National Summit on Social Determinants of Health
Calling for Change in a Changing Climate:

The Environment as Social Determinant of Health & Its Implications for Healthcare

First Annual National Summit on the Social Determinants of Health by The Root Cause Coalition
December 5-6, 2016
The Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
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Objectives

• Explain why environmental stewardship, with a focus on climate change mitigation, represents an urgent public health and social justice opportunity

• Review opportunities for advocacy with an emphasis on healthcare sector leadership

• Stimulate dialogue, encourage commitment to tell our story and take meaningful action
CLIMATE CHANGE: A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE & HEALTHCARE’S RESPONSE

Aparna Bole, MD, FAAP
“Climate change is one of the most serious public health threats facing our nation . . . Yet few Americans are aware of the very real consequences of climate change on the health of our communities, our families and our children.”

Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Executive Director, American Public Health Association
The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment

Climate change is a significant threat to the health of the American people. This scientific assessment examines how climate change is already affecting human health and the changes that may occur in the future.

Climate change is already affecting human health

- Extreme heat
- Air & water quality
- Extreme precipitation events
- Patterns of infectious disease occurrence
- Population displacement
- Nutrient density of crops
- Mental health
Environmental Justice

- **EPA Definition:** “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies”
- Disproportionate burden of environmental hazards on vulnerable populations
  - WHO estimates ~80% of health burden of climate change will affect children <5 years old
Climate change poses threats to human health, safety, and security, and children are uniquely vulnerable to these threats … Given this knowledge, failure to take prompt, substantive action would be an act of injustice to all children.

-Policy Statement, October 2015
American College of Physicians issues urgent call to action on climate change to avert major threat to public health

Internists say climate change will have devastating health effects across the world

Philadelphia, April 19, 2016 -- Climate change will have devastating consequences for public and individual health unless aggressive, global action is taken now to curb greenhouse gas emissions, the American College of Physicians (ACP) says in a new policy paper published today in Annals of Internal Medicine.

“The American College of Physicians urges physicians to help combat climate change by advocating for effective climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, helping to advance a low-carbon health care
Your Health and Our Environment: How Can We Protect Both?

JUNE 18, 2015 AT 6:51 PM ET BY AMANDA STONE

Summary: On Tuesday, the White House will convene a Summit to bring together health and medical professionals, academics, and other stakeholders to empower people and communities with the information and tools they need to protect public health in the face of climate change.

National Dialogue on Climate Change And Health

There are a whole host of public health impacts that are going to hit home. The great thing about this conversation is to see all the work that’s already being done by public health officials, the medical community, nurses and families.
1. "LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".[1]

2. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in
Healthcare’s Environmental Impact

• Waste
  – U.S. hospitals produce thousands of tons of waste per day
    • Almost all typical office waste & mostly recyclable
• Food and consumer product purchasing
  – Directly impacts well-being of patients & staff
• Energy
  – 73 trillion kwh of electricity/yr
    • ~$600 million/yr in healthcare costs related to increased respiratory disease burden
Our Carbon Footprint
Energy Policy & Environmental Regulations

Clean Power Plan

Taking Action on Climate Change

THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

Learn About Carbon Pollution From Power Plants

- Climate effects
- Health effects
- Blog Post: Six Things Every American

EPA Actions to Address Carbon Pollution

- Clean Power Plan for existing power plants
- Carbon Pollution Standards for new,

Quick Links

- Hojas informativas en español sobre el Plan de Energía Limpia
- Clean Power Plan Toolbox for states and tribes
- State-by-state fact sheets
- State goal visualizer
Less Meat, Better Meat

Interconnections Between Nutrition and Environment
[The healthcare sustainability movement] does not just \textit{relate} to the Triple Aim… It \textit{redefines} the Triple Aim.
Rachelle R. Wenger, MPA

HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP:
PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY
Climate Change, Health and Healthcare

Ocean acidification

Raised average, and extreme temperatures
Altered rainfall patterns  Sea-level rise  Extreme weather

Other air pollutants (eg, particulates)

Reduced fishery and aquaculture productivity
Reduced physical work capacity

Flood  Heatwaves  Drought  Fire

Biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, pests

Ozone increase  Particulate pollution  Pollen allergenicity burden

Undernutrition
Impact on mental health
Cardiovascular disease
Respiratory disease
Harmful algal blooms
Vector-borne disease

Social mediating factors
Loss of habitation
Poverty
Mass migration
Violent conflict
Other social determinants of health
“The implications of climate change for a global population of 9 billion people threatens to undermine the last half century of gains in development and global health.”
“Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century” – The Lancet Commissions

1. Invest in climate change and public health research
2. Scale-up financing for climate resilient health systems worldwide
3. Ensure a rapid phase out of coal from the global energy mix
4. Encourage a transition to cities that support and promote lifestyles that are healthy for the individual and planet
5. Establish the framework for a strong, predictable, and international carbon pricing mechanism
6. Expand access to renewable energy in low-income and middle-income communities
7. Support accurate quantification of the avoided burden of disease, reduced health care costs and enhanced economic productivity associated with mitigation strategies
8. Facilitate collaborations between government and NGOs to ensure coordination and integration
9. Implement an international agreement that supports countries in transitioning to a low-carbon economy
10. Monitor progress over next 15 years
“But what about us?”
“We’ll always have Paris.”

Casablanca
The Paris Climate Agreement

- A long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- Come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science
- Report to each other and the public on targets; Track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system

- Strengthen societies' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change
- Provide continued and enhanced international support for adaptation to developing countries
- Developed countries intend to continue their existing collective goal to mobilize $100 billion per year by 2020 and extend this until 2025
“But what about us?”
“We’ll always have Paris.”

Star Trek: The Next Generation, Season 1, Episode 23
U.S. Climate & Energy Policy Commitments

• US INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions)
  – Reduce emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, and to make best efforts to reduce by 28%.

• Green Climate Fund - $500M to date; $3B total/4 years

• Obama’s Climate Action Plan
  – Cut carbon pollution
  – Prepare for climate change impacts
  – Lead international efforts to address global climate change

• The Clean Air Act/The Clean Power Plan
  – First ever national standards to pare carbon pollution from power plants by nearly a third — compared to 2005 levels — by 2030
Trump Administration on Climate & Health Care
“Play it (As Time Goes By), Sam.”

Casablanca

• The State of Play in Cities, States and Communities
  – Climate change is personal/local
  – Dig deeper; play harder; show up

• The Healthcare Voice
  – Trusted messengers; steadfast resolve; connecting dots
  – Key Messages
    • Climate change is a public health and healthcare sector issue.
    • The urgency is upon us to act now
    • This is no solo act: Partnerships are critical to broadening the base of supporters for equity, justice, the change we want to see in the world, the transformation we envision for healthcare.
The Transformation of Healthcare & The Next Generation: Our Story 2.0
OUR STORY

A CALL FOR DIALOGUE & ACTION
Thank You,

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