2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Taking Action for Health and Equity: The Promise of Climate Solutions
Dear Friends, Supporters, and Colleagues,

Once again, thanks for your work, your voice, and your advocacy. With your help, the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health has helped move the country in the direction of addressing climate change as a health emergency and a health opportunity.

The new Administration and supportive legislators signaled an all-of-government commitment to act on climate. The country will benefit from government incentives and support for clean renewable energy and resilience measures through investments in a 21st century clean energy economy – affecting buildings, transportation, industry, electricity, and climate smart agriculture practices across U.S. lands and waters – and a commitment to a decarbonized health system.

The challenge from here is to make sure that executive and legislative advances are implemented fully, in the way that was intended, and to accelerate progress. Meeting this challenge will require effective advocacy by medical professionals at the national, state and community level. Our 2022 national online annual meeting (March 5-7) will equip all who attend with the knowledge and support they need to accelerate climate progress in the interest of health and equity.

The relentless onslaught of heat waves, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires brings home the message that climate change is a health emergency. But the need for change – especially rapid change – can scare people, and there will be those who will take every opportunity to raise those fears. We are countering fear with evidence-based information and messages of hope and opportunity. Clean energy and zero carbon transportation will bring cleaner air and better access to personal mobility. Climate smart agriculture will provide healthier soil, cleaner water, and better access to safer more nutritious food. Climate-resilient hospitals will bring more stable access to health care. Climate resilient communities mean greater fairness to those who have suffered injustice.

At this critical moment when people are recognizing that our climate future is our health future, we will make the case that accelerating climate solutions will benefit health and equity, not just in the long run, but right now.

We thank you again and hope you enjoy this look at our 2021 activities.

Regards,

Mona Sarfaty, MD MPH FAAFP
Executive Director

medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org
2021: A Year of Action for Climate and Health
Our Four Strategic Pillars

The Consortium 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, 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 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.
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

Organize • Empower • Amplify • Mobilize
Members, States, Affiliates, & Advocates

Public
Voters concerned about climate change

Activated by the health relevance of climate change

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.
Annual Meeting

May 21-25, 2021

Taking Action for Health and Equity: The Promise of Climate Solutions

The Consortium has made its mark on the public discussion of climate change as a health issue, indeed, as a health emergency. Through our core strategies—to organize, empower and amplify—we have supported development of a sustained and growing climate and health movement in the United States. Now, a new federal administration, committed to making climate solutions a priority, combined with a new Congress, presents an opportunity for the Consortium to move fully into the advocacy space and mobilize our network for change. From May 21-25, more than 220 doctors, nurses, and health professionals attended our online 2021 Annual Meeting and made more than 130 virtual visits to Congressional offices.

This year’s meeting was especially momentous in the breadth and immediacy of the topics and also the prominence of our speakers and their influence on the local and national stage. Highlights included keynotes on the “Outlook for Climate in the 117th Congress” by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and the “Perspective from the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis” by Staff Director of the Committee, Dr. Ana Unruh Cohen. Throughout the meeting, our theme, ‘Taking Action for Health and Equity: The Promise of Climate Solutions’, made clear the immediate opportunities for national and local action to bring about a lasting and positive impact on our communities. Participants gained from keynotes, panels, a breakout discussion, workshops, and continuing medical education covering a range of current topics from electric vehicles to wildfires and asthma and climate in medical education.

With the inspiration and tools gained throughout the meeting, and in partnership with the American Lung Association, participants took (virtually) to the offices of their Congressional Representatives to advocate for climate solutions.

Friday May 21. We launched the Annual Meeting Friday evening with three engaging workshops. In Plant-Forward Cooking, the Culinary Institute of America provided a cooking demonstration on ways to reduce meat intake for improved health and reduced methane gas production through several plant-based recipes featuring cauliflower. In How to Buy an Electric Vehicle, Plug-in America highlighted trends in the electric vehicle market and addressed misconceptions about EV ownership and use. And in Greening Your Medical Practice, My Green Doctor discussed healthcare’s contribution to greenhouse gases and ways for clinics and offices to both save money and reduce their carbon footprint.

Saturday May 22. The first full day of the meeting began with two CME sessions led by doctors on how they have worked to make the links between issues like wildfire and asthma by incorporating climate into medical education. The second session was on the impact of climate change on patient dermatology. Participants returned for a welcome address and the introduction of the Consortium’s inaugural Climate and Health Equity Fellows, six National Medical Association (NMA) doctors from southeastern states who have engaged this year in learning and activities for advancing climate and health justice.
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse followed with a keynote informing the audience on what stance we could anticipate the 117th Congress would take on the issue of climate. Several afternoon panels discussed different aspects of the transportation system and its influence on climate, health, and equity, as well as the promise of climate solutions across several key areas. A feature presentation highlighted an economic analysis of the costs of climate inaction. The day ended with a joint meeting of the Consortium Steering Committee and Board of Advisors.

**Sunday May 23.** Another two CME sessions began the second full day of the meeting with topics covering how climate change impacts birth outcomes and climate concerns seen in urgent and emergency care. Following the afternoon break, participants were greeted with our second keynote by Dr. Ana Unruh-Cohen on perspectives on climate action from the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. This led into our final two panels on climate in medical education by Medical Students for a Sustainable Future and considerations for a healthy and climate neutral food system through the practice of regenerative agriculture. Sunday closed with a brief overview of the upcoming training and visits with Congress.

**Monday May 24 and Tuesday May 25.** On Monday evening, training was hosted in partnership with the American Lung Association to prepare advocates for virtual visits to Congress 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 saw a well-organized turnout of 118 doctors and other health professionals who contacted their Congressional Representatives by phone and zoom across 35 states and D.C. There were over 130 conversations with Congressional members and staff.

As the enthusiastic turnout for the 2021 Annual Meeting and visits with Congress show, there is much momentum in the health community for engaging in learning and advocacy on the issue of climate change and promoting immediate action. The Consortium continues to move forward in organizing, empowering, and now mobilizing this growing network by making it ever easier for the voices of doctors to be heard on local and national stages.
Taking Action for Health and Equity: The Promise of Climate Solutions

Consortium and health groups send “Go Big at COP26” Letter to President Biden

Consortium meets with Arsenio Mataka, Senior HHS Advisor for Climate and Health Equity

Consortium meets with EPA Administrator Michael Regan

Consortium online Annual Meeting and visits to Congress (p.6-7)

Our Year of Advocacy

JAN
- Consortium meets with Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor
- Consortium and allies deliver Recommendations to Biden-Harris Administration
- Consortium issues Brief on Clean Energy Standard

FEB
- White House Executive Order on “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”

MAR
- Publication of the first issue of Journal of Climate Change and Health
- Consortium and health groups deliver Recommendations to HHS
- Consortium and health groups send “Go Big at COP26” Letter to President Biden

APR
- Consortium meets with Arsenio Mataka, Senior HHS Advisor for Climate and Health Equity

MAY
- Consortium meets with EPA Administrator Michael Regan
- Consortium online Annual Meeting and visits to Congress (p.6-7)

JUN
- With VCCA, Consortium launches advocacy alert tool
- Consortium meets with staff of Climate Policy Advisor Andrew Wishnia
- Consortium/ NMA Climate Health Equity Fellowships begins

FEB
- White House Executive Order on “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”
- Consortium/ NMA Climate Health Equity Fellowships begins

VCCA
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
votervoice
NIH issues request for information on the Climate Health Research Program

HHS establishes Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) – former Board member John Balbus is appointed director

AHRQ issues request for information on the Climate Health Program

Consortium Advocate emails sent to Congress exceed 5,000

Consortium and 500 world health groups sign “Rx for Health” letter

Pediatricians carry “Rx for Health” letter to COP26 in 500 mile bicycle ride

Joint editorial in 226 medical journals: Climate Change is the Greatest Threat to Global Health

Consortium leads 83 health groups on “Invest in Health” letter to Congress

Consortium representatives engage with Biden Administration and other national delegations at COP26 meeting in Glasgow
Our Growing State Network

This year, the Consortium’s Climate and Health State Network (CHSN) witnessed major growth in membership and impact. They welcomed Puerto Rico, Illinois, New Hampshire and New Jersey as new members in 2021, bringing the total to 18. All four new groups received support from Consortium staff.

Previously established State Affiliates honed their skills in policy and organizing, held critical roles in state climate coalitions, built relationships with dozens of elected officials, and authored or were featured in over 200 media articles. Affiliates also deepened their commitment to equity, inclusion, and anti-racism, joining environmental justice tables, leveraging the health voice for frontline campaigns, and holding internal trainings and webinars.

State Affiliates collaborated on multiple virtual learning opportunities this year: a five-part webinar series from the Great Lakes states covering regional issues on climate, and a webinar focused on heat from southern states. Collaborative work went beyond educational efforts. In August, five states participated in “Our Water, Our Health: Health Professionals in Solidarity Against Line 3,” a day of in-person action across the country led by the Minnesota Affiliate. Throughout the summer and into the fall, states worked together on a number of federal policy issues. While there are not yet official groups in Arizona and West Virginia, we also saw incredible leadership from individuals in these states on federal advocacy.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Our newest State Affiliate, New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action (NH HWCA) has gotten off to an extremely strong start. Leading up to their official launch, the founders developed five working groups on Education, Children’s Health, Behavioral Health, Communications, and Climate Justice. The organization officially launched in December with an event in front of the NH State House attended by over 200 people. The audience included clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers, students, trainees, members of environmental advocacy groups, and elected officials from both the state and federal level. The organization also kicked things off with a letter to senior NH elected officials calling for urgent action on climate change signed by 600 individual NH healthcare workers and 19 associations. NH HWCA has already met with the Manchester-NAACP and had four educational and interactive webinars with prominent experts in climate and health as guest speakers in the past month.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action (WHPCA) had an active year in both federal and state policy advocacy. At the state level, members successfully supported the approval process for three major solar projects and worked as part of a coalition advocating for alternatives against a major highway expansion. The group also successfully leveraged the health voice on numerous campaigns against fossil fuel development. At one point over the summer, members of WHPCA earned 20 press hits in two months. The group was also a leader on federal policy issues, setting up dozens of meetings with elected officials and supporting health professionals in other states to do the same. WHPCA members have been active at the local level as well, supporting 3 communities to establish climate plans and supporting several local policy resolutions. The group has continued in its commitment to anti-racism, increasing partnerships with justice-focused groups in Wisconsin and supporting members with trainings and materials.

MONTANA

Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (MthPHC) had an extremely active year. In January, the group co-authored the first major report on climate change and human health in Montana. Soon after, they were awarded a grant from the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units and the EPA to expand the EPA Air Quality Flag Program in Montana. MthPHC also worked with NOAA to support a Regional Drought and Health workshop planned for spring 2022. MthPHC members authored dozens of articles and participated in an equal number of speaking engagements and testimonies. The group has become closer with climate coalitions organizing in Montana and the Northwest. On the education front, board members established a free 10 hour asynchronous CME on climate change and health for Montana HCPs with free CME credit.

MINNESOTA

Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HP4HC) dedicated incredible capacity to the ongoing movement to stop the Line 3 pipeline running through Anishinaabe lands. HP4HC leveraged the voice of health professionals across the state and nationwide in support of Indigenous communities leading the pipeline fights, with multiple sign-ons for health professionals, op-eds, and a national Health Professionals Against Line 3 Day of Solidarity. In addition to their work on Line 3, HP4HC was a part of a coalition that successfully campaigned for new clean car standards in the state. Members of HP4HC delivered testimony to the MN Environmental Quality Board in support of adding climate change impacts in their assessments. At the end of the year, HP4HC started working with MN Environmental Justice Table on a campaign to phase out a waste incinerator.
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA) had a significant year in both policy advocacy and medical education. After a successful lobby day in early January preceded by months of advocacy and education on transportation, Virginia passed a series of landmark clean transportation bills. Clinician advocates authored or were featured in 25 articles on policy and health issues in numerous publications across Virginia and Washington D.C. VCCA hosted the Inaugural Summit of the Virginia Climate and Health Education Collaborative, with the goal of introducing climate education into the curriculum of schools of health in Virginia and D.C. Over the summer, VCCA released an educational heat infographic to spread awareness for signs and treatment of heat illness in children. VCCA continued its monthly webinar series on topics spanning from rural electric cooperatives to heat illness.

In only its second year, Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action (GCCA) has built diverse partnerships across the state and leveraged the health voice to promote clean, democratic forms of energy and educate elected officials on the health harms of fossil fuels, particularly natural gas stoves. GCCA formed formal partnerships with the Georgia Water Coalition, Drawdown GA, and the Partnership for Southern Equity among others. In order to advance understanding of climate and health in the medical community of Georgia, GCCA co-sponsored a CME symposium on climate change and clinical practice in April and hosts monthly speakers along with a climate journal club that reviews literature on climate and health. Advocates in GCCA also authored eight op-eds on topics including clean air, plant based diets, extreme heat, the impacts of extreme weather to mental health, and internists as climate advocates.
Our Voices are Stronger Together

- The Consortium brings together 39 member societies representing over 70% of U.S. physicians, and 67 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 at climatehealthaction.org is endorsed by 187 organizations and schools of medicine, nursing, and public health, and 500 hospitals.

- Advocates increased their climate and health activities by 25% in 2021. Since 2017, advocates have logged a total of 1989 activities! These include: 656 presentations, 609 published media articles and interviews, 130 research publications, and 594 policy activities.

- The Consortium website received over 82,000 page views in 2021, up from 75,000 in 2020. Our newsletter subscriber list has increased to nearly 2,300. Social media activity on Twitter is vigorous with over 7,000 followers across Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
Board of Advisors

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

Nitin Damle  
MD, MS, MACP  
Past President of the American College of Physicians, Founder and Managing Partner South County Internal Medicine, Wakefield, RI; Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Howard Frumkin  
MD, DrPH  
Emeritus Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, UW School of Public Health, Senior Vice President, Trust for Public Lands

Dinah Koehler  
ScD  
Head of Research and Co-Founder Net Purpose

Jay Lemery  
MD  
Chief, Section of Wilderness & Environmental Medicine, University of Colorado

William Novelli  
MA, Co-Chair  
Professor, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

Jonathan Patz  
MD, MPH  
Professor and Director, Global Health Institute, University of Wisconsin

Bruce Piasecki  
President and Founder of AHC Group

Katherine Sierra  
Past Vice President for Sustainable Development and Past Vice President for Infrastructure at the World Bank

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

Steven Schroeder  
MD, Co-Chair  
Distinguished Professor, Department of Medicine; Director, Smoking Cessation Leadership Center, UCSF; Distinguished Professorship in Health and Health Care, UCSF
Steering Committee

Robert Feder
MD
American Psychiatric Association

David Chang
MD
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery; American Academy of Ophthalmology

Barbara Erny
MD
American Telemedicine Association

Peter Yellowlees
MD, MBBS
American Academy of Ophthalmology

Marcalee Alexander
MD
Association of Academic Physiatrists

Anita Lowe Taylor
MD
Association of Academic Physiatrists

Daniel Oppenheim
PhD, MD
Endocrine Society

Regina LaRocque
MD, MPH, FIDSA
Infectious Diseases Society of America

Misha Rosenbach
MD
Medical Dermatology Society

David Donohue
MD, MS, DipABLM
Medical Society of Delaware

Winston Price
MD, FAAP, FACPE
National Medical Association

Caitlin Rublee
MD
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine

James James
MD, DrPH, MHA
Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health

Sarah Coates
MD
Society for Pediatric Dermatology

William Weppner
MD, MPH, FACP
Society of General Internal Medicine

Lynn Yonge
MD, FAAFP, FAWM
Wilderness Medical Society
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.

- Academic Pediatric Association
- Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine
- American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology
- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- American Association for Community Psychiatry
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American College of Emergency Physicians, CA
- American College of Emergency Physicians, WI
- American College of Lifestyle Medicine
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
- American College of Osteopathic Internists
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Geriatrics Society
- American Medical Association
- American Medical Women’s Association
- American Podiatric Medical Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
- American Society of Clinical Oncology
- American Telemedicine Association
- Association of Academic Physiatrists
- Endocrine Society
- Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Maine Medical Association
- Medical Dermatology Society
- Medical Society of Delaware
- National Medical Association
- Society for Academic Emergency Medicine
- Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health
- Society for Pediatric Dermatology
- Society of General Internal Medicine
- Society of Gynecologic Oncology
- Wilderness Medical Society
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 Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- American Geophysical Union
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Meteorological Society
- American Psychoanalytic Association
- American Psychosomatic Society
- American Psychological Association
- American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Association for Humanistic Psychology
- Arkansas Medical Society
- American Public Health Association
- American Psychosomatic Society
- American Public Health Association
- Arkansas Medical Society
- Association for Humanistic Psychology
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- California Medical Association
- Children’s Environmental Health Network
- Citizen’s Climate Lobby – Climate and Health
- Climate for Health / ecoAmerica
- Climate Health Now
- Climate Psychiatry Alliance
- Florida Clinicians for Climate Action
- Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action
- George Washington University Climate and Health Institute
- Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education
- 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
- Massachusetts General Hospital Center for the Environment and Health
- Massachusetts Medical Society
- Medical Student for a Sustainable Future
- 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
- New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action
- North Carolina Clinicians for Climate Action
- 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
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

Kimberly Williams
PhD, PHR
State Equity Initiative Program Manager

Nicole Duritz
Director, Advocacy and Outreach

Wendy Cook
Digital Communications Director

Colin Nackerman
Associate Director of Policy and Operations

Beverly Harp
Digital Communications Manager, State Outreach Coordinator

Mohamed Ahmed
Finance Manager

Savannah Martincic
Social Media Outreach Intern

Clarissa Peyton
Digital Communications and Multimedia Intern

Zerena Martinez Murillo
Communication and Health Policy Intern

Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health Revenue and Expenses

FY21 Revenue ........................................... $1,299,171.00
FY21 Expenses ........................................... $966,633.22

A portion of this revenue is allocated to cover expenses in future fiscal years.
Thank you for your support

Funders

$10,000 – $20,000
Walgreens Company

$5,000 – $9,999
Marin Community Foundation
MITRE Corporation
William D. Novelli

$1,000 – $4,999
Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund
American College of Physicians
American Public Health Association
ecoAmerica
Infectious Diseases Physicians
Natural Resources Defense Council
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Michael Coburn
Barbara Erny
John M. Lemery
Kristin Mitchell
Jerome Paulson
Steven A. Schroeder

$20 – $249
Kenneth G. Combs
Elizabeth Friedman
Claire Gervais
Philip C. Gioia
William Horton
Larry Junck
Robert H. Kitchen
Dinah Koehler
Richard L. Needleman
Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber
Trine Vik
Mary Williams
Martha Zaslow

Donors

$10,000 – $20,000
Anonymous
Molly Herr
Jennifer Lawson
Ronda McCarthy
Paul Robinson
Claude J. Tellis

$5,000 – $9,999
Molly Herr
Jennifer Lawson
Ronda McCarthy
Paul Robinson
Claude J. Tellis

$1,000 – $4,999
Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund
American College of Physicians
American Public Health Association
ecoAmerica
Infectious Diseases Physicians
Natural Resources Defense Council
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Michael Coburn
Barbara Erny
John M. Lemery
Kristin Mitchell
Jerome Paulson
Steven A. Schroeder

$20 – $249
Kenneth G. Combs
Elizabeth Friedman
Claire Gervais
Philip C. Gioia
William Horton
Larry Junck
Robert H. Kitchen
Dinah Koehler
Richard L. Needleman
Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber
Trine Vik
Mary Williams
Martha Zaslow

$250 – $999
Novo Nordisk Inc.
The Chicago Community Foundation
Consortium Resources

In 2021, we continued to develop a variety of resources and useful tools for health professionals, the public, and policymakers. We worked to equip advocates with the science and policy information needed to ensure that health and equity are prioritized in climate solutions. Three of the most utilized resources include the *H.E.A.T.W.A.V.E. infographic*, the report on *The Costs of Climate Inaction: The Economic Burden of Fossil Fuels and Climate Change on Health in the United States* with NRDC and WHPCA, and the new *Health Equity & Climate Justice* section of our website.

Health Equity & Climate Justice web pages

Advocacy Guides, Posters & Reports

**Recommendations to Congress and the Biden Administration**

[climatehealthaction.org](http://climatehealthaction.org)
Our Climate Champions

Our climate champions are health care leaders whose lives demonstrate their commitment to protecting the health of their patients and communities 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. Vi Nguyen, a pediatrician in California, wants her colleagues and patients to care about the environment and the worsening climate crisis. Also known as Dr. Plastic Picker, she delights her young patients with her recycled plastic “trash art.” She turns objects she finds on the beach into figurines, and many become toys.

Dr. Robert Kitchen came to climate and health advocacy in retirement. His medical career includes 20 years in the Air Force Medical Corps and 24 years in the Kaiser Permanente health system. Now working with Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action, the family physician has turned lobbyist, trying to make lawmakers compliant with a prescription for environmental health.

Dr. Amanda Millstein and Dr. Ashley McClure recently helped found Climate Health Now, an advocacy group for California medical professionals. After experiencing worsening wildfires and seeing the impacts to their patients, they took action. They know the climate crisis poses a danger of long-term catastrophe and that the health benefits of combatting the crisis can come fast, in things like reduced asthma and heart disease.

Dr. Armen Henderson, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Miami, is co-founder of the Dade County Street Response Disaster Relief Team. It was created in 2018 to help the homeless and people in low-income areas prepare for and recover from calamities. In terms of helping these vulnerable people, Dr. Henderson says America is a First World country with Third World problems.

Kevin D. Hamilton, co-director and co-founder of the Central California Asthma Collaborative, helps people improve air quality through public advocacy programs and education about pollution and climate change. Hamilton says the collaborative’s mission includes speaking for those who can’t speak for themselves. But first, Hamilton says, he learns from the people affected.

Katie Huffling of Maryland, a certified nurse-midwife and executive director of Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, knows nurses can accomplish a lot in climate and health advocacy. She says nurses have people’s trust, know the science, and can say it clearly. She testifies before officials in rule makings, notably with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Claire Gervais says climate change is the most pressing environmental issue for health professionals, and feels a calling to be involved, working towards climate solutions, to improve our health and our environment. Dr. Gervais, a family medicine specialist, helped to create Wisconsin Health Care Professionals for Climate Action.

Dr. Jennifer Barkin of Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia, is developing an assessment tool to see how people respond mentally to changes such as the climate crisis. The Climate Distress Index will be a checklist of things that concern people, on a scale of how much concern they have.

Dr. Bob Friedlander applies his experience as a palliative care physician to the climate crisis, aiming to improve quality of life for the planet. The retired physician is working with a diverse group of healthcare workers in his state to create a grassroots independent and nonpartisan organization, New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action, an affiliate of the Consortium.

Ronda Seifert is a public health expert and nurse in Phoenix, Arizona. She is a dedicated advocate and is working to start a new climate health affiliate group in Arizona – AZ Health Professionals for Climate. Seifert’s goal is helping to identify solutions that people can support. She says climate change is not just a future problem; it is an urgent public health problem, and she wants her children to have a livable planet.
Climate and Health Equity Fellowship

The growth in the number and strength of the voices of trusted health professionals, brought together by the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health (Consortium) at the national and state levels, continues to create momentum for meaningful policy change on climate, health and equity. After the murder of George Floyd, the Consortium increased the focus on anti-racism and environmental justice. The advent of the Climate and Health Equity Fellowship (CHEF) program with its specific focus on equity and environmental justice, was born.

At the start of the year, the Consortium developed and sent a survey to over 3000 National Medical Association (NMA) southeastern region’s physician members. The survey asked respondents questions about their perceptions of climate change (whether it’s happening, how worried they are about it, and how it’s affecting their patients), knowledge of climate change and its impacts to health and equity, confidence in respondents’ ability to educate policymakers on climate solutions, experience and interest in taking actions on climate change, resources or tools that would support action, and interest in a Climate and Health Equity Fellowship (CHEF) program. We received over 200 responses and the data will be available as part of a peer-reviewed publication in 2022.

In conjunction with the NMA climate and health survey, we asked survey participants if they were interested in applying for our inaugural Climate and Health Equity Fellowship (CHEF) Program. From the survey respondents, we received 71 applications and, ultimately, six African American doctors of diverse specialties were selected for the 10-month fellowship program.

A curriculum with 10 monthly climate focused topics, ranging from climate change 101 and environmental justice, to extreme weather, climate solutions in health care delivery systems, mental health, and community resilience was developed with a health equity lens, focused on climate change impacts on overburdened and underserved communities, including climate and health policy solutions that are more equitable.

Combined with instructional learning, the curriculum consisted of outside reading, webinars, op-ed writing, presentation development with formal opportunities to present, educational meetings with local and state policy makers, advocacy opportunities, policy briefings, and local community group work, which culminated into a capstone project. Sessions included some of the country’s most prominent climate scientists, communicators, meteorologists, physicians, journalists, and environmental justice advocates.

Monthly climate and health equity webinars were produced and delivered to nationwide advocates affiliated with the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health.

Several op-eds and journal articles were written by Fellows and published in local and state publications throughout the southeast. During the Consortium Annual Meeting, the Fellows participated in scheduled meetings with state and national policymakers to educate them on the harms of climate change and health.

There will be more Fellowship participants in 2022.
The Consortium at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland

The Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) organized an unofficial health delegation to engage with national delegations at COP26—the United Nations climate negotiations that took place during the first two weeks of November. Although greatly outnumber by fossil fuel lobbyists (500 strong, the single largest “delegation” present), the Medical Society Consortium was well-represented by Marcalee Alexander (MSSCH Steering Committee), Ankush Bansal (Florida Clinicians for Climate Action), Caitlin Rublee (Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action), Jay Lemery (MSSCH Advisory Board), Ed Maibach (Mason Center for Climate Change Communication), and more than a dozen medical and health science students.

During the run-up to COP26, GCHA, the World Health Organization, the Consortium and other health groups developed the Healthy Climate Prescription—an urgent call to heads of state and their COP26 delegations for climate action from the world's health community—which was endorsed by more than 600 health organizations that represent over 46 million health professionals worldwide. The call to action stated “We call on the leaders of every country and their representatives at COP26 to avert the impending health catastrophe by limiting global warming to 1.5°C, and to make human health and equity central to all climate change mitigation and adaptation actions,” and made a half dozen specific recommendations necessary to help achieve this goal. This call to action received a lot of attention at COP26, and as reported by the New York Times, helped reframe climate change as a health crisis.

In a post-COP26 briefing to the Consortium’s Steering Committee, Ed Maibach summarized by saying the meeting produced “important gains, but not enough.”

The gains include pledges to:
- Reduce methane emissions 30% by 2030 (signed by 105 countries including the US).
- Phase out coal use between 2030 and 2040 (signed by 40 countries including the US) and stop public financing of “unabated” coal by 2022 (signed by 20 countries including the US).
- End deforestation by 2030 (signed by 100 countries including the US).
- Build climate resilient and sustainable low-carbon health systems (signed by 52 countries including the US).

Other important gains included:
- An announcement of the “Carbon Negative Earthshot” program by the US Department of Energy—a major R&D initiative to reduce the cost of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide to less than $100/ton.
- Finalization of the Paris Agreement Rule Book which includes standardized rules for reporting reductions in carbon emissions and for how global “carbon markets” will work.
- An agreement by all nations on need to reduce carbon emissions 45% by 2030.
- An agreement by all nations to at least double adaptation financing for low- and middle-income nations, and to make up for the financial shortfall of $100B in promised climate financing by 2025.
- An agreement by all nations to come to COP27 with new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) rather than waiting for COP30, as originally scheduled.

If all of these new and existing pledges and targets are implemented on schedule—which is not a sure thing—the planet will likely warm 2.1°C by the year 2100, a far cry from the 1.5°C that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has suggested as necessary to protect human health and wellbeing.

The Medical Society Consortium plans to be back at COP27 in Egypt to continue advocating for the recommendations made in the Healthy Climate Prescription—because the job is not done until global warming has been limited to 1.5°C. The voices of physicians and other health professionals have a unique and necessary role to play in ensuring this outcome.
OUR MISSION
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 VISION
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.