



The Medical  
Society Consortium  
ON CLIMATE & HEALTH



*Good Climate Policy  
Starts with Health*

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



I am pleased to share with you the annual report of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. We have worked diligently throughout the year determined to organize, empower, and amplify the voices of America's physicians about the climate crisis and its impact on health.

Developing pathways to prevent the adverse health impacts of climate change and address the drivers of global warming is motivating all of us. We seek to let everyone know that addressing climate change is both a pre-eminent health imperative and a huge opportunity. It will benefit our health, save lives and dollars, and help build a 21st century economy. We are united by our devotion to health and our deep commitment to addressing the climate crisis.

2018 has been a year of growth, action, and increased visibility for the Consortium. Member societies have strengthened their commitments, adopted new policies, increased communications to their members on the issues, banded together to weigh in on efforts to rollback federal environmental regulations, and voiced their support for comprehensive solutions. Climate and health advocates more than doubled their advocacy activities between 2017 and 2018. Activities at the state level have increased. The Consortium partnered with other health organizations to offer 4 educational webinars and three CME events. The experience of working together across associations has made us better organized and knit us together into a more empowered network of determined advocates. We are

now in a stronger position to amplify our messages and our impact than ever before.

The new winds that have blown into Washington, DC and around the country are opening doors to progress on policy change that were previously shut. We know that policy change takes several years to achieve, but we can go on the offensive. We will start now to compile a policy agenda that will protect the health sector and its patients, and reduce the output of greenhouse gases (pollution) that are degrading our atmosphere and our climate.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to learn more about what we're doing and the ways we can work together. The time for us to make a difference is now. Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting the health of current and future Americans!

With appreciation and excitement,

*Mona Sarfaty, MD, MPH*  
*Executive Director*



# THE CONSORTIUM'S *Core Strategies*

*The Consortium organizes, empowers and amplifies the voices of America's doctors – and other health professionals – to effectively deliver these core messages.*

1. Climate change is already harming the health of our patients. Everyone is at risk but some are more vulnerable, namely children, pregnant women, poor people and minorities, and those with chronic health conditions.
2. Unless we respond to climate change, the health harms we are seeing now from climate change will increase dramatically.
3. The solution is accelerating the transition to clean renewable energy and energy efficiency. These measures will rapidly lead to cleaner air and water and better health for everyone.



## WE *organize* BY

- recruiting new member societies, affiliates, and advocates
- establishing alliances and partnerships

## WE *empower* BY

- bringing associations together to coordinate and collaborate
- maintaining a robust and well utilized website
- providing continuing education, training, and resources
- issuing and sharing research reports
- offering news, events, resources, and action alerts in our newsletter

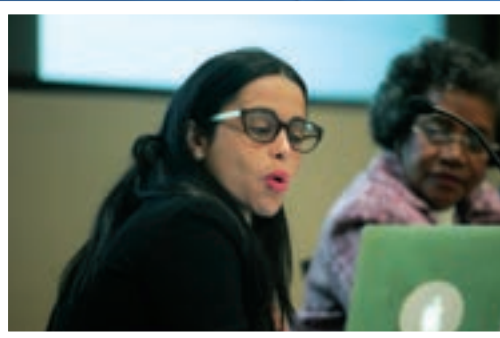
## WE *amplify* BY

- offering public testimony to policy makers;
- issuing formal public statements on policy issues
- achieving earned media coverage and using social media
- producing videos of clinicians speaking about climate and health
- sending monthly newsletters with action alerts and celebrating activity of advocates
- assisting doctors to publish op eds and letters to the editor
- supporting state based affiliates





# *Annual Meeting:* CLIMATE AND HEALTH SOLUTIONS FOR OUR FUTURE



In its inaugural Climate Health Solutions Conference, the Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health welcomed 280 doctors, nurses, and other health professionals from all of their member medical societies and affiliated health and science-based associations to focus on promoting better health by advancing solutions to climate change.

The conference was held on April 8-10 at George Mason University's campus in Arlington, Virginia. The convening highlighted the health harms of climate change— particularly as they affect children and vulnerable populations—and readily available solutions that improve health and limit climate change.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from leaders of five founding medical societies (ACP, AAFP, NMA, AAP, ACOG) and two Virginia cabinet secretaries: Daniel Carey, M.D., of Health and Human Resources and Matthew Strickler of Natural Resources. These leading officials in the administration of the Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, M.D., affirmed the state's commitment to climate change solutions and resilience, and invited collaboration from the medical community.

Keynote speaker, Mark Jacobson of Stanford University, founder of the Solutions Project, shared his inspiring vision of a complete



transformation of the world's energy supply to clean renewable energy using wind, water, and solar energy together with inventive low-tech technologies for energy storage. His analysis showed that this approach would be less expensive than the current energy supply system. According to Jacobson, only the will to pursue this future is needed.

Cassandra Kubes, from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), spoke of the potential to save many lives by cleaning the air simply by choosing the latest and most efficient technologies to reduce fossil fuel pollution.

Planting more green spaces was presented as another component of the solution to climate change by Philip Bogdonoff from Biodiversity for Livable Planet. Reclaiming barren land with green plantings removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and confers many other benefits to communities. Finally, a price on carbon was presented as a viable choice.

The conference included workshops for educators, communication professionals, and advocates focusing on state policy, methane, and curriculum development for educators. Live streaming of the conference reached an online population of over 500 viewers.

Conference sponsors included Johnson & Johnson, Walgreens, the American Lung Association, the American Public Health Association, Kaiser Permanente, Health Care Without Harm, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), HKS Inc., Burness, and 16 collaborating organizational conveners.

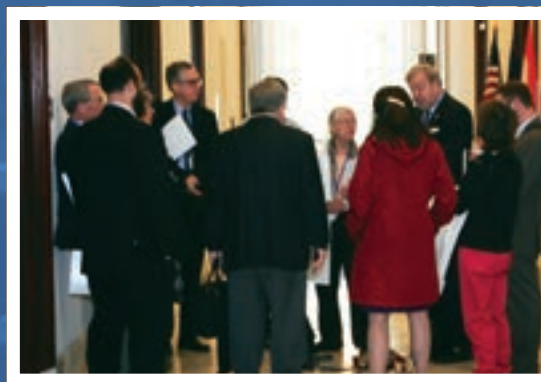
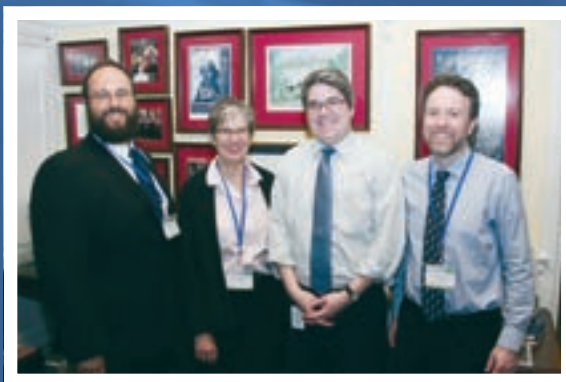




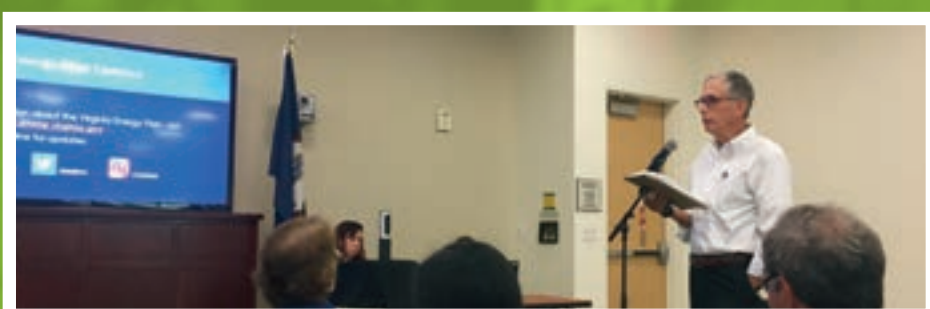
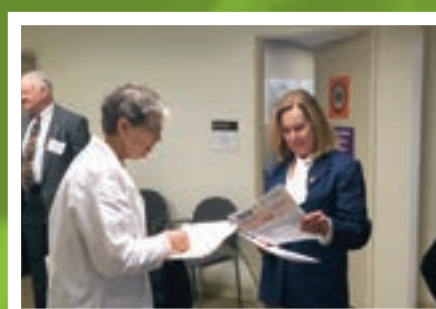
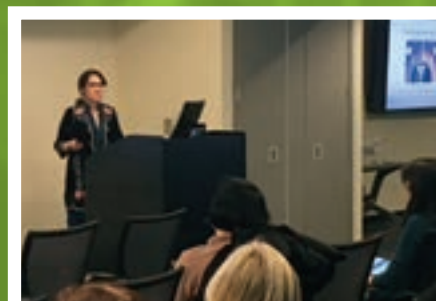
# VISITING *Congress*



**ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING, 80 ATTENDEES FROM 24 STATES MADE 101 VISITS TO THEIR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS, AND ASKED THEM TO SUPPORT MEASURES TO DECREASE AIR POLLUTION BY SWITCHING FROM DIRTY FOSSIL FUEL ENERGY TO CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY.**



# PHYSICIANS *In Action*



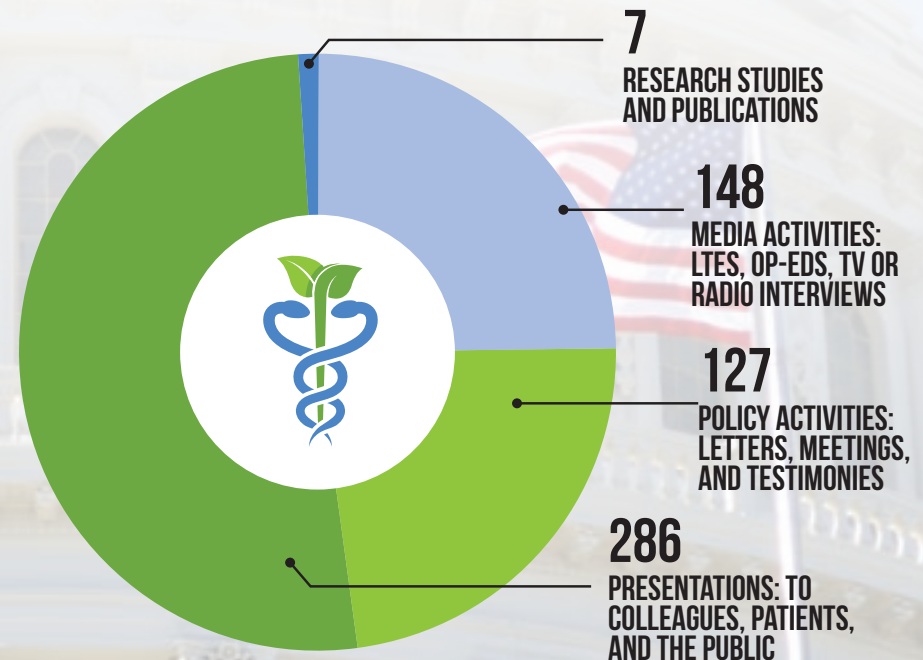


# WE ARE MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD!



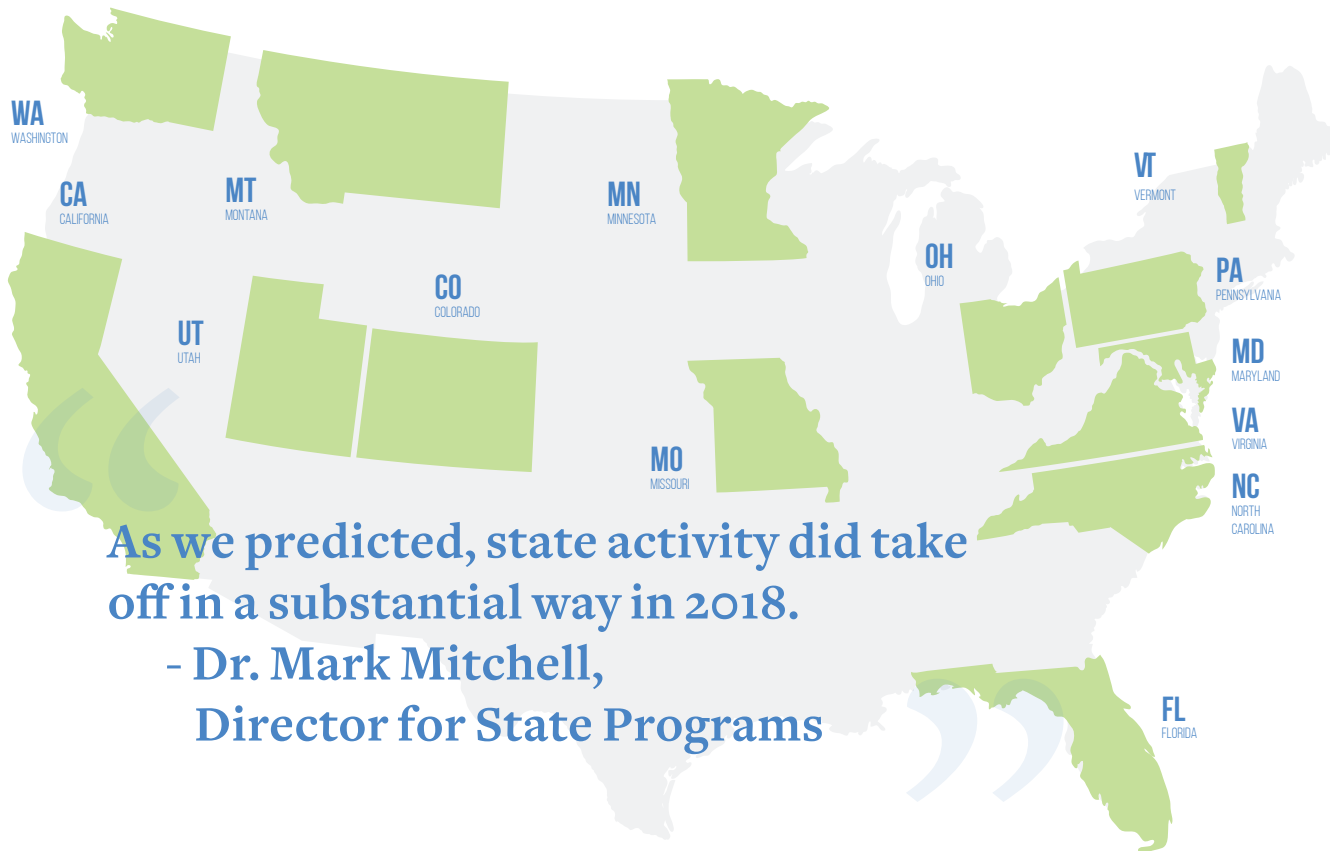
## ACTIVITIES BY MEDICAL ADVOCATES FOR *Climate & Health*

- 556 Physician climate and health advocates logged 565 advocacy actions over two years: in 2018 there were 101 media activities, 139 presentations, and 91 policy activities.
- The Consortium was mentioned in 69 news stories last year and in 173 over the last two years.
- Four member physicians testified at a Chicago EPA hearing against the revised Clean Power Plan mis-named the “Affordable Clean Energy” plan; the Consortium filed formal testimony opposing this plan.
- The Consortium entered testimony against every attempted EPA rollback: fuel economy and vehicle emissions, carbon pollution from the power sector, and restrictions on regulatory science—and opposed weakening mercury regulation.
- Doctors spoke at press conferences, and at state legislative hearings in favor of clean energy policies and energy efficiency
- Clinicians spoke out to protect pregnant women and children from methane exposure
- Video interviews of doctors speaking out about climate and health at annual conventions were shared on websites and social media
- The Consortium worked with Florida Clinicians for Climate Action to release the Florida Declaration on Climate and Health and with Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action on their legislative advocacy day.
- Monthly newsletters named a Champion of the month and carried action alerts.





# WE ARE BUILDING OUR STATE FOOTPRINT



As we predicted, state activity did take off in a substantial way in 2018.

- Dr. Mark Mitchell,  
Director for State Programs

**VIRGINIA:** Members of Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action held two CME events, published many op-eds, educated legislators, presented at public rallies and legislative hearings, and weighed in at meetings with state leaders.

**FLORIDA:** Florida Clinicians for Climate Action was founded at a CME event on climate and health disparities in Tampa; physicians spoke at multiple public education events in Miami; the Consortium secured funding and hired part time staff.

**OHIO:** Ohio Clinicians for Climate Action obtained support to hire a fulltime staff person.

**MISSOURI:** The Consortium secured funding to help Missouri physicians establish a Clinicians for Climate Action group.

**MONTANA:** The state chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics adopted a policy on climate change and health

**COLORADO:** The Colorado Academy of Family Physicians brought forward to the national AAFP a successful resolution favoring use of clean energy by national and state chapters.

**CALIFORNIA:** Health organizations hosted a Global Climate Health Forum, released a Call to Action signed by 70 health groups including 9 Consortium members, and delivered it to COP24 in Poland.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** The Massachusetts State Medical Society published a newsletter entirely focused on climate change and environmental health.

"In our state (WA), we depend heavily on clean hydroelectric power. But in my medical society, some of us are working toward divestment anyway because we cannot ignore the problem of fossil fuels."  
- Matt Burke, MD, Family Physician, Washington

"We had a productive year. Working with the University of Minnesota (UMN) Academic Health Centers, we developed a multi-phasic Climate Health curriculum for all health professional students. We participated in a Climate Forum led by the UMN Center for Bioethics. Our 2nd Code Blue for Planet Earth conference was well attended. During the Legislative Session we produced our weekly Capitol Watch bulletin with timely updates".  
- Bruce Snyder, MD, Health Professional for a Healthy Climate, Minnesota

"Health is the sword that can fight the fracking and fossil gas forces in Pennsylvania which sits on top of the Marcellus Shale. It is a real David vs Goliath story but we have the slingshot."  
- Walter Tsou, MD, MPH, PSR Pennsylvania

"The Vermont Climate and Health Alliance covered a lot of ground in its inaugural year - including meeting with the Governor and running a statewide "get-out-the-vote" campaign."  
- Dan Quinlan, Vermont Climate and Health Alliance

"We have a network of 900 health professionals working for healthy air in our state; this work is also the solution to climate change."  
- Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky,  
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air,  
North Carolina

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**David Blaine Peden, MD**  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma  
& Immunology



**Julie Wood, MD, FAAFP**  
American Academy of Family  
Physicians



**Jerome A. Paulson, MD,  
FAAP**  
American Academy of Pediatrics



**Robert M. McLean, MD,  
FACP**  
American College of Physicians



**Valencia Porter, MD, MPH**  
American College of Preventive  
Medicine



**Nathaniel DeNicola,  
MD, MSHP, FACOG**  
American Congress of Obstetricians  
and Gynecologists



**Claude J. Tellis, MD,  
FACP, FCCP**  
National Medical Association



**Amanda McKinney, MD,  
FACLM**  
American College of Lifestyle  
Medicine



**Marc Futernick, MD**  
California Chapter of American  
College of Emergency Physicians



**Shahnaz Fattah, MD**  
American Medical Women's  
Association



**Beth Gillespie, MD**  
Society of General Internal Medicine



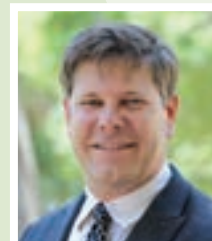
**Mimi Guarneri MD,  
ABIHM, AIHM**  
Academy of Integrative Health and  
Medicine



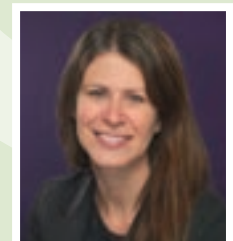
**David A. Pollack, MD**  
American Association of Community  
Psychiatrists



**Peter Yellowlees, MD,  
MBBS**  
American Telemedicine Association



**William B. Perkison, MD**  
American College of Occupational and  
Environmental Medicine



**Andrea Garcia**  
American Medical Association



**Kyle Bruce, DPM, MPH**  
American Podiatric Medical  
Association



**Carissa Cabán-Alemán,  
MD**  
American Psychiatric Association



**Samuel Snyder, D.O.**  
American College of Osteopathic  
Internists



**Diane Chau, MD, FACP**  
American Geriatrics Society



**Mary L. Williams, MD**  
American Academy of Dermatology



**Yuka Manabe, MD**  
Infectious Disease Group



# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**John Balbus, MD, MPH**, Senior Advisor for Public Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



**Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS**, 17th Surgeon General of The United States and Distinguished Professor University of Arizona



**Mike Coburn**, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Research!America



**Gary Cohen, MBA**, President and Founder, Health Care Without Harm, MacArthur Genius Award Winner



**Harvey Fineberg, MD**, President, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Former President of the Institute of Medicine



**Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH**, Dean, School of Public Health, University of Washington



**Robert Graham, MD** Former CEO of the AAFP, and Advisory Board of the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies



**Bob Inglis**, Director, RepublicEn, Energy and Enterprise Initiative



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



**George Luber, PhD**, Associate Director for Climate Change, National Center for Environmental Health, CDC



**Ana Núñez, MD** Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Drexel University College of Medicine, and Executive Editor of the journal "Health Equity"



**Camara Jones, MD, MPH, PhD**, Immediate Past President of the American Public Health Association



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

# MEMBER SOCIETIES



Academy of  
Integrative Health  
and Medicine  
(AIHM)



American Academy  
of Allergy, Asthma,  
Immunology  
(AAAAI)



American Academy  
of Dermatology  
(AAD)



American  
Academy of Family  
Physicians (AAFP)



American Academy  
of Pediatrics (AAP)



American  
Association of  
Community  
Psychiatrists  
(AACP)



American College  
of Lifestyle  
Medicine (ACLM)



American College  
of Obstetricians  
and Gynecologists  
(ACOG)



American College  
of Occupational  
and Environmental  
Medicine  
(ACOEM)



American College  
of Osteopathic  
Internists (ACOI)



American College  
of Physicians  
(ACP)



American College  
of Preventive  
Medicine (ACPM)



American  
Geriatrics Society  
(AGS)



American Medical  
Association (AMA)



American  
Medical Women's  
Association  
(AMWA)



American  
Podiatric Medical  
Association  
(APMA)



American  
Psychiatric  
Association (APA)



American  
Telemedicine  
Association (ATA)



California  
Chapter of  
American College  
of Emergency  
Physicians (ACEP)



National Medical  
Association  
(NMA)



Society of General  
Internal Medicine  
(SGIM)



Society of  
Gynecologic  
Oncology (SGO)



Infectious  
Diseases Society of  
America (IDSA)

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.



# AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS



Allergy & Asthma Network



Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments



American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)



American Geophysical Union



American Medical Student Association



American Meteorological Society



American Psychological Association (APA)



Association for Humanistic Psychology



Children's Environmental Health Network



Citizen's Climate Lobby – Climate and Health



Climate for Health / ecoAmerica



Climate Psychiatry Alliance



Global Climate and Health Alliance



Health Care Without Harm



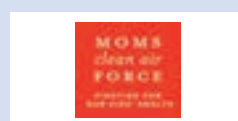
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate



Medical Advocates for Healthy Air (MAHA)



Medical Society of Northern Virginia (MSNVA)



Moms Clean Air Force



My Green Doctor



National Association of Social Workers



Ohio Clinicians for Climate Action



Physicians for Policy Action



Physicians for Social Responsibility



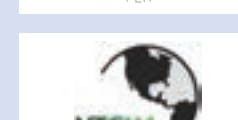
Union of Concerned Scientists



US Climate and Health Alliance



Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment



Vermont Climate & Health Alliance (VTCHA)



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA)

Affiliates of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health are health and science organizations that are aligned with the Consensus Statement regarding the health threats of climate change and the health benefits of solutions.

# MEET OUR *Team*



**Mona Sarfaty, MD**  
**MPH FAAFP**  
Executive Director



**Karmjot Randhawa,**  
**MS, MBA**  
Research Translation  
Operations Manager



**Robert Gould, PhD**  
Strategy and Communication  
Counselor



**Colin Nackerman**  
Acting Digital Director



**Mark Mitchell MD,**  
**MPH, FACPM**  
Director for State Affairs



**Ira Dreyfuss**  
Public Affairs Advisor



**Mohamed Ahmed**  
Finance Manager



**Wendy Cook**  
Manager of Digital  
Communication and Research



**Bev Harper**  
Policy Research Manager



**Jerome Paulson, MD**  
Research Consultant

**THANKS TO  
OUR FUNDERS**



KRESGE FOUNDATION



MASON FOUNDATION



ENERGY FOUNDATION



JOHNSON & JOHNSON

## *2018* PROGRAM ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH REVENUE AND EXPENSES

CY18 Total Revenue \$856,873.01\*

CY18 Total Expenses \$490,541.38

\*Figure includes revenues provided in November 2018 for 2019 and 2020.



# Champions PROFILES

These medical leaders have been featured in our Champions section; others are in our podcast series. They all take to heart the realization that the prominence afforded by the profession imbues doctors with the power of leadership in health, and that this power carries with it the urgent responsibility to act.

Dr. Nitin Damle, our April 2018 champion, has been lecturing around the nation and the world to raise awareness to the action level. The internal medicine specialist in Wakefield, Rhode Island, is among the authors of the American College of Physicians' position paper, "Climate Change and Health," which calls on physicians to "avert dire environmental outcomes" as they improve human health.

The life experiences of Dr. Cheryl Holder's patients in South Florida drive her concerns about climate change. Often, they are old, poor and minorities, and they lack the physical or financial resources to cope with even the damage that climate change does now. Dr. Holder, our February 2018 champion, is an NMA member who is on the staff of Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine in Miami. She says treating patients is not enough – the solution must attack the primary cause. She advises patients to look for things they can do in their community – and to consider the world their community,

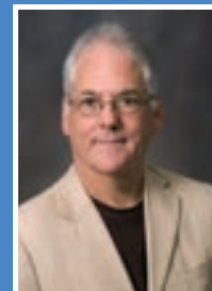
Dr. Matthew Burke, our June 2018 champion, who preceded Dr. Mitchell as the Consortium's director of state programs and now works in Seattle, encourages doctors to look at their state as their commu-

nity. "Much of climate change policy and mitigation is going to happen at the state level," Dr. Burke says. Physicians can use expert authority based on medical science, and clinical authority as caregivers, to help persuade lawmakers to enact climate-friendly legislation, he says.

Doctors thinking locally can work to green their hospitals and their practices, as our October 2018 champion, Dr. Aparna Bole of Cleveland, does. The pediatrician is medical director of community integration at UH Rainbow, and was a leader in ensuring its new Center for Women & Children met high environmental standards. To help make this happen, Dr. Bole worked with community stakeholders, patients, families, and hospital staff. As a result, the center's site and campus plan support multimodal transportation. Its passive solar design helps to optimize energy efficiency. And about half the energy for the 40,000-square-foot building comes from onsite solar panels.

If all this sounds very serious and high-level, well... climate change action doesn't have to be. Dr. Wendy Ring, who lives in rural California, is the guiding light behind the puppet show, *Dogs to the Rescue*, in which the dogs (and wolves, and a lizard, and a talking gas pipeline) teach humans to stop climate pollution and turn Smogtown into Greenville.

And like the puppets, that's our goal: to turn our global Smogtown into a Greenville. Working toward this will make you a champion. We invite you to join with us in doing it.





The Consortium is headquartered at the Center for Climate Change Communication, on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

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