UCSF Climate Health Newsletter

Advancing Science, Building Bridges, Creating Community

Winter 2021

WELCOME to the Winter 2021 edition of the UCSF Climate Health Newsletter, which highlights opportunities to learn, to act, and to celebrate positive accomplishments. This edition also debuts a Student Corner, with significant contributions from Karly Hampshire and Sarah Schear. Please **share this newsletter** with others, and **let us know** if you have comments, questions, or contributions for upcoming editions.

How to *Learn*

The Pschological Impacts of Climate Change: Creating Climate Aware Therapists

February 9 | 5:30pm PST

There is a significant gap in available mental health providers to work with people with climate related mental health issues. The Climate Psychiatry Alliance presents this event to address how to help create "climate aware therapists". **Register here**

Climate Change and Human Health Webinar Series

February 17 - April 7 | Wednesdays | 9-10:15am PST

This free 8 week series will provide evidence-based curriculum on the science of climate change and its impacts on human health, including case-based learning and strategies to improve climate change communication with patients and community members. **Register here**

NorCal Mini-Symposium for Climate and Pandemic Resilience in Health Care

February 18 | 12-1:30pm PST

This mini-symposium follows last September's joint UCSF-Stanford sponsored symposium, and features guest speaker, Renee Salas, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School and lead author of the U.S. Brief of the Lancet Countdown on Climate Change and Health. **Register here**

Environmental Justice and Human Health: Creating Systemic Solutions

February 23 - March 30 | Tuesdays | 6-7:30pm PST

UCSF's new EaRTH Center faculty and staff are conducting a Mini-Medical School for the Public this spring focused on health, environment, equity, and the importance of systemic solutions. **Register here**

Surgery Grand Rounds

March 10 | 7am PST

UCSF's Katherine Gundling and Chelsea Landolin will present "*Climate Impacts on Human Health in the 21st Century: How Surgeons Can Learn, Engage and Deliver for their Patients and*

Families". **Join live webinar**

SPRING 2021 SPEAKER SERIES: Climate Change and Health

Hosted by the UCSF Office of Population Health & Health Equity and UCSF Center for Climate, Health, & Equity; Chaired by Sheri Weiser, MD, MPH. **Register for any of the 3 sessions below**:

Session 1: The Age of Big Wildfires: Confronting an Urgent Health Threat
March 18 | 2:30-4pm PST
*2020 mar*ked the West's worst fire season in modern history, with over four million acres burned in California alone. This session will explore the role of climate change in accelerating the frequency and scale of wildfires, new evidence of the health and equity impacts of wildfire exposure, and the opportunities and challenges we face in mitigating the threat of wildfire disasters and protecting human health and the environment.
Selected Speakers: Gina Solomon, MD, MPH; Marshall Burke, PhD; Stephanie Holm, MD, MPH; Ranyee Chiang, PhD; Ashley Conrad-Saydah, MS

Converging Threats, Cascading Health Risks: Climate Change, Food Security, and Migration
April 15 | 2:30-4pm PST
Climate change is anticipated to unleash unprecedented threats to global food security and to drive the largest wave of human migration in history. This session will evaluate the intersection of climate change with the social determinants of health, emphasizing the compounding connections between a warming climate, food and water security, and migration.
Speakers Coming Soon

Now, More Than Ever: Movement Building for Climate, Racial, and Health Justice
May 20 | 2:30pm-4pm PST
There has never been a more critical time for advancing health, equity, and social justice while addressing climate change. This session will focus on the synergies between climate and racial justice movements and their promise in improving health, and community-based advocacy and policy initiatives to promote climate and racial justice in California and beyond.

Inspiring and Interesting Resources

- Robin Cooper, co-founder of the Climate Psychiatry Alliance and dedicated climate health volunteer at UCSF, recommends this **Lancet article,** which describes books for children who are experiencing climate-related anxiety.
- Ashley McClure, co-founder of Climate Health Now, invites listeners to her latest **podcast episode** with Dr. Paul Auerbach: Teaching, Writing, and Activating on Climate.
- Sarah Schear, fourth-year UCSF medical student, recommends **Medical Students for a Sustainable Future's** new podcast, **Code Green: The Climate-Smart Health Professional** created by medical students Natasha Sood and Sarah Hsu!
- Medical Students for a Sustainable Future's **Guide to Climate and Health Curriculum Reform in Medical Schools** with sample syllabi, lesson materials, and resources for personal online learning.
- Karly Hampshire, a fourth-year UCSF medical student, recommends **this Radiolab podcast** on a new species of fungus popping up in hospitals throughout the world, Candida Auris, and its relationship to dinosaurs, evolution, and climate change.

How to *Celebrate*

Fourth-year medical student, Sarah Schear, has already

had a notable impact on the advancement of climate health activities at UCSF, in California, and beyond. During her recent gap year, Sarah co-founded Climate Health Now, an organization mobilizing the trusted voices of California health professionals to protect their patients and communities from the health harms of climate change. In less than two years, CHN has conducted workshops on advocacy skills and communication with legislators and hosted a variety of educational events. Over 300 health professionals have joined, many of whom have conducted in-person meetings with policymakers regarding the severe and inequitable health consequences of fossil fuel-related air pollution in California. Learn more about Climate Health Now **here**.

If that weren't enough, Sarah also Co-Chairs the **Climate Change and Health Task Force for the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 1,** and she has served as the founding Advocacy Co-Chair for **Medical Students for a Sustainable Future**. MS4SF is a community of medical students who recognize climate change as an urgent threat to health and social justice and work to prevent and address the health harms of climate change. Through MS4SF, Sarah has been able to engage in policy advocacy at the national level, including collaborating with a coalition of health organizations to create the climate, health, and equity recommendations for the Biden-Harris transition team. Consider **adding your signature** to the document, entitled "**Health and Medical Organizations Call for Immediate Action to Protect Our Nation's Health in the Face of the Climate Health Emergency.**"

Among her many activities promoting climate health efforts, Sarah has recently received a Carbon Neutrality Initiative Fellowship award from the UC Office of the President/UCSF Office of Sustainability. This award facilitates outreach and engagement across UCSF Health. These fellowships are a wonderful opportunity for UCSF students to engage in climate work, and more information about the CNI fellowships can be found **here**.

The UCSF climate health community is deeply grateful to Sarah for her tireless dedication to building a just and sustainable future for all.

How to *Act*

Pilot Project – Spring 2021 RAP Cycle

Cancer and Environmental Health RFA. Joint award with the Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center. Apply via RAP. **Details here**. Applications due Monday, March 1.

Electrify UCSF!

61% of UCSF's carbon footprint comes from burning gas to provide power and heat for our campuses. UCSF faculty, staff and students are working in partnership with other UC campuses to electrify the entire campus, which is crucial in our effort to minimize the warming of our planet. To learn more or join these efforts, please contact the organizers at **ucgreennewdeal@gmail.com**.

Academic Senate Committee on Sustainability

Under the leadership of Chelsea Landolin, this committee meets monthly and is targeting multiple projects, including Zero Plastic Waste, Bicycle Plans, Electrification, Speaker Series, and others.

To learn more or sign up to serve on the committee next year, contact **katherine.gundling@ucsf.edu**.

UCSF faculty, students and volunteers visit Kamala Harris' senate office in Washington, DC to communicate the health emergency of climate change.

Student Corner

Student Highlights

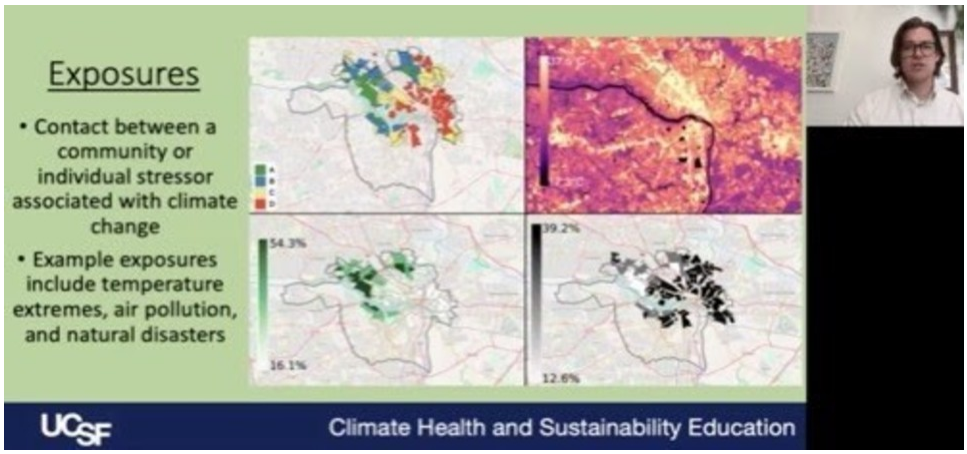
- **Allan Ndovu**, a third year medical student, and Arianne Teherani presented their work on climate change curriculum development at a **Global Consortium on Climate Change and Health Webinar**. Allan also moderated a UCSF Mini-Medical School/UCTV panel on **The Sociology of Climate Change Denial.**
- **Raj Fadadu**, a third year medical student, published an insight piece with Arianne Teherani in Clinical Teacher on **Climate and Health Education for Medical Students**.
- Second year dental students **Allie Liu, Muuduu Otgonbold, and Tiffany Huang** created Green Teeth: Oral and Climate Health Coalition in Fall 2020 with the goal of encouraging the dental school community to take action on climate change. They're currently in the process of introducing a pilot program for soft plastics recycling in the dental clinics, creating an elective on sustainability and oral health, and hosting lunchtime lectures on the relationship between climate change and oral health. For more information on this program and upcoming activities, contact **tiffany.huang@ucsf.edu.**

Events

Join the **Medical Students for a Sustainable Future x Health Care Without Harm Journal Club**! (January session pictured right). Connect with colleagues across the country and evaluate literature on climate, health and equity topics. The next session, led by Andrea MacNeill, MD and Cassandra Thiel, PhD, will be on **March 18th at 6:30pm EST.** **Register here**.

Climate Change & Sustainability Education

Current health professional students require training that prepares them for the challenges they will face as clinicians. Though climate change is one of the greatest threats to human health, nationally, very few medical schools include climate change and its health impacts in their core curriculum. When curriculum does exist, it is usually siloed and erratic. Over the last year, with the support of School of Medicine leadership, **Nicholas Iverson, MD, Heather Whelan, MD, Arianne Teherani, PhD, Allan Ndovu, MS3, and Taryn Sirias, MS1** have been leaders in shifting that paradigm, creating a novel, longitudinal, comprehensive climate change and sustainability curriculum "infused" into the core preclinical UCSF School of Medicine education. This curriculum highlights links between human health, climate change, and healthcare system sustainability, and thus prepares students to treat patients affected by the impacts of climate change. Iverson notes, "We are rooting our objectives and content in educational theories that will support and foster students' motivation to develop the knowledge and skills needed to engage with climate health work during medical school and beyond." To date, the group has been successful in integrating climate-related themes into several organ blocks, including Airways, Blood, and Circulation and Health and the Individual. Over the next year, they plan to weave the environmental threads even more comprehensively, adding content in small groups throughout F1. In addition to teaching relevant health content, the curriculum aims to foster student engagement in advocacy for healthcare sustainability and climate justice, which focuses on decreasing the outsized effects of climate change on marginalized and vulnerable groups.



Dr. Iverson gives an online lecture to first year medical students in the Health & the Individual block.

UCSF Office of Sustainability
Campus Life Services

UCSF CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2025

Share this email:

Manage your preferences | **Opt out** using **TrueRemove®**
Got this as a forward? **Sign up** to receive our future emails.
View this email **online**.

654 Minnesota st
San Francisco, CA | 94107 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

Subscribe to our email list.