Dr. Iverson gives an online lecture to first year medical students in the Health & the Individual block. Relevant health content, the curriculum aims to foster student engagement in advocacy for Health and the Individual. Over the next year, they plan to weave the environmental threads even further into the curriculum. "We are rooting our objectives and content in educational theories that will support and foster sustainability," says Iverson, "thus preparing students to treat patients affected by the impacts of climate change. Iverson notes, "Our goal is to build a more sustainable and just health care system that provides high-quality care to all."

Iverson highlights links between human health, climate change, and healthcare system sustainability, and curriculum "infused" into the core preclinical UCSF School of Medicine education. This curriculum is supported by the UCSF Climate Health Now (CHN) student organization. CHN, housed under the leadership of Chelsea Landolin, this committee meets monthly and is targeting multiple student organizations to coordinate their efforts related to the climate crisis. "There is a significant gap in available mental health providers to work with people with climate change anxiety. This presents a significant need for us to develop strategies to engage students in policy and advocacy to address this gap," says Sarah Steiner, the organization's student president. To address this, CHN is collaborating with the UCSF Student Climate Health Advocacy Network (see below) to develop a national program to train medical students in climate change communication with patients and community members.

"There has never been a more critical time for advancing health, equity, and social justice under the leadership of our medical school. With the help of colleagues, stakeholders, and healthcare professionals, we are thrilled to help ensure our students are prepared to address the environmental threat of climate change," adds Chelsea Landolin.

"Climate change is anticipated to unleash unprecedented threats to global food security and health and to exacerbate climate change exposure, and the opportunities and challenges we face in mitigating the threat of wildfire.

Economic and social vulnerabilities are exacerbated by global warming and are disproportionately felt by vulnerable populations. We need to prioritize climate change resilience planning and disaster preparedness for our communities.

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