

# PSR REPORTS



PSR is the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, recipient of the 1985 Nobel Prize for Peace.

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

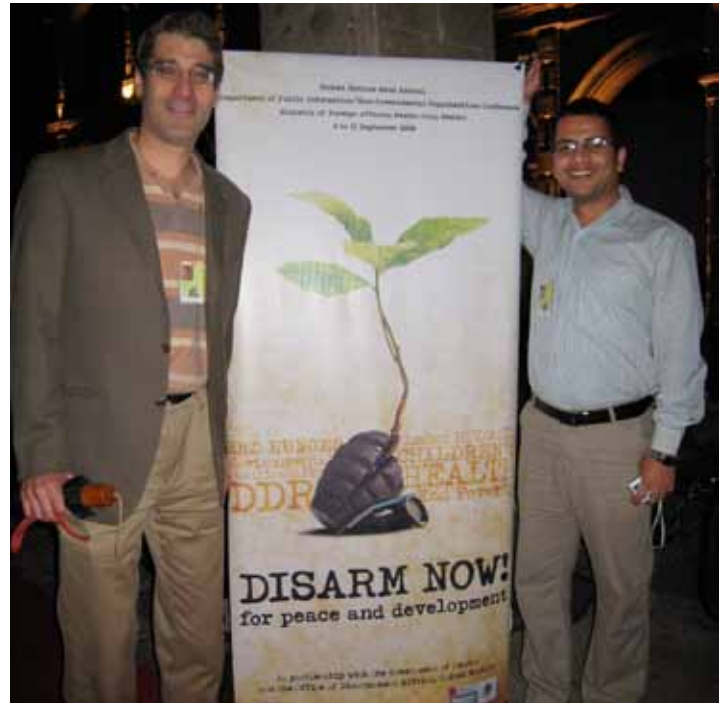
# International Leaders Call for Steps Toward Nuclear Disarmament

I had the privilege of representing PSR in Mexico City in September at a United Nations' disarmament conference for organizations from around the world to discuss plans for achieving peace, development and disarmament. It was an opportunity for PSR and other nongovernmental organizations that have consultative status with the U.N. to develop cooperative working strategies and re-affirm our common goals in advance of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

In his opening address, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered a stirring speech that was, point by point, aligned with PSR's goals and priorities, in particular the need to bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force. Ban also urged NPT parties to negotiate for verifiable disarmament, called on nuclear weapons states to lead the way in fulfilling their disarmament commitments by being more accountable and transparent, and cautioned non-nuclear countries not to pursue these weapons.

The NGO leaders were poised to take advantage of the global shift in thinking away from the old notion that nuclear weapons make us safe to instead recognize the danger of maintaining the nuclear status quo. At a high-level breakfast I attended with Mexico's U.N. Ambassador Claude Heller, this new thinking was evident as the ambassador made clear

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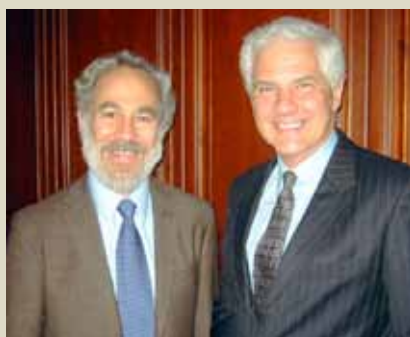
Evan Kanter, M.D. and Khagendra Dahal, M.D., member IPPNW board of directors, at the 62nd annual U.N. Department of Public Information and Non-governmental Organizations Conference.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# PSR's Strength: Our Active Members

One of PSR's strengths—and in fact a characteristic that distinguishes us from many other advocacy organizations—is the integration of our nationally coordinated work in the nation's capital with that of our broad chapter network. The state and local presence of our chapters fosters innovative programs, promotes the active participation of PSR members, and engages physicians and other health professionals from many settings and fields of expertise. It is a pleasure for me, as a former

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Peter Wilk, M.D. and Joe Circincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund at the Maine Medical Center for "The Future of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy," a joint address sponsored by PSR/Maine and the World Affairs Council.

# PSR to Push for Senate Ratification of Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

One of the essential steps to achieving our vision of a safer future—and a disarmament agenda cornerstone for which PSR members have worked for many years—is U.S. Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. In the coming months, PSR will be heavily engaged in this effort—using its medical voice to educate the public and policy makers about the importance of a verifiable, enforceable test ban. Together with our chapters and our allies, we are launching strategic campaigns in states across the country, educating key legislators on the need to focus on reducing nuclear weapons and getting to zero.

The world has changed dramatically since 1999, when the Senate last considered CTBT ratification. The coalition of allied national and local disarmament organizations is more focused, more politically astute, and broader than when nuclear weapons last received significant attention. Although it will be challenging to secure the 67 votes needed, there is now a strong bipartisan consensus

that the test ban treaty is a necessary step in reducing the threat from nuclear weapons. The scientific community has greatly enhanced its ability to verify compliance with a test ban, as well as to ensure the reliability of our current nuclear stockpiles—two of the concerns raised when the treaty was debated in 1999.

When the test ban enters into force, it will further global understanding that nuclear weapons are unnecessary—and indeed a danger to all. The only realistic path to a secure future is one that moves us closer to the elimination of these weapons.

At the United Nations in September, President Obama said, "We harbor no illusions about the difficulty of bringing about a world without nuclear weapons. We know there are plenty of cynics, and that there will be setbacks to prove their point. But there will also be days like today that push us forward—days that tell a different story." In this new environment, significant and lasting change on one of our core issues

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# Medical Student Activists Talk Policy, Enhance Skills at New York Conference

More than 100 medical students and health professionals from the U.S. and around the world gathered in New York City for the Student Physicians for Social Responsibility (SPSR) 2009 National Conference, "Prescription for a Healthy and Secure Planet." Medical, public health, environment and security experts addressed such topics as the public health impact of global warming, how to "green" hospitals and health care, combating environmental toxins, and preventing the use of nuclear weapons through their global elimination. Various sessions focused on what it means to be a medical activist.

Featured speakers at the conference included Dr. Paul Epstein, associate director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, and Joseph Cirincione, president of Ploughshares Fund. In addition to several exciting keynote speakers, plenary sessions and interactive workshops, the conference included a performance of *Damaged Care—The Musical Comedy about Health Care in America* and a screening of the film *Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War*, followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, Lincoln and Alice Day.

Alicia Pointer from the University of New England and Jessie Duvall from the University of Washington remarked that, "The speakers were very impressive, obviously extremely knowledgeable and well-respected in their fields, as well as eloquent and educational. The workshops were

Scenes from the conference include (RIGHT) student conference organizers (FROM LEFT) PSR/National staff member Laicie Olson with medical student representatives Lauren Zajac and Tova Fuller, and (BELOW) other participants.



varied enough to offer something for everyone. The food was delicious. And if there was a single glitch the entire

weekend, we didn't notice it. We were both inspired to work harder, learn more and share what we know." PSR

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To receive *PSR Reports* regularly, we invite you to join PSR and support our work. Write to PSR, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1012, Washington, DC 20009, or visit our website at [www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org).

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## TEST BAN RATIFICATION

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is now possible, and victory on the CTBT, though far from inevitable, is finally within our grasp.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

In coalition with partner organizations, PSR has deployed specially trained organizers to educate communities in key states about the importance of the CTBT. The test ban has been a central goal of PSR ever since the organization's founding in 1961, but to make this dream a reality we need your active involvement. To participate in this historic moment:

- Write personal letters to your senators urging their active and vocal support for the CTBT.
- Recruit two new PSR members to this issue.
- Reactivate or help build a new chapter in your area.
- Help identify supporters who can help finance this vital work.

For more information or to increase your active involvement, e-mail at [dhart@psr.org](mailto:dhart@psr.org).

## Meet Security Program Director David Hart

I am pleased to introduce myself as PSR's new director of security programs. My primary focus will be on nuclear weapons and disarmament. I will also work to promote constructive non-military solutions to international conflict and ways to cut excessive military spending in order to fund pressing human and environmental needs.

I have worked as a mediator, conflict resolution specialist and peace activist for decades, serving as executive director of local, state and national nonprofit organizations, including Peace Action Maine and Veterans for Peace, and as CEO of the Association for Conflict Resolution from 2001 to 2006. Most recently, I worked for a U.S. Department of Justice contractor, mediating civil rights cases filed under the Americans with Disabilities Act. My undergraduate studies were in peace and conflict studies at Oberlin College, and I hold a master's in political science from Syracuse University's Maxwell School, where I earned certificates of achievement from the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict (PARC) and the Institute on Creative Conflict Management.

I am thrilled to be working alongside dedicated colleagues who are striving to save our precious planet from environmental destruction. Over the years, as I have focused my academic and professional work on peace building, creative conflict resolution and community organizing, I have been both inspired and sustained by my personal connection to the earth. At PSR I get to concentrate on what I do best, yet stand in close partnership with staff and volunteers working on related issues of vital importance to me personally. I consider this a great blessing.



# PSR Articulates Health Objectives for U.S. Climate Legislation

With global temperatures threatening to rise to dangerous levels, the climate change debate in Congress has huge health implications. Global warming's deadly threats to human health include heat stroke, food scarcity, water contamination, the spread of contagious and vector-borne diseases, and increased mental health effects.

PSR board members, chapter leaders and staff have identified the "must-achieve" U.S. climate policy measures that are needed to scale back the worst threats from global warming:

**CARBON EMISSION TARGETS:** Climate legislation should set a goal of returning atmospheric greenhouse gases to 350 parts per million carbon dioxide equivalent, the safe upper limit to keep global temperatures within 2°C of preindustrial levels.

**EPA AUTHORITY:** Legislation should preserve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act.

**COAL:** Legislation should bring all existing (as well as proposed) coal plants under stringent regulation for toxic emissions. PSR calls for a moratorium on construction of new coal-fired power plants and opposes subsidies that continue our reliance on coal, including research and development subsidies for carbon capture and sequestration.

**NUCLEAR POWER:** PSR opposes unlimited loan guarantees or other

subsidies for the construction of new reactors. PSR opposes reprocessing spent fuel or moving this waste to "interim" storage sites.

**OFFSETS:** Compliance "offsets" (which allow entities to finance renewable energy or energy-efficient projects in place of reducing their own emissions) in cap and trade programs must be real, additional, permanent, quantifiable, and enforceable. Offsets must be limited to less than 10 percent of annual emissions cuts.

**BLACK CARBON EMISSION TARGETS:** To ensure rapid reductions in black carbon emissions (a particulate pollution that diminishes the reflective capacity of snow-covered regions), PSR supports banning oil exploration and commercial shipping routes in the Arctic and improving forestry management practices to help prevent forest fires.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS:** The Renewable Energy Standards should be calculated without reference to gains in energy efficiency and should set a target for the nation's energy supply of 25 percent from renewable sources by 2025.

Other vital issues, such as increasing energy conservation and efficiency and expanding our supply of clean, renewable energy sources, will be taken up in an energy bill. We anticipate that the energy bill will then be folded into the climate bill. **PSR**



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Call on your senators to support these steps, which are necessary for a climate policy that protects human health. Here are three things you can do today:

- Use the talking points above to write your senators, urging them to support strong climate legislation that will protect human health. Write to Office of Senator [NAME], United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.
- Call your senators' offices to raise your concerns. The Capitol switchboard in Washington is (202) 224-3121.
- Contact your local PSR chapter to join in local advocacy in support of strong climate legislation.

*PSR is making the case that increased U.S. reliance on clean, renewable energy will improve the health of the planet and its human inhabitants.*

**If you are a health professional, please add your voice to our letters calling on the Senate to confront global warming and build a healthy, safe energy future. Visit [www.psr.org/take-action/environment-and-health/health-professionals-send-a-message.html](http://www.psr.org/take-action/environment-and-health/health-professionals-send-a-message.html).**

# PSR Opposes Spent Fuel Reprocessing in Climate Bill

PSR's Safe Energy Program teamed up with The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation this summer to brief members of Congress on the proliferation, waste management and cost problems of spent fuel reprocessing. The briefing generated widespread interest, packing the room in the new Capitol Visitors Center. The panel discussion featured Frank von Hippel, Ph.D., of Princeton University; Henry Sokolski of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center; and Ed Lyman, Ph.D., of the Union of Concerned Scientists, each of whom presented different aspects of the problem of reprocessing. In short, not only would reprocessing entail pollution, proliferation, and extreme expense, it would also fail to solve the nuclear waste problem.

The briefing came at a critical time for the issue of reprocessing.

The Obama administration has terminated the domestic portion of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), a Bush administration program to restart reprocessing in the United States. Administration officials cited the fact that the non-proliferation problems caused by reprocessing have yet to be resolved. Congressional appropriators have zeroed out funding for GNEP, criticizing the Department of Energy for failing to answer basic questions about total cost and how the multiple waste streams would be managed.

Yet some members of Congress continue to push the false promise of reprocessing as the solution for our nation's nuclear waste problem and want to include reprocessing provisions in the upcoming climate bill. The Senate energy bill (S. 1462), which was passed out of committee in June and is proposed to be combined

with the Senate climate bill, already includes provisions that authorize the design and evaluation of reprocessing facilities. It also requires that DOE develop a waste-stream management plan and cost estimates. Although it would make sense to complete waste and cost analyses before launching a reprocessing program, all of these provisions are premature because so-called "advanced" reprocessing technologies are still in the early research stage. **PSR**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Find out where your senators and representatives stand on this issue and urge them to keep reprocessing out of the climate bill. For more information, contact Michele Boyd [mboyd@psr.org](mailto:mboyd@psr.org) or Morgan Pinnell at [mpinnell@psr.org](mailto:mpinnell@psr.org).

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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Mexico's intention to support the commitment President Obama made in Prague to work toward eliminating nuclear weapons.

The Secretary-General's speech at the U.N. conference was just a prelude to several important developments this fall. In September, President Obama used his first appearance before the General Assembly to reiterate his commitment to a nuclear-weapons-free world. And the following day—in what marked the first time a U.S. president has chaired a U.N. Security Council meeting—the president took a step toward realizing his vision by presenting a resolution, which the council approved unanimously, expressing grave concern about the threats posed by nuclear proliferation and urging action to address it. President Obama declared that the United States will live up to its side of the bargain by negotiating with Russia for deep cuts in the two nations' arsenals and by completing "a Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) that opens the door to deeper cuts and reduces the role of nuclear weapons" in U.S. security policy.

Shortly after President Obama's appearance at the U.N., he was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, in part for his statements embracing a vision of a nuclear-weapons-free world and the steps he is beginning to take

toward that goal. The announcement prompted many of our members to recall the day in 1985 when, in a similar fashion, the Nobel committee awarded the prize to International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and its affiliates for their work on nuclear disarmament. PSR congratulates President Obama on this prestigious acknowledgement and urges him now to turn the momentum from this award into concrete action toward the global elimination of these treacherous weapons.

PSR can be proud of the central role it has played in building national and international support for nuclear disarmament for nearly 50 years. What started with a handful of young physicians in the 1960s, and grew to include medical professionals from all over the world, has helped inspire the world to draw back from the arms race that raged through the 1980s. That legacy of physician activism continues to drive efforts against the nuclear status quo. We know that by raising our medical and public health voice to warn of these dangers, we can make

the world safer and healthier. But we also know how hard it is to achieve lasting change.

Many of you have been pressing for these goals for a long time. Never before have we needed your support more than right now. Our security program's immediate goals are outlined in this newsletter. I am asking you to redouble your efforts. Engage your colleagues and friends by sharing your knowledge

and helping to raise awareness of these issues. Reach out to medical students, the next generation of physician activists who will carry on PSR's mission, by encouraging them to learn more at psr.org. And continue your generous support of PSR at the national and local level to help us during this crucial window of opportunity.

Thank you for your commitment over the years and for helping to keep PSR's work vital.



EVAN KANTER, M.D., PH.D.

**Our final destination is a world free of nuclear weapons. This is not an unrealistic goal. But to get there, we must act.**

**— U.N. Secretary-General  
Ban Ki-moon,  
September 9, 2009**



**Leaders Gather in New York**

TOP LEFT: PSR/National board members Alan Lockwood, M.D., and Victor W. Sidel, M.D., with Ruth Sidel and PSR Safe Energy Director Michele Boyd

ABOVE RIGHT: Thelma Fellows and PSR Security Committee Chair Ira Helfand, M.D.

LEFT: PSR Executive Director Peter Wilk, M.D.; Alexis Strongin, M.D.; Bob Haynes, M.D. and PSR/National Board Chair Evan Kanter, M.D.



# PSR Chapters Working for a Safer, Healthier World

PSR's nationwide chapter network is the heart and soul of our organization. From Maine to California and from New York to Washington, PSR chapters are mobilizing our members to voice their concerns about the unacceptable medical and public health risks caused by nuclear weapons, nuclear reactors, climate change and environmental degradation.

## Kansas City

For people in Kansas City, nuclear weapons are a backyard issue. PSR/Kansas City, under the leadership of Director Ann Suellentrop, M.S.R.N., is taking "think globally, act locally" to heart by leading the opposition to the construction of a new, \$600-million nuclear weapons production facility. The new plant would ostensibly replace the Kansas City Honeywell Plant, a facility responsible for the manufacture and/or procurement of 85 percent of all nuclear weapons components.

In collaboration with local and national organizations, PSR/Kansas City is educating the community about the true costs and consequences of continued nuclear weapons production. They are also raising concerns about the contamination of the old site and the former employees' exposure to environmental toxins. By speaking out at public hearings, talking to the media, educating public officials—and by joining with the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council to file a lawsuit over government failure to prepare a comprehensive environmental impact statement for the proposed plant—PSR succeeded in postponing final approval of the plant.

## Arizona

PSR physicians in Arizona, a key state in the effort to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, are engaged in a broad campaign to educate the community on the importance of the treaty and the Senate ratification vote anticipated next year. After an op-ed by PSR member Dr. Barbara Warren appeared in the *Arizona Daily Star*, she was invited to present an editorial on the local PBS television station. Dr. Warren used both opportunities to emphasize the importance of the test ban as a crucial step toward nuclear disarmament and ask Arizona citizens to urge their senators to support CTBT ratification. Dr. Warren also represents PSR on the city of Tucson's Climate Change Advisory Committee, which is drafting a comprehensive plan to reduce Tucson's carbon footprint.

## Iowa and Maine

PSR/Iowa and PSR/Maine are also heavily engaged in raising awareness

of the need to ratify the CTBT. Knowing that PSR is strongest when we mobilize our members and the public, they are organizing conferences, making presentations to community leaders and generating media coverage, all with the goal of calling attention to the unacceptable risk to public health that would be caused by the detonation of even one nuclear weapon.

## Greater Boston

Greater Boston PSR members Drs. Jill Stein and Ted Schettler, health advocacy experts and authors of *Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging*, are speaking at forums across the country about their findings on the need to prevent exposure to environmental toxins. GBPSR is also

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Chapter leaders: (SEATED) Paul Santomena, PSR/Maine; Trish O'Day, PSR/Austin; John Rachow, M.D., PSR/Iowa and national board; Bob Gould, M.D., PSR/San Francisco and national board member; Rachel Larsen, PSR/Oregon; (STANDING) Ana Mascarenas, PSR/Los Angeles; Roberta Richardson, M.D., PSR/Colorado; Kate Ward, PSR/Harrisburg; Craig Tounget, PSR/Austin; Sarah Lovinger, M.D., PSR/Chicago; Cherie Eicholz, PSR/Washington; Paul Wengert, M.D., PSR/Harrisburg; Harry Wang, M.D., PSR/Sacramento; Martha Dine Arguello, PSR/Los Angeles; Don Mellman, M.D., Tampa/PSR; Ira Helfand, M.D., national board member; Pam Kleiss, PSR/Wisconsin; Maye Thompson, PSR/Oregon (partially obscured); Peter Wilk, M.D., PSR/National executive director; and Ira Shorr, PSR/National.



Planting seeds for a more peaceful future, PSR/Sacramento garnered 144 essays from area high school students, who were asked to reflect on Albert Einstein's statement, "We shall require a new manner of thinking if humankind is to survive," as part of the annual PSR/Sacramento scholarship essay contest. Pictured are finalists Sarah Lightstone (first place), C.K. McClatchy High School, Sacramento; Monika Robbins (second place), Mira Loma High School, Carmichael; and Noah Muldavin (third place), C.K. McClatchy High School, Sacramento.

Mark your calendar for the "War and Global Health Conference," co-sponsored by PSR/Washington and the Global Health Resource Center at University of Washington, April 23–25, 2010, in Seattle.

# PSR's Leadership Circle

PSR is grateful to the many individuals who provide generous and critical support for our programs. Our 2008 Leadership Circle members are acknowledged below. For information on joining PSR's Leadership Circle, please contact Mary Dillon Kerwin at (202) 587-5231 or mkerwin@psr.org.

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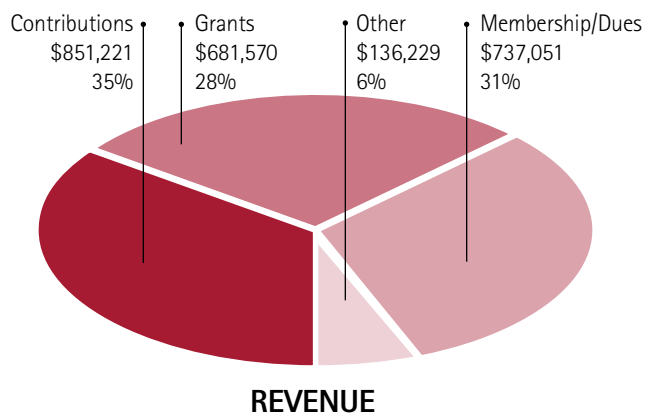
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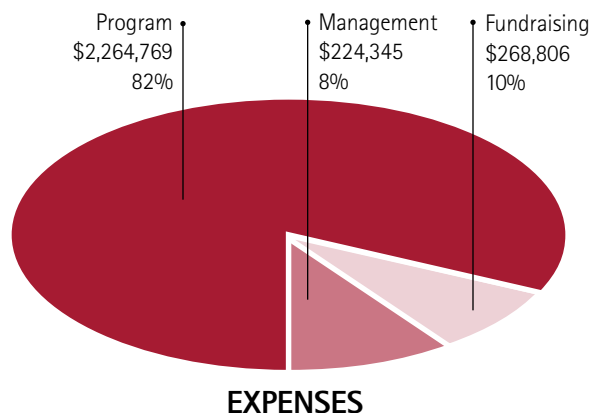
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## Fiscal Year 2008 (1/1/08 - 12/31/08)



### REVENUE



### EXPENSES

## INVEST YOURSELF

### PLEASE CONSIDER...INCLUDING PSR IN YOUR WILL

Leaving a bequest to PSR is a wonderful way to help continue the work you believe in so strongly. We suggest you check with an attorney or tax advisor to see how a bequest to PSR would fit into your estate plans. PSR's Tax ID number and office address are listed below for your convenience. Please contact Jill Hertzler by phone at (202) 587-5247 or by e-mail at [jhertzler@psr.org](mailto:jhertzler@psr.org) for more information.

PSR TAX ID #: 23-7059731

FULL LEGAL NAME:

Physicians for Social Responsibility  
ADDRESS: 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW,  
Suite 1012, Washington, DC 20009

### ...OR GIVING A GIFT OF STOCK

A gift of stock is also an excellent way to support PSR's work. Listed below is PSR's brokerage information. Please contact Jill Hertzler by phone at (202) 587-5247 or by e-mail at [jhertzler@psr.org](mailto:jhertzler@psr.org) for more information or to confirm receipt of your gift.

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## MATCH YOUR GIFT

Many companies provide matching gifts for employee charitable contributions. Please check to determine whether your gift to PSR will be met, doubled or tripled by your employer. It's a great way to make your gift go further to support PSR. Just include your company's matching gift form with your contribution, and we'll complete it, send it in, and let you know when your gift has been matched!

## STAY ACTIVE

**Would you like to be more involved in PSR's advocacy efforts?** A great place to start is PSR's Activist Updates. Each of PSR's program areas reaches out to members through Action Alerts and e-mail. To learn more about the Activist Updates, contact us here (information below) and be sure to mention what issues interest you most.

**Coming to Washington, DC, and have an hour to spare?** How about visiting one of your elected officials to talk about the issues of most concern to you? Contact the PSR office at least a week in advance, and we'll help schedule a meeting, provide you with background materials, and possibly even accompany you on your lobbying call.

### Contact your elected officials:

U.S. SENATE, Washington, DC 20510

☎ (202) 224-3121

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC 20515

☎ (202) 224-3121

THE WHITE HOUSE, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20500

☎ (202)456-1414

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Contact PSR at:  
1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1012  
Washington, DC 20009  
☎ (202) 667-4260  
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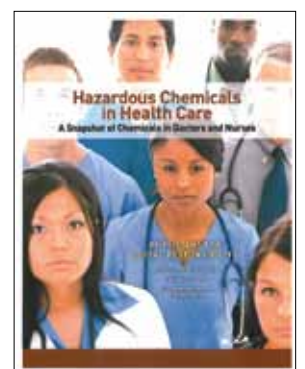
# Physicians Take Urgent Climate Change Message to Capitol Hill

PSR physicians from across the country convened on Capitol Hill in April to bring their concerns about the negative health impacts of climate change to dozens of Senate and House offices, including that of Speaker Pelosi. In nearly 50 visits with members and their staffs, the physicians pressed Congress to take immediate action to encourage clean, renewable energy; institute higher mandatory standards for energy efficiency; and set specific carbon emissions targets. More than half the PSR/ National board members in the delegation are citizens

who really "walk the talk" by powering their homes with either wind or solar energy. **PSR**



TOP (LEFT TO RIGHT): Robert Haynes, M.D.; Gerri Haynes, R.N. and PSR/Washington Executive Director Cherie Eichholz visit Senator Maria Cantwell's office. CENTER: Alfred Meyer; Jeff Patterson, D.O., PSR/National board president-elect; PSR/Wisconsin Executive Director Pam Kleiss and Mary Dougherty visit Senator Herb Kohl's office. BOTTOM: PSR's Los Angeles contingent pauses outside the Capitol. Shown are Ana Mascarenas; Jose Quiroga, M.D.; Curren Warf, M.D.; and Tom Newman, M.D. with PSR/National Executive Director Peter Wilk, M.D.



In October, PSR released *Hazardous Chemicals in Health Care: A Snapshot of Chemicals in Doctors and Nurses*, a report documenting the chemical burden in a sampling of doctors and nurses. It can be found at <http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/hazardous-chemicals-in-health-care.pdf>

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Continued from page 1

long-time chapter leader in Maine, to have the opportunity now as executive director to work with chapters across the country as they develop new programs and build organizational capacity.

As I write this letter, I am returning from Oregon, where I spent several days with the PSR/Oregon chapter, seeing first hand their outstanding work in the areas of nuclear weapons, coal, safe foods, climate change and energy solutions. As always, the breadth and depth of the programs were impressive, as was the talent of the staff and volunteer leadership. This year I've also traveled to Harrisburg, PA; Chicago; New York; Maine; and San Francisco. Although each trip accomplished different goals, there was a common purpose: strengthening our collective efforts to advance PSR's mission. It came as no surprise on each visit that I met dedicated leaders who are using their medical and public health expertise to prod local, national and international leaders to make our world a safer place.

Throughout the PSR network, chapters are doing exciting work to address the serious health consequences that result from nuclear weapons, climate change, toxic exposure and environmental degradation. I want to draw your attention in particular to the article on page 1 describing the effective advocacy being carried out nationally and by chapters for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a likely START follow-on agreement to reduce U.S. and Russian arsenals. I also want to highlight two new resources from our environment and health program.

*Coal's Assault on Human Health* is a groundbreaking report that provides an assessment of the impact that our reliance on coal for energy has on three major organ systems. The report exposes the cumulative harm inflicted by coal emissions on the respiratory, cardiovascular, and nervous systems and concludes that from a public health perspective, it is imperative that we replace coal with clean, safe, renewable energy sources. We intend to make this report a point of reference for policy makers and the public as the nation addresses global warming and crafts its energy future. We know that the coal industry will continue to bring to bear considerable legal, lobbying and marketing resources, striving to maintain U.S. dependency on coal. This report helps counter those efforts by documenting the myriad ways that coal combustion not only exacerbates climate change, but also puts millions of people at increased risk for neurological and developmental damage, as well as life-threatening cancer and cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses.

A second report, *Hazardous Chemicals in Health Care: A Snapshot of Chemicals in Doctors and Nurses*, documents the toxic chemicals that accumulate in the bodies of health care providers. We are issuing this report to increase awareness of hazardous chemical exposures in healthcare settings, and promote effective exposure-reduction efforts and treatment. The authors provide guidance on identifying and reducing hazardous chemical exposures in the healthcare sector and provide further evidence of the need for chemical policy reform.

These reports do no good sitting on shelves in PSR's office. Visit our

website and download them. Share them with colleagues. Use them to educate your patients.

None of this work would be possible without our generous supporters. In this issue of *PSR Reports*, we recognize our Leadership Circle members, major donors, foundations, and bequest donors. If space permitted, I would list all of the more than 20,000 donors who made contributions to PSR/National in 2008. We owe our gratitude to all of you for providing the financial support that sustains our work. On behalf of the board and staff, please accept my heartfelt thanks.

PETER WILK, M.D.

## CHAPTERS TAKE ACTION

Continued from page 5

developing an educational training package, "Environmental Drivers of Chronic Disease," in conjunction with PSR/Tampa and PSR/Oregon, to encourage physicians, other health professionals and the public to address this issue.

### Oregon

PSR/Oregon is hard at work on the issues of plastics and human health, air pollution dangers and the need for chemical policy reform. Through 25 presentations, they have reached a broad audience, including 225 health professionals, over the past year. **PSR**

In August PSR and the National Wildlife Federation released *More Extreme Heat Waves: Global Warming's Wake Up Call*, describing the health dangers that result from extreme heat and identifying the 30 U.S. cities whose populations are most vulnerable. The report notes that shifts in U.S. demographics to an older and more urban population make efforts to protect at-risk communities from heat waves—one of the early manifestations of global warming—increasingly urgent. To view the complete report, visit [psr.org](http://psr.org).

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