprised about 2020 as a year of relentless fires, extreme heat, and more numerous hurricanes. But 2020 has also been a year that demonstrated extraordinary courage and activism of those who, in the face of all of these threats, remain determined to create a better future.

On a more personal level, for many of us and our colleagues, it has been a year spent working from home or in over-run clinical sites protected by PPE. As I write this, our country is grappling with the reality that whatever the losses suffered because of sacrificed social events, canceled travel and missed hugs with loved ones, they pale in comparison to the tremendous loss suffered by families across the country and the inevitable losses still to come.

Despite these crises, the Consortium has made considerable progress this year. Our member societies grew in number to 31, our affiliate partnerships increased to 58, our budget expanded, our incredible staff grew and continued to punch well beyond our weight. State affiliates grew impressively in number, membership, and activity. The Call to Action on Climate, Health, and Equity: A Policy Action Agenda (PAA) is now endorsed by 168 organizations and schools of medicine, nursing, and public health, and 500 hospitals. Several member societies launched their own active internal climate caucuses. The Consortium created improved governance structures and can now boast an expanded and highly engaged Board of national Advisors.

True to our determination to evolve from an education to an education + advocacy platform, we actively asserted the voice of doctors in the run-up to the election. We supported doctors and other health professionals around the country in the creation and dissemination of 30+ personal videos from our “Health Voices for Climate Action” campaign, which reached 153,000 viewers on social media. We also supported advocacy by our network with communication tools like the Open Letter to Candidates and a Dozen Questions Every Candidate Must Answer. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, the Consortium increased its focus on racial injustice and the Consortium State Network expanded anti-racism work. States made significant progress.

The future before us is one of both immense challenge and extraordinary opportunity. A new Administration is committed to making solutions to the climate crisis a priority. We know that advocating for climate solutions as a response to a climate health emergency creates an urgency to move forward, as well as clarity around priorities and greater confidence that solutions will work. In a nutshell, our trusted voices can help shape better policy responses and engender the political will for change.

The COVID-19 crisis has re-enforced everything we know to be true about climate change and health. It has shown that lost opportunities at early prevention has dire consequences, but that prevention does work. It has shown that medical practice only makes sense within a public health context. Most important, it has shown us that health disparities, rooted in systemic racism, must be our highest priority. We must demand that climate solutions deliver climate justice to people and communities who carry an unfair burden of vulnerability to health harms from climate change from simply living where they live.

Finally, this year of Zoom meetings has taught us, yet again, that partnership, organizing and collaboration are alive and well in spite of everything and will remain the key to our success. We thank you for all you have done and all we have done together in 2020. We look forward to working with you again in 2021. Let’s make it a year that will be remembered as a pivot toward a better, healthier future for everyone.

With gratitude and hope,

Mona Sarfaty, MD MPH FAAFP
Executive Director
Over the past four years, what began as an effort focused primarily on educating the public and policymakers about the health harms of climate change and the health benefits of climate solutions has evolved. Over the past 18 months, the Consortium and many other health organizations have weighed in against numerous efforts by the Trump administration to weaken EPA regulations and regulatory processes that protect against climate and health harms. Over that period of time, endorsements of the Policy Action Agenda, which includes 10 priorities for protecting and promoting the health of all people in America in response to a changing climate, have grown rapidly.

In sum, we are shifting from a focus on education to focusing on both education and advocacy. To make this shift more intentional, the Consortium staff, with input from our Steering Committee and Board of Advisors, has worked over the past six months to update our strategic planning framework.

Here and on page 4, we share the highlights of the new framework. We have new vision and mission statements, and we added “mobilizing” as a fourth strategic pillar to the organizing, empowering and amplifying pillars that have guided our work since our founding. The objective of our new strategic framework is to create a roadmap for realizing the full potential of the Consortium’s capacity to advance the equitable protection and promotion of health as the organizing principle for solving climate change.

Our new Vision Statement
A nation that rises fully to the challenge of the climate crisis in ways that are supported by science and evidence to protect and promote the health of all people.

Our Mission Statement
The mission of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health is to mobilize and amplify the voices of U.S. doctors—in partnership with public health experts and fellow health professionals—to successfully advocate for equitable climate solutions that protect and promote the health of all people.
Our Four Strategic Pillars

The Consortium now pursues four core strategies:

**We organize, empower, mobilize, and amplify the voices of doctors to educate and advocate for equitable climate and health solutions.**

**ORGANIZE**
The Consortium organizes medical societies and individual physicians and aligned health professionals at national and state levels. Our organizational structure is intended to encourage physicians and medical societies to interact with each other—and with other health professionals and health organizations—to advance climate solutions that protect and promote the health of everyone in America. We recruit new members, partners and individual physician advocates because there is strength in numbers; both organizations (i.e., grass-tops) and individuals (i.e., grass-roots) are important to building our advocacy capacity.

**EMPOWER**
The Consortium increases the capacity of medical societies, other health organizations, individual physicians, and other health professionals to enhance public and policymaker (including office holders, candidates and appointed officials) understanding of and support for climate policy solutions that protect and promote health and advance equity. We advocate for health- and equity-centered climate solutions. Providing our members, partners, and other influencers with information, tools, and other resources, creates a greater capacity to take effective actions.

**MOBILIZE**
In collaboration with its partners, the Consortium mobilizes medical societies, other health organizations, individual physicians, and other health professionals, to advocate with policymakers in the public sector (and possibly in the private sector) with the aim of advancing health- and equity-centered solutions to climate change. Moving medical professionals and their organizations into more active engagement as advocates is critical to achieving our objectives.

**AMPLIFY**
The Consortium amplifies the voices of physicians and other health professionals, member societies and its partners when they speak about climate change and health—so that collectively they will be more effective in building public and political will for healthy, equitable climate solutions. The climate, health and equity movement is growing and, as more health voices are raised, the Consortium will serve to ensure key audiences hear a steady drumbeat of simple, clear messages from trusted medical sources. The Consortium aims to ensure wide circulation of relevant, relatable stories that drive home the core message that climate change is harming our health, and that climate solutions are health solutions.

Taken together, our strategic framework recognizes that achieving our mission will rely on collaborating and coordinating our efforts with health allies to ensure the climate and health movement grows in size and influence.

To visualize this, we created a graphic (p.5) to represent the climate and health movement’s Theory of Change.

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The Medical Society Consortium
ON CLIMATE & HEALTH

Theory of Change

OUR GOAL
Implementation of equitable climate solutions that protect and promote health.

HARNESSING THE POWER OF NATURE, TECHNOLOGY, & COLLABORATION

POLICY MAKERS
Local, State, & Federal

PUBLIC
Voters concerned about climate change

Organize • Empower • Amplify • Mobilize

Members, States, Affiliates, & Advocates

Health Voices
Trusted voices of health professionals are effective at conveying the message that climate change is real, is harming our health now, and climate solutions will benefit health.

5 | Annual Report 2020
May 17-19, 2020

In a year in which COVID-19 highlighted the urgency of building up our nation’s public health infrastructure, the Consortium acknowledged that crisis and continued our work of organizing, empowering, and amplifying the voices of doctors on another health emergency: climate change. From May 17-19, the Consortium brought together over 200 doctors, nurses, and health professionals, at its fully online 2020 Annual Meeting.

The theme, ‘Climate Solutions are Health Solutions: The Climate and Health Roadmap’, explored the short-term and long-term health benefits of climate solutions. Participants gained from presentations, breakout discussions, and sharing firsthand knowledge of the widespread health harms of climate change, worsened this year by COVID-19 against the backdrop of ill health caused by air pollution and other social determinants of health, including racism.

Highlights included a state affiliates workshop to discuss progress with state advocacy, and meetings of the Steering Committee and new Board of Advisors on Day 1, and timely speaker presentations on Day 2 with time allocated for regional discussions among attendees on the linkages between climate, health, and equity.

At the end of Day 2, in partnership with the American Lung Association, the Consortium trained advocates who conducted over 60 virtual visits to Congressional Representatives to share data and stories about climate change and health, and ask members of Congress to ensure that any recovery packages related to COVID-19 prioritize preparing America for future public health emergencies – including climate change.

Sunday May 17 launched the Annual Meeting with a workshop of 13 state clinicians for climate action groups and meetings of the Steering Committee and Board of Advisors. The state workshop featured Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, and Oregon state affiliates and their policy work on state climate and health issues, including sugar cane burning, renewable energy, transportation, and the role of clinicians in climate action. Organizing and advocacy tools were shared with states to support their work, including a toolkit for state organizing, a guide for launching a state affiliate website, and key messaging for communicating about the Policy Action Agenda (see climatehealthaction.org) in the context of COVID-19.

Monday May 18 began with an opening address by leaders of the Consortium and the Center for Climate Change Communication, Mona Sarfaty, Ed Maibach and Board of Advisors Co-Chair Bill Novelli, and student climate change activist Harleen Marwah on the power of the voice of doctors, especially in an era of COVID-19. This set the stage for our first panel of the afternoon on the numerous ways in which both climate change and COVID-19 impact health. Panelists from a range of medical specialties presented on the inequitable distribution of climate change impacts based on past and continuing racial injustice exemplified by redlining and the urban heat island effect, severe COVID-19 infections in people exposed to poor air quality, and the great need for mental health interventions for vulnerable populations exposed to severe and lingering weather disasters.

The second panel of the afternoon dove into a discussion of the health benefits of policy action across the priorities outlined in the U.S. Call to Action on Climate, Health and Equity: A Policy Action Agenda, including transportation, food and agriculture, energy and methane, health systems, and hospitals.

Regional breakouts throughout the day brought doctors and other health professionals together with those in their geographic region to engage in facilitated discussion on the panel topics, inviting attendees to share how they have advocated for and moved policy change on health and equity in the face of climate change.
At the end of the day, training was hosted in partnership with the American Lung Association to prepare advocates for virtual calls to the Congressional Representatives the following day. The training guided participants in how to craft and communicate a personal story in a way that calls decision-makers to action.

Tuesday May 19 saw a well-organized turnout of doctors and other health professionals who contacted their Congressional Representatives by phone across 20 states and D.C. There were over 60 conversations with Congressional members and staff.

We hope to grow this network and its capacity to leverage their collective voice in support of equitable and health-focused climate solutions. With the advent of the Biden administration in 2021 that is making climate change one of its principal priorities, it should be possible to build momentum. Solving climate change means addressing the health needs of the U.S. population, especially access to clean air, clean water, and access for everyone to the conditions needed to achieve the best possible health. By bringing a growing number of doctors and other health professionals together at our Annual Meeting every year and arranging for them to visit their representatives in Congress, we intend to amplify these health voices for climate action.
A Year in Review

Consortium attends the Kresge Climate Health Equity meeting in Atlanta.

Earth Day: Consortium releases new posters on the Health Benefits of Climate Action.

House Select Committee releases Report: ‘Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy and Just America’.

Consortium begins Anti-Racism book club (How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi).

Consortium releases non-partisan Voter Resources (Open Letter to Candidates, A Dozen Questions Every Candidate Must Answer, Guidance for Engaging with Candidates)

Consortium hosts four CME Webinars on Disaster Relief, Waste & Ophthalmology, Heat & Dermatology, Disabilities & Equity.

Health Voices for Climate Action campaign launches 30 videos and reaches 153,000 views.

Dec 14: COVID-19 deaths reach 300,000 in the U.S. and the 1st vaccine is given.
Our Voices are Stronger Together

- The Consortium brings together 31 member societies representing over 60% of U.S. physicians, and 58 affiliated health and science organizations representing millions of health professionals across diverse areas of practice.

- The U.S. Call to Action on Climate, Health & Equity: A Policy Action Agenda is endorsed by 168 organizations and schools of medicine, nursing, and public health, and 500 hospitals. [Sign on at climatehealthaction.org »]

- Advocates increased their climate and health activities by over 30% in 2020. Since 2017, advocates have logged a total of 1593 activities! These include: 566 presentations, 514 published media articles and interviews, 94 research publications, and 419 policy activities.

- Our website received over 75,000 views in 2020 – increasing 2019 traffic by more than 50%. Social Media engagement increased in 2020 over 280% with new followers up 33%. Our Health Voices for Climate Action videos have been viewed 153,000 times!
Consortium Resources

In 2020, we developed a variety of resources to help inform the public about climate and health, and provide useful tools for physicians and other health professionals. Our most viewed resources in 2020 include the Health Benefits of Climate Action posters, Advocacy Guides, and Health Voices for Climate Action videos.

Health Benefits of Climate Action Posters

Health Voices for Climate Action Videos

Advocacy Guides

Reneable Energy Standards: a strategy to transition rapidly away from the use of coal, oil, and natural gas to clean, safe, and affordable renewable energy.
We are growing our state network

The Consortium’s network of state affiliates has had a year of growth, action, and focused advocacy on health equity and climate justice despite the pandemic. Support of the widespread outcry against systemic racism was clear. In the face of increasing health professional interest, the state affiliate network grew by four members to a total of 14, with the addition of Michigan, South Carolina, California, and Colorado. At the same time, with support from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we were able to increase our support to and involvement with affiliated states, providing more training, policy engagement, and networking opportunities. The Consortium broadcast webinars on storytelling, media relations, election advocacy, and fundraising.

All programming was virtual, and state affiliates became creative with recruitment and education, policy advocacy, non-partisan election advocacy, collaboration with grassroots environmental and climate justice organizations, fundraising, and media engagement. A number of members of the state affiliates served selflessly on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After the killing at the hands of the police of another unarmed African American man–George Floyd–and the uprisings that followed, states renewed their commitment to health and equity. Almost all states hosted programming this year to engage and educate health professionals on the intersections of racism and climate change, and the promise of equitable health and climate solutions. Consortium staff facilitated an anti-racist book club with participants from across the state network.

FLORIDA

Florida Clinicians for Climate Action (FCCA) had a significant year in both policy advocacy and public affairs. FCCA leveraged its health voice in support of the Stop The Burn campaign, which is working to stop the toxic and discriminatory practice of sugar cane burning, and in support of energy efficiency standards and investments for low income communities. FCCA hosted a webinar, “Racial Disparities in Climate–Health Outcomes,” in partnership with First Coast Black Nurses Association, and the North East Florida Medical Society. FCCA physicians were featured in dozens of media hits on key climate and health issues and hosted webinars on many of these same topics in order to educate and engage Florida clinicians.

GEORGIA

In its inaugural year, Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action (GCCA) worked to recruit, connect, and educate on climate and health. Early in the year, GCCA launched their website, newsletter, and conducted an informal survey of 27 medical professionals to get a better understanding of how the group could be effective. The group went on to connect with a number of other Georgia-based groups to partner on environmental justice issues, and solutions. Members worked on or were featured in a number of op-eds and gave climate and health presentations. GCCA is also working with partners on a climate education agenda in medical school curricula.

CALIFORNIA

California’s Climate Health Now (CHN) affiliated with the Consortium this summer and sought national leadership for work on the 2020 election. CHN started the work by focusing on healthy and safe voting, co-hosting numerous action webinars, drafting a letter to county election officials across California, and publishing op-eds. CHN also produced a toolkit with questions for election Candidates. Members led a coalition of climate health groups to produce and circulate a Dear Patient letter urging a vote for climate and health, which garnered over 5,000 signatures from physicians, nurses and medical students and was covered by state media outlets across the country. CHN also advocated for a buffer-zone bill to protect frontline communities from oil and drilling sites and for proposals on a Green Stimulus and Just Recovery from COVID-19, and members testified on the need for policies supporting decarbonization on the state and county level.

MICHIGAN

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action (MiCCA) launched in April 2020, and pursued significant advocacy on climate and health issues in the state. In addition to recruiting members, hiring a staff member, connecting with other organizations in the state, and launching their newsletter, they were extremely engaged around the 2020 elections. They sent out an open letter to 220 candidates in the state, calling on them to feature the evidence-based health and climate action message in their campaigns. They published a number of op-eds and gave climate and health presentations. MiCCA is also working with partners on a climate education agenda in medical school curricula.
The Consortium:

- Designed non-partisan advocacy materials around the 2020 election for state groups to use in their election advocacy efforts, including:
  - an Open Letter to Candidates, which was sent to over 250 candidates,
  - Candidate Questions,
  - Guidance for Engaging with Candidates, and
  - an Op-Ed Template.

- Staff produced videos of over 30 state network members sharing their health and climate stories as part of the Health Voices for Climate Action Initiative. These videos were viewed 153,000 times.

- Convened five all-state network calls this year, including a workshop at the annual meeting.
  - e-published the Toolkit for State Organizing, a comprehensive guide to building a state Clinicians for Climate Action group.

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action helped achieve major legislative and policy wins in 2020 by educating members of the legislature about the health benefits of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which charts a path for attaining zero carbon emissions from energy production by 2045, and joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). In October, VCCA issued a report on transportation, climate and health in Virginia and will advocate for clean transportation in 2021. VCCA also deepened its environmental justice work by collaborating with the Concerned Citizens of Charles City County. VCCA launched a monthly webinar series with continuing education credits, educating over 400 clinicians in five months. Members wrote or were featured in dozens of news articles on climate and health this year.

Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action (WHPCA) saw major growth this year both in terms of membership and action. As their membership grew to more than 250 clinicians, WHPCA launched seven workgroups, including physician education, policy advocacy, and anti-racism. WHPCA members participated in the Wisconsin Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change, and were quoted in a dozen media hits about their work on the task force. Leading up to the 2020 elections, the group customized the Consortium’s non-partisan candidate toolkit to encourage Wisconsin candidates to talk about climate & health, as well as setting up virtual candidate forums, and publishing op-eds about the election. Members participated in the Wisconsin statewide week of action on climate: Coal Costs Us, and produced an effective webinar educating the public on the health effects of coal, which is getting aired through a coalition of environmental and social justice groups. In October, WHPCA with the help of the Consortium, released the report MEDICAL ALERT! Climate Change Is Harming Our Health in Wisconsin.
Steering Committee

Robert McLean
MD, MACP, FRCP, SC Chair
American College of Physicians

Justin Bishop
MD, MBA, MS, SC Vice-Chair
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Sarah Hwang
MD
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Mona Sarfaty
MD, MPH, FAAFP
The Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health

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ND, SC Secretary
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Mimi Guarneri
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American Academy of Dermatology

Julie Wood
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Samuel Snyder
DO, FACOI
American College of Osteopathic Internists
Thank you to Drs. Marcus Boos, Beth Gillespie, Yuka Manabe, Claude Tellis, and Mary Williams for also serving on our Steering Committee during 2020.
Member Societies

Our member organizations are committed to working with officials at all levels to reduce emissions of heat-trapping pollution, as well as with health agencies to promote research on effective interventions and ways to strengthen public health infrastructure, all with the aim of protecting human health from climate change.

- Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM)
- American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI)
- American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R)
- American Association for Community Psychiatry (AAPCP)
- American College of Emergency Physicians, California (CalACEP)
- American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)
- American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM)
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
- American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI)
- American College of Physicians (ACP)
- American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM)
- American Geriatrics Society (AGS)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA)
- American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA)
- American Psychiatric Association (APA)
- American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (ASCRS)
- American Telemedicine Association (ATA)
- Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP)
- Endocrine Society
- Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
- National Medical Association (NMA)
- Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM)
- Society for Pediatric Dermatology (SPD)
- Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM)
- Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO)
Affiliate Organizations

Our affiliates are health and science organizations aligned with the *Consensus Statement* regarding the health threats of climate change and the health benefits of solutions.

- African Heritage PA Caucus
- Allergy & Asthma Network
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- American Cancer Society
- American Geophysical Union
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Medical Student Association
- American Meteorological Society
- American Psychological Association
- Arkansas Medical Society
- Association for Humanistic Psychology
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Children’s Environmental Health Network
- Citizen’s Climate Lobby – Climate and Health
- Clean Air Carolina: Medical Advocates for Healthy Air
- Climate for Health / ecoAmerica
- Climate Health Now
- Climate Psychiatry Alliance
- Florida Clinicians for Climate Action
- Health Care Without Harm
- Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (Minnesota)
- Healthy Air & Water Colorado
- International Society for Social Pediatrics & Child Health
- Islamic Medical Association of North America
- Maine Medical Association
- Massachusetts Medical Society
- Medical Society of Northern Virginia
- Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
- Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
- Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
- Michigan State Medical Society
- Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group
- Moms Clean Air Force
- Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
- Mothers & Others for Clean Air
- Mound City Medical Forum (St. Louis)
- My Green Doctor
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Environmental Health Association
- Ohio Clinicians for Climate Action
- Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Physicians for Policy Action
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Physicians, Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy
- Rhode Island Medical Society
- South Carolina Health Professionals for Climate Action
- The Global Climate & Health Alliance
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- US Climate and Health Alliance
- Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
- Vermont Climate & Health Alliance
- Vermont Medical Society
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
- Washington Pediatricians for Climate Action
- Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action
- Wisconsin Medical Society
Meet our Team

Mona Sarfaty  
MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Executive Director

Edward Maibach  
MPH, PhD  
Board of Advisors Liaison and  
4C Director

Robert Gould  
PhD  
Strategic Communications  
Director

Kate Hoppe  
MPH, MA  
Operations Director

Mark Mitchell  
MD, MPH, FACPM  
State Affairs Director

Wendy Cook  
Digital Communications  
Director

Colin Nackerman  
Associate Director of Policy  
and Operations

Beverly Harp  
Digital Communications Manager,  
State Outreach Coordinator

Savannah Martincic  
Social Media Outreach  
Intern

Mohamed Ahmed  
Finance Manager

Medical Society Consortium  
on Climate and Health  
Revenue and Expenses

CY20 Total Revenue .......... $635,055.00  
CY20 Total Expenses........ $457,335.19

A portion of this revenue is allocated to cover 2021 expenses.
Thank you for your support

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Wendy Ring
Mary E. Schmidt
Krupal Shah
Nick D. Snow & Cathleen McCoy

Kathleen Carney-Godley
Sara Cate
David F. Chang

Daniel Trajano & Paula Thomsen
Zachary C. Wachtel
Our Climate Champions

Our climate champions are health care leaders whose lives demonstrate their commitment to protecting the health of their patients by battling climate change. They know the trust people place in them to understand the science, and they realize the power of their voices in speaking out, with both passion and compassion, to help to create a more equitable society in a healthier world.

Dr. Gredia Huerta-Montañez is an environmental health pediatrician in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Experiencing the devastation of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, she is helping Puerto Ricans to recover, and promoting climate action and resilience. Dr. Huerta-Montañez is also leading the formation of the Puerto Rico Clinicians for Climate Action group.

Samantha Rodriguez and Miranda Ricart, medical students at Florida International University in Miami, worked with other students and FIU faculty to successfully insert climate and health into courses in their curriculum. They believe that all physicians need to know how climate change relates to health.

Carol Lindsey, a nurse practitioner in Coral Gables, Florida, is a retired captain in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. Her focus now is on educating nurses and others about climate and health. She especially wants to provide nurses with health and climate information that will help their patients respond to the climate crisis.

Dr. Hayley Guilkey, a pediatrician in Little River, South Carolina, lives and works in the Low Country along the Atlantic coast, where climate change creates related crises – rising heat, rising sea levels and more powerful hurricanes. She works to show South Carolinians the source of the problem, what they can do about it, and how they can protect their health.

Dr. Chirantan Mukhopadhyay, an ophthalmologist in Milwaukee, is working for a better future for his children – and everyone else’s. Dr. Mukhopadhyay is working toward having all Wisconsin hospitals carbon-neutral by 2030, and on creating patient-centered information packages about climate change.

Dr. Rebecca Philipsborn is an assistant professor at Emory University and treats patients at a clinic in Atlanta. Her clinical work with children and her teaching work with medical students is preparing young people for their futures. For her pediatric patients, this includes heat stress – her city has earned the nickname “Hotlanta.” For her medical students, she led in the creation of an elective course on climate change and clinical medicine.

Dr. Andrew Lewandowski, a pediatrician in Madison, Wisconsin, takes a whole-body approach to the health of his patients and of the planet. Beyond his interactions with patients, his civic work focuses on decarbonization of Wisconsin while making its economy stronger and its citizens healthier.

Dr. Linda Walden, a family physician in the South Georgia community of Cairo, has a deep interest in educating the public, especially about climate justice. Her outreach includes op-eds in area publications and creating news events, such as a White Coats for Black Lives event that focused on inequities for Blacks in the health care and justice systems.

Dr. Joel Charles, a family medicine specialist in Soldiers Grove, in rural southwestern Wisconsin, sees the COVID-19 pandemic as a sort of test case for the stresses that climate change can bring to bear on health systems. His work in statewide COVID-19 planning lets him show political leaders that health care systems need to be more resilient in their capacity to respond to major challenges such as climate change and the pandemic.

Dr. Teddie Potter, a clinical professor of nursing at the University of Minnesota, is an outdoors person who worries about what she sees happening in the environment. She has made it her mission to try to turn things around as her legacy to her grandchildren. She works on the planetary health scale and on the local scale. She has helped to make climate change a part of the health science schools at the University of MN. “Our planet is in multisystem failure,” she says. “But we are remarkable in preserving life. It is not a hospice situation.”
The Consortium is headquartered at the Center for Climate Change Communication, on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.