Guided by the values and expertise of medicine and public health, Physicians for Social Responsibility works to protect humanity from the gravest threats to health and survival.

WASHINGTON PSR BOARD MEMBER BRUCE AMUNDSON, MD AND PSR BOARD MEMBER LAUREN ZAJAC, MD AT THE PEOPLE’S CLIMATE MARCH, SEPTEMBER 2014.

PSR
Physicians for Social Responsibility

2014 ANNUAL PSR CHAPTER, BOARD AND STUDENT PSR RETREAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM PSR CHAPTERS, THE NATIONAL OFFICE AND STUDENT PSR PAUSED FOR A PHOTO OP AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING IN RAPID CITY, IOWA IN MAY.

FRONT COVER, UPPER RIGHT:
MICHELLE GIN IN KAZAKHSTAN AFTER RIDING HUNDREDS OF MILES.
AVI AND JENNIFER FINISHING THE GREAT MARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN DC.
BRUCE NAYOWITH, MD AT THE GREAT MARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION.

BACK COVER:
SHANNON GEARHEART, MD OF PSR NY WITH DAN WOLK, MD OF PSR PHILADELPHIA.
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Dear Members, Supporters, and Allies,

It is an honor to have medical students tell us that PSR activities are their primary method for taking community action to improve public health. We were proud that pre-med student Callum Rowe led other health professional students at UC San Francisco and other campuses to educate their peers about the dangers of global warming and to urge the University of California system to divest from fossil fuels. PSR inspired Callum’s actions.

PSR took many actions in 2014 to raise the health voice.

Climate Change and Toxics: PSR developed a comprehensive strategic plan to target the Clean Power Plan (CPP) as the furthest-reaching policy to reduce carbon pollution in the U.S. We generated strong yet critical comments on the CPP to mandate the use of renewable energy and higher levels of energy efficiency to reduce the burning of both coal and natural gas to produce electricity. Our movement’s biggest win was the moratorium on fracking in New York State and in Maryland, which were based on threats to public health.

Neurodevelopmental disorders affect 10-15% of all children, so time is of the essence for our work on toxics. The diffuse array of chemicals used in industrial and consumer products must be better regulated. PSR worked diligently in Congress and with the public to raise concerns about the bipartisan bill that was proposed to reform our broken chemical regulatory system.

Nuclear Weapons: We advanced the Security Program’s public education campaign through Rotary talks and using the media. At the end of the year, His Holiness Pope Francis issued a moving statement that was read at the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons — in part due to our efforts in educating Cardinal O’Malley. It was the first Humanitarian Impacts conference attended by the U.S. State Department, thanks to pressure exerted by PSR members. And we’ve expanded our security work with the addition of Theresa Shaffer, an expert on social media, to achieve greater outreach to younger audiences and the media.

Nuclear Power: Another nuclear power plant closed in Vermont and 11 others are at risk of closure, including those targeted by PSR Oregon, Washington and New York. PSR also participated in public education about these threats and the ongoing disaster at Fukushima.

Our chapters have been partners and are instrumental in our work! PSR members have taken vital action to shut down coal plants, advocate for energy efficiency, and advance diplomacy with Iran. In addition, your financial support allows us to advocate for protections from the threats of nuclear weapons, toxics and climate change — from city councils to the President. Your support is helping us to prepare the next generation to assume leadership of the movement.

We hope you enjoy reading more about our work together and our other supporters!

Sincerely,

PsR Board President
Bob Gould

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PSR presented a letter, supported by 41 organizations around the world, to United Nations Scientific Committee Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and the 4th Committee of the General Assembly at the United Nations. This letter resulted in a revision of the UNSCEAR report critique on Fukushima.

Team of experts educated the EPA on radiation’s effects on reproductive health.

Delivered more than 1000 comments to the EPA on the benefits and improvements needed in the Clean Power Plan. Led press event in Pittsburgh; participated in press conferences at Washington, DC, Atlanta and Denver — all the EPA hearing sites.

Produced materials on the health impacts of fracking for use across the country; supported successful drive to establish a ban on fracking in New York and pass a moratorium bill in Maryland.

PSR provided education to Cardinal O’Malley in Boston resulting in a strong statement by Pope Francis for the abolition of nuclear weapons on humanitarian grounds.

PSR applied steady pressure to the administration and garnered the attendance of the U.S. State Department at the third Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons conference in Vienna, Austria.

Lobbied against consolidated interim storage for nuclear waste.

Trained 40 medical students in advocacy skills, nuclear weapons and climate change.

PSR Board Member Dr. Ira Helfand represented PSR and IPPNW when he addressed the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons Conference in Nayarit, Mexico. He and Dr. Catherine Thomasson presented at the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in Vienna.

PSR brought the health voice to Congress for health-protective chemical policy reform. Helped stop a House bill that would not have protected our communities.
Like a good doctor who identifies a patient’s risky behavior, Physicians for Social Responsibility seeks to break America’s addiction to nuclear weapons. Use of these weapons would be suicidal and would create a humanitarian disaster that is unparalleled, one that physicians would be unable to cure.

In 2010, PSR and its international affiliate, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, helped launch the Humanitarian Impact initiative, an international strategy to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons based on the profound humanitarian impact of their use. PSR and IPPNW published two reports on nuclear famine that have become an integral part of the Humanitarian Impact narrative.

The Humanitarian Impact initiative has steadily gained momentum and support from national governments. The nuclear-armed nations block progress, however, and PSR has a difficult and complex role to play in influencing American policy.

The first step in the worldwide effort is to delegitimize nuclear weapons. PSR’s Security Program used four approaches:

- talking with Americans about nuclear weapons
- informing Americans through the media
- communicating with U.S. government officials
- collaborating with other organizations and faith leaders

PSR’s Security Program worked with 10 PSR chapters to engage American citizens about nuclear weapons. Fourteen speakers presented to Rotary clubs in California, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Virginia and Washington State. The PSR Western North Carolina chapter presented at the Veterans for Peace Annual Meeting. Chapter leaders also talked with medical students in California and Iowa, Quakers in Maine and Iowa, and Buddhists in DC and California.

The PSR chapter network used the 69th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to inform Americans about nuclear weapons. Twenty-three PSR members authored and successfully placed op-eds in local papers or online journals, with six appearing in national outlets.

PSR members called and emailed their representatives in Congress to help deflect Iran sanctions legislation that threatened the diplomatic track; they also addressed their legislators about cutting federal spending for nuclear weapons modernization. Oregon PSR has worked with Rep. Earl Blumenauer, who championed valuable legislation for reining in nuclear weapons modernization spending.
With the Arms Control Association, PSR co-sponsored a March 31 panel discussion in Washington, DC to familiarize DC-based NGOs, congressional and administration staff, and embassy personnel about the Humanitarian Impact initiative. The Nonproliferation Treaty and the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons event attracted a standing room only crowd and featured PSR’s Ira Helfand, MD.

During 2014, PSR Security Program leaders also met with officials from the State Department and the White House. Steadfast pressure including 2993 emails from PSR members to Secretary of State John Kerry and more than 5,700 signatures on PSR’s MoveOn petition delivered to the State Department helped the Obama Administration decide to send a U.S. delegation to the third Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (HINW) conference in Vienna.

PSR leaders delivered presentations at Humanitarian Impact Conference in Nayarit, Mexico (February). PSR also joined with four allied organizations to present a “United States NGO statement” to the Vienna Conference, suggesting four concrete actions that nuclear-armed states could take to live up to their disarmament obligations in the Nonproliferation Treaty.

To enlist support for the Humanitarian Impact initiative from the Vatican, Ira Helfand, MD and John Pastore, MD (IPPNW) met with Cardinal O’Malley in Boston and urged him to consult with the Pope. As a result, His Holiness Pope Francis sent a very clear message to the Vienna Conference calling for the world to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.

In the coming year, PSR’s Security Program will develop new young movement leaders. Nuclear weapons belong in the dustbin of history. The only way that will happen is with enough citizens uniting against nuclear arms. ✅

A lot of people think we have the biggest and best nuclear weapons and would prevail in a nuclear war. No one will prevail. The planet would likely be destroyed. As far as being our best weapons, this has been refuted by retired Gen. Colin Powell, who has stated there is no military use of nuclear weapons.

—Terry Clark, MD
Op-ed in the Asheville Citizen-Times, August 8, 2014
Environment & Health Program Emphasizes Climate Change Threats to Health

In 2014, PSR’s Climate Health program responded to policies, led protests and developed a strategic plan for future climate work. Our work focused on a critical underlying message: climate change is a health issue. That message is finally gaining traction.

Many of PSR’s members and stakeholders helped to develop the new strategic plan. A survey of our members and interviews with stakeholders — board members, chapter leaders, donors and allied organizations — provided initial guidance. Key individuals then convened to help winnow our options and select key points to focus on. The priorities that emerged, to be achieved over 2015-2018, include:

• Achieve carbon reductions under the Clean Power Plan in 10 states, using only energy efficiency and clean energy.
• Slow or block fossil fuel extraction and export by maintaining the moratoria on fracking in Maryland and New York, rejecting proposed new export facilities in Washington State, Oregon and three other states, and blocking construction or expansion of fossil fuel transportation routes in five states.
• Increase the number of health professionals engaged as PSR activists on climate.

With a clear mandate to guide us, we will combine concrete action with public education.

MOBILIZING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR ACTION

In spring and summer 2014, PSR responded to the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed rule to limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. PSR board, staff and chapters testified at EPA hearings in Pittsburgh, Sacramento and Atlanta, and thousands of PSR members across the country submitted comments in writing. PSR members’ testimony stressed the domestic health effects of climate change, including asthma, heat stroke, and insect-borne diseases like Lyme disease; it also touched on global impacts.

PSR’s white-coated doctors formed a sizable contingent at the People’s Climate March in New York City, leading the health delegation with our banner: The Voice of Climate Health. The march coincided with a Climate Summit at the United Nations and was the largest climate mobilization in history.

We also mapped our response to the Clean Power Plan, which will set state-by-state limits on carbon dioxide from electricity generation. Climate Health Action Teams made up of trained PSR members will work in their states to advocate replacing coal-fired power with healthier renewable energy and energy efficiency.

NATURAL GAS, A CLIMATE THREAT

Coal isn’t the only fossil fuel driving climate change. Natural gas is primarily methane, a pollutant 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.
Methane escapes into the atmosphere during gas extraction, processing, transportation and delivery. The extraction process, known as hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” releases dangerous air toxics and contaminates millions of gallons of water each time a well is fracked.

Two PSR chapters took effective 2014 action on fracking through national-chapter partnerships. Philadelphia PSR trained volunteer “Climate Ambassadors” to explain to others the health hazards associated with fracking. Under a grant from the Heinz Endowments secured jointly with the PSR national office, the chapter recruited ambassadors and provided them with face-to-face training and guidance; the national office prepared training materials, educational handouts, and three webinars on fracking led by national experts. The materials and webinars serve the entire PSR network. The chapter went on to challenge the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s efforts to disregard calls for health information and support from residents in communities affected by fracking.

Chesapeake PSR became a leading health voice against fracking in Maryland. They bird-dogged the state’s fracking commission, critiqued its health assessment, and worked to pass state legislation to avoid a “gag rule” in regard to dangerous chemical exposures. This valuable leadership was possible thanks to a grant from the Town Creek Foundation. Chesapeake PSR and New York PSR will both be safeguarding their states’ moratoria on fracking in the years to come.

TOXICS POLICY: REFORM NEEDED

PSR’s toxics team continued to push for meaningful reform of federal toxics policy. Oregon, Maine, Florida, San Francisco and Los Angeles PSR and national office staff met with congressional offices to highlight the links between toxic chemical exposure and chronic disease. In the meeting, PSR called for effective screening before products are brought into the marketplace. Those meetings were strengthened by PSR’s fact sheets on chemicals in food, fragrances, and furniture; the particular vulnerability of populations like low-income communities and pregnant women; and the connection between environmental toxics and outcomes like autism and obesity.

The chapters also circulated sign-on letters, published op-ed articles and raised their voices in press conferences and radio and newspaper interviews. They worked at the state level, providing their state legislatures with testimony in support of health-protective chemical policy, such as bans on phthalates, new labeling and disclosure laws, and expansion of health-protective regulatory measures.

Several chapters have also undertaken significant education efforts on toxics issues. Wisconsin, Los Angeles and Oregon PSR organized and co-sponsored conferences on the connection between toxic chemicals and health, while Los Angeles, Florida, San Francisco, and Wisconsin PSR conducted training for area doctors at hospitals and universities.
Nuclear power continues to threaten the health and lives of those around Fukushima with ongoing radioactive leaks from three melted cores and highly radioactive spent fuel rods on site. Threats of accidents or attacks on the many aging facilities in the U.S. place us at risk, too. PSR works to educate the public and our policymakers on these issues and to ensure that health risks are adequately addressed when forming policy regarding nuclear waste from existing reactors. PSR has continued to get out the message that nuclear power is too expensive and if it moves forward, it will drain needed resources from energy efficiency and truly renewable sources. Our chapters have been diligent in raising the nuclear reactor threats in their neighborhoods. PSR Pacific Northwest chapters reported on earthquake risks threatening the Columbia Generating Station located on the mighty Columbia River. PSR members met with Seattle City Council to divest from this expensive and unsafe energy source. Likewise, PSR New York has been grooming the New York City Council to pass a resolution for closure of Indian Point.

Securing high level nuclear waste in cooling pools that have exceeded capacity at reactor sites highlights issues of safe storage. This is a problem, whether they are closed, e.g. the San Onofre site, or open, such as Calloway Nuclear Plant in Missouri. PSR met with key congressional staffers and committees to ensure the failed Yucca Mountain project would not be resurrected and to underscore the need to avoid interim storage facilities that require moving radioactive material twice (once from reactors and then to a final storage facility).

PSR NY has been grooming the New York City Council to pass a resolution for closure of Indian Point.

PSR also continues to promote accurate information on the health risks of nuclear power and the ongoing consequences of Fukushima. Alfred Meyer, chair of PSR’s Health and Radiation Committee, gave lectures in five Michigan cities in early 2014. He also presented a PSR letter, supported by 41 organizations around the world, to United Nations Scientific Committee Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and the 4th Committee of the General Assembly at the United Nations. This letter referred to a PSR/IPPNW-Germany critique of UNSCEAR’s report on the health effects of the Fukushima disaster. PSR’s communication with UNSCEAR during this process yielded positive revisions in the final report.

Lastly, PSR works with other organizations to provide comments and push the Nuclear Regulatory Agency and the EPA to protect public health from radiation. PSR commented on the inadequate evaluation of the Waste Confidence rule and spoke out against proposed higher levels of “safe” radiation exposure.
Student PSR Update

Student PSR is the incubator for developing strong leaders to advocate for a peaceful and healthy world. Michelle Gin, our PSR Student Coordinator, provided materials and offered many opportunities to our 19 student chapters across the country.

In May, we brought 40 student leaders together for a two-day conference. Students learned about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and how climate change affects health. They also learned about health-protective solutions. They praised the advocacy skills training; before the weekend was over, they practiced their elevator speeches and wrote letters to the editor. The students also elected a new PSR representative to the national board, second year medical student Neel Patel of Penn State University.

Students took their new organizing skills back to their chapters and launched activities. At Washington University, SPSR members hosted St. Louis ‘Letters and Lattes’ in September to attract students to write to their elected officials about stricter carbon emission regulations from coal-burning power facilities. Florida SPSR held a Peace Luncheon to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 26th, with 50 to 60 medical and public health students.

In August, 24 brave young activists representing 10 countries cycled through Kazakhstan to show their solidarity with the victims and survivors of nuclear weapons testing, uranium mining, nuclear energy and nuclear accidents over the past 70 years. Led by PSR’s student coordinator Michelle Gin (pictured on the cover of this report), and accompanied by Kami Veltri, PSR’s national student representative, they met with mayors and other local leaders to learn and report back to the United States about the severe impacts of radiation pollution from the testing that occurred nearby. Kami and Michelle also represented PSR at the 21st IPPNW World Congress and Student Congress, and Bike Tour. Michelle Gin hosted a workshop during the Student World Congress on Maternal and Child Health Outcomes from Nuclear Radiation.

Many PSR veterans started their commitment to the organization while they were in or just after medical school. It’s vital work that needs young voices and fresh faces. PSR strives to be relevant to millennials and to gain their trust, support and commitment. If you are interested in starting a new Student Chapter and growing the young health voice, please call PSR’s National Office at 202 / 667 4260. 🌟
**PSR Financials**

### 2014 Income

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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Member Dues</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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### 2014 Expenses

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<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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**W. TAYLOR JOHNSON**
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Thanks, Thanks & Thanks

Rachel and I have been thrilled to see so many engaged PSR members and activists. You’ve been active in your communities, in city halls, state capitols, at Rotary Club meetings and faith groups, too. And you’ve come from across the country to national rallies and events in New York and Washington, DC on behalf of our causes. Some of you have travelled around the world for meetings in Canada, Mexico, Italy, Kazakhstan, South Africa and Austria. Thank you!

With the help of Amy Ciciora, our membership manager, and Julia Morgan, our web manager, Rachel and I delight in communicating with you all year long about what we’re acheiving together. We like hearing from you or seeing you at events, so please don’t be shy about writing or calling us. We can put you in touch with our program staff or a board member if you have questions we can’t answer.

Please know that your ongoing financial support sustains our work. PSR’s board and staff thank you for standing with us and committing your resources to our mission.

Individuals can only control so much about their health with personal choices. PSR’s work to sustain public health must be done in concert with many strong voices; orchestrating that is a financial commitment. With your support, we carry on, working to abolish nuclear weapons, regulate toxics and combat climate change. We welcome you if you’re new to the movement and we extend a hale and hearty salute to our enduring activists.

Christine
Our Donors

Some of the many individuals and foundations who provide support for our programs have allowed us to show our appreciation to them by listing their names here. If you’d like to join the Leadership Circle or the Legacy Society, please call Christine Herrmann at (202) 587-5239.

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Mary Wright
BEQUESTS

We remember our generous
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Virginia Natwick
John O. Oliver, DVM
Alfred Schroeder
Janice J. Weinman

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President Elect  
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Our PSR chapter leaders inspire us through the outstanding work they carry out in their communities.

– PSR President Bob Gould, MD

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