

Climate change is a health emergency. The next ten years is a critical window of opportunity to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis. To meet this challenge, major national medical societies—in partnership with state medical societies, public health, nursing and other allied health professional societies, and leading health organizations—have come together to form the Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health. Our shared conviction is that climate change is a health emergency that must be overcome. Our shared goal is to create a future where all people have clean air, clean water and nutritious food, and where the climate has returned to a stable state.

The Problem

Climate change is already harming Americans' health in many ways. We are experiencing more illness and deaths from heat waves, extreme weather events, water, food, and insect borne diseases, wildfires, and increased air pollution. Without immediate and concerted action, these harms will become much worse. While everyone's health is threatened, those who are most vulnerable include children and seniors, pregnant women, individuals with certain chronic illnesses, and people living in communities already disadvantaged by poverty, racial discrimination and environmental injustice.

To address this problem our Consortium organizes, empowers, and amplifies the voice of doctors and other health professionals to advocate for equitable and effective health-focused climate solutions.

Organize



- Since our launch in 2016 our membership has grown rapidly to 33 national medical societies representing well over 600,000 physicians—more than 60% of U.S. doctors.
- We also have 61 partner organizations representing millions of health professionals across the entire spectrum of health care and public health. Other partners include the American Lung Association, American Heart Association and American Cancer Society—each with a strong grass roots membership.

Empower



- We supported the formation of and/or helped strengthen 16 state “clinicians for climate action” groups (California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin). These state-focused groups influence public opinion and advocate for state-level policies supporting shifts to a healthy, sustainable future.
- In partnership with several partner organizations, we developed and released a *U.S. Policy Action Agenda on Climate, Health and Equity* (June 2019) to establish principles for equitable and effective health-focused climate solutions (see climatehealthaction.org). Currently endorsed by more than 200 physician, nursing and public health professional societies and academic institutions, and 500 hospitals, the *Agenda* provides ten key policy priorities to address climate change and promote the health of all Americans.

Amplify



- Our work and our experts have been featured in the news more than 700 times over the past 3 years. The release of our *Policy Action Agenda* alone—which featured our declaration that “climate change is a health emergency”—generated more than 450 stories.
- We have organized over 1000 individual health professionals—climate and health advocates—who are now available in communities across the country to speak with local media, engage with local policymakers, and make community presentations. In 2020 alone, these climate and health advocates—who currently reside in 42 states—gave 124 presentations, had 79 meetings with policymakers, and published 219 op-eds and 59 research papers. Over 3 years, they have given 597 presentations, 548 media interviews or op-eds, and 447 policy meetings.
- We know the way forward is for the health sector to join forces with others to rebuild to a better society. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that our health cannot wait.

Our Members and Affiliates

MEMBERS: Academic Pediatric Association, 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 (AAPC), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), American College of Emergency Physicians CA, American College of Emergency Physicians WI, 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).

Executive Director: Dr. Mona Sarfaty; **Steering Committee Chair:** Dr. Robert M. McLean.

AFFILIATES: African Heritage PA Caucus, Allergy & Asthma Network, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, American Cancer Society, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, 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: North Carolina Clinicians for Climate Action, 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, Interfaith Public Health Network, International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health, Islamic Medical Association of North America, Maine Medical Association, Massachusetts General Hospital Center for the Environment and Health, 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 and Engineers for Healthy Energy, Puerto Rico Clinicians for Climate Action, 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.

Our Board of Advisors

John Balbus MD MPH, Senior Advisor for Public Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Doris Browne MD MPH, 118th President of the National Medical Association, President/CEO of Browne and Associates.

Michael Coburn, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Research!America.

Gary Cohen MBA, President and Founder, Health Care Without Harm, MacArthur Genius Award Winner.

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Reed Tuckson MD, President, Tuckson Health Connections and former Chief of Medical Affairs, United Health Group.

There is no time to waste. We must act now. Our Consortium welcomes collaboration and partnerships at all levels: national, state and local. For more information, contact us at info@medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org