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**Physicians for Social Responsibility
Maine Chapter**

Maine Update

September 23, 2009

***"The Public Health Consequences
of Nuclear Weapons Policy"
with Ira Helfand, MD
Maine Medical Center, October 5, 2009***

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**Earn CMEs and attend
PSR/Maine's domestic
violence prevention
workshop without
leaving your practice.**

Our Domestic Violence Response Initiative (DVRI) provides medical personnel in Maine with quick interactive trainings that prepare them to integrate routine domestic violence screenings into their practices. Trainings can be accomplished in any office setting and can be tailored to fit specific patient populations. CME credits are available.

To hold a DVRI training at your medical facility, please call PSR Maine at (207) 772-6714 or [email Janey Morse](mailto:janey@psrmaine.org), our Domestic Violence Prevention Director

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Ira Helfand, MD

The Public Health Consequences of Nuclear Weapons Policy

A talk by Ira Helfand, M.D.
Monday, October 5 at 5:30 P.M.
Classroom # 3
Charles A. Dana Health Ed Ctr.
at Maine Medical Center
22 Bramhall Street, Portland

Amid the voices calling for changes in U.S. nuclear weapons policy - from President Obama's call for a "world free of nuclear weapons" to efforts to build a new generation of nuclear warheads - Dr. Helfand will help sort out fact from fiction in a broad discussion of U.S. nuclear weapons policy, the dangers of nuclear proliferation, the public health consequences of nuclear weapons use, and how Maine's Senators may influence this critical debate.

Dr Helfand's talk is particularly timely. The U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) is currently in process at the Defense Department and the Senate will consider ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in Spring 2010.

Dr. Helfand has been North American Vice President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War since 2006. He has published widely on the threat to human health posed by nuclear weapons, nuclear war and nuclear terrorism. To view his 2007 article on nuclear war-induced famine, click [here](#). Dr. Helfand is a graduate of Harvard College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

For more information, email [Paul Santomenno](mailto:psr@psrmaine.org) or call 772-6714.

Action Alert: Urge Senators to Protect EPA's Authority to Regulate Carbon Dioxide

The power of the EPA to protect us from global warming -- by regulating emissions of carbon dioxide from the biggest polluters in the country -- is under attack in the Senate.



We urgently need you to call your Senators today. Tell them that we need the EPA to have full authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, regardless of the source. Urge them to defeat the "Murkowski amendment" to the Interior Appropriations bill.



Call now. The vote on this critical amendment will happen this week!.

Senator Snowe: (800) 432-1599

Senator Collins: (202) 224-2523

Background:

Even while the Senate is drafting climate legislation, Sen. Murkowski of Alaska has circulated a draft amendment that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for one year from spending any money to regulate or control CO2 emissions from stationary sources including coal-fired power plants, the largest point-source of CO2 emissions in the country.

This amendment is a back-door effort to hamstring the EPA, which has been powerfully effective in improving U.S. air quality and protecting public health. It would send the most counter-productive message imaginable, at the worst possible time, to foreign governments. It would suggest that the U.S. government is not serious about containing climate change mere months before December's United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen.

Please call your Senators today.

Clinicians: Tell Us About Your Experiences with Somali Patients

As part of our effort to ensure that Somali women are screened for domestic violence by their health care providers, PSR Maine would like to learn more about the Somali patient - doctor relationship. If you have Somali patients and would like to contribute to our research in this area, please email [Janey Morse](mailto:Janey.Morse@psrmaine.org), PSR Maine's Domestic Violence Prevention Director. Thank you.

CDC Introduces New Environmental Health Tracking Tool



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently launched the web-based [Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#), a surveillance tool that scientists, health professionals, and - for the first time - members of the public can use to track environmental exposures and chronic health conditions.

It is a system of integrated health, exposure, and hazard information and data from a variety of national, state, and city sources. You can explore information and

view maps, tables, and charts about health and environment across the country. The new tool unites environmental information from across the country, including air and water pollutants and information for some chronic conditions, including asthma, cancer, childhood lead poisoning and heart disease into one resource.

Date from Maine and 15 other states are available through the Network. The CDC hopes to expand the Network across all 50 states, and track additional environmental hazards and health conditions.

This Friday: Action Plan for a Toxics-free World with Sandra Steingraber, PhD Camden Opera House



Friday, September 25th
Reception and cash bar at 6:00 p.m. (food catered by Swan's Way)
Event begins at 7:00 p.m.
Free, open to the public
Contact: [Leisa Dennett](#)

Ecologist, author, and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized expert on the links between environmental pollution and disease. At Friday's talk, sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Dr. Steingraber will discuss the growing movement to reform the way we produce, use, and manage chemicals, and what we can do as citizens and consumers to move our country to policies that ensure that the products we buy are safe for our families and the environment.

Her newly revised work, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*, presents the environmental causes of cancer as a human rights issue. Her second book, *Having Faith*, is a memoir of her own pregnancy and an investigation revealing the alarming extent to which environmental hazards now threaten each crucial stage of infant development. With humor and unabashed honesty, Steingraber delivers a compelling message of hope for how we can achieve a safer, sustainable future.

Read [a powerful piece in Orion magazine](#) by Dr. Steingraber.

PSR/Maine uses the values and expertise of medicine and public health to protect human life from the greatest threats to health and survival.

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