UCSF Climate Health Dialogue

Six themes emerged: strategies, challenges, opportunities for inducing a robust response to the health emergency of our warming planet.

1. UCSF has the potential to serve as an international leader in education, research, clinical care and advocacy in Climate Health.
2. Work in silos has inhibited collaboration among many dedicated and talented community members. There have been few opportunities for dialogue and informed growth.
3. The geography of multiple worksites contributes to this challenge. Students, in particular, expressed frustration that they are too busy to focus on Climate Health issues in the academic year.
4. UCSF has strong local, national, and international partnerships that should be expanded and nourished to offset "islands of expertise". How can we engage the entire UCSF community in an "all in" strategy to change the culture of faculty travel?

Opportunities for Action

The 60 faculty, students, staff and community health professionals who attended the Dialogue met together and in breakout groups to discuss Research, Education/Clinical Care and Advocacy.

In the meantime, this first Newsletter shares the highlights of a (pre-COVID-19) Climate Health Dialogue, during which 60 faculty, students, staff and community health professionals identified strengths, challenges and opportunities for building a robust response to the health emergency of our warming planet.

The two topics—climate and pandemics—are intricately related, and next month's Newsletter will consider how they are both "potent reminders, however, of the large-scale potential for pandemics to change life as we know it in a matter of days, while the "slow burn" of climate change will likely impact the lives of generations to come. The two topics are interdependent and need to be addressed together.

The Climate Health Dialogue

self-assessment of strengths, challenges and opportunities for building a robust response to the health emergency of our warming planet. The time is now, and the place is UCSF."

Funding

Periodic funding opportunities for trainees are available through the UCSF Office of Sustainability.

5. The UCSF community needs enhanced pathways to translate Climate Health research into education and clinical care.

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