Mobilizing health professionals on issues that represent the gravest dangers to human health.
In reviewing my year as PSR President in 2017 I was reminded of much to be grateful for. The support of our donors was stronger than ever and I thank every one of you. You are our inspiration and strength. With your support PSR helped to knock a hole in the resolve of nuclear weapons states and the delusion of nuclear deterrence with the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This new U.N. treaty already has the signatures of 58 nations.

In 2017 we witnessed and were highly concerned by political tumult in the U.S. and with new nuclear brinksmanship and unprecedented efforts by the U.S. administration to wage war on science and attempt to set back a broad range of environmental protections on air, water, and earth. In contrast PSR observes that economic factors will ultimately favor investments to preserve air and water quality and our health and wellbeing. The microeconomic advantages of energy efficiency and renewable energy are clearly growing.

The PSR executive director, Jeff Carter, JD, completed his first year at the helm in 2017. Jeff’s leadership of staff has introduced more robust budgeting, greater national office efficiency, and a regenerative vision for PSR. The stage was set for an exciting list of advances we are seeing in 2018 including program planning with focus on impact and in ways that build on the power of PSR’s chapter system, new organizational partners for joint work and funding, a new website and more effective communication with members.

I take this opportunity to remind those of our members, who may be motivated to support PSR’s work in the decades ahead, of PSR’s Legacy Society. Please visit our website for more information: https://psr.mylegacygift.org.
When I joined PSR in January of 2017, I wrote about how thrilled I was to join an organization that I had admired from the outside for such a long time. At the same time, I was cognizant of the likely challenges facing us—really, the entire country, and the world—in the wake of the election results the previous November.

I would love to report that my fears were unfounded. Sadly, the incoming administration made the rollback of environmental rules and standards one of their highest priorities right out of the box, and, as the year progressed, belligerence replaced diplomacy in foreign affairs, while international agreements designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons were weakened. Billions of dollars were proposed for new weapons, and war was threatened with both North Korea and Iran.

But we ended the year on an almost unimaginably high note, with the passage of the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the award of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to PSR’s partner organization, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). It became clear to me, in fact, over the course of the year, that we were beginning to turn the tide, and we did. The rollbacks and the rhetoric emanating from Washington only served to strengthen our resolve.

Thank you, PSR members, staff, and board, for your support during my first year, and thanks also to our many allied organizations and friends for welcoming me into the fold. Looking forward to more victories in 2018!
Jeff Carter, JD, joined PSR as executive director in January. A dynamic and experienced nonprofit executive with more than a decade of leadership experience at the local, state, and national level, he is working with PSR's staff, board and chapters to modernize our operations and communications, generate outcome and impact data on our programs, and prepare the next generation of PSR leaders.

Starting in January, we piloted a series of all-day training sessions for health professionals (and others) in three cities, walking participants through a presentation on the dangers of nuclear weapons—including the latest research on the climate-related hazards that would result from even a limited nuclear exchange. These sessions attracted close to 60 activists, most of whom took what they learned from our training to organize their speaking events, meet with influencers (U.N. officials, members of Congress, etc.) or reach out to the press.

In March, PSR published a report that summarizes recent scientific studies of the serious health threats posed by fracking, Too Dirty, Too Dangerous: Why Health Professionals Reject Natural Gas (see page 9).

In April, PSR co-sponsored an all-day conference in Washington, DC titled, “Toward a Fundamental Change in Nuclear Weapons Policy,” which attracted 21 cosponsoring organizations and 100 participants, including members of Congress, to discuss the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and challenge the conventional wisdom concerning nuclear deterrence.

Throughout the year, we fought against federal efforts to rollback climate and clean air rules—testifying before the EPA in favor of limits on coal ash discharges from coal-fired power plants and against a proposed delay of a rule requiring oil and gas well drillers to capture methane (natural gas) and toxic gases that leak from their wells; and educating members of Congress about a number of key public health concerns—urging them to oppose harmful legislation that would jeopardize the role of science in EPA decision-making, weaken enforcement of the Clean Air Act, and eliminate climate change protections. The EPA dropped its proposed delay of 2015 ozone standards in response to legal action by public health, environmental, and community organizations, including PSR.

On July 7, PSR’s international movement to draw the world’s attention to the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons culminated in a victorious vote to categorically ban the most lethal class of weapons of mass destruction, when 122 nations voted to adopt the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (see page 6). During those negotiations, PSR executive director Jeff Carter moderated a press briefing at the U.N. for United Nations correspondents with a panel of nuclear experts on what a nuclear weapons ban treaty can achieve.

On October 6, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). PSR is an ICAN partner organization.
• PSR presented testimony on the health impacts of methane at the “People’s Tribunal On Human Rights and Environmental Justice Impacts of Fracked Gas Infrastructure,” held in Charlottesville, VA. This testimony was later presented to the U.N.

• On October 10, we held a Facebook Live event at Unity Health Care clinic in Washington, DC, entitled “Public Health Solutions for Nuclear Weapons Dangers,” featuring Doctors Gwen DuBois, John Reuwer and Junaid Razzak, Professor of Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine.

• PSR’s Celebration of Visionary Leaders on November 9 gathered health advocates and other PSR allies from across the country to Washington, DC to celebrate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and honor Ira Helfand, MD, PSR national board member and longtime leader in the health and humanitarian campaign against nuclear weapons.

• PSR and the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units released the updated Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit (PEHT), a free web app that offers evidenced-based information for clinicians to educate parents about how to reduce toxic exposures during well-child visits.

• We re-imagined and redesigned PSR Reports, part of an organization-wide initiative to update and improve our media and communications tools. Work also began on a complete revamp of our website, set to launch in the early part of 2018.

• We launched a Social Media Ambassadors (SMAs) program with PSR chapters to amplify PSR’s voice on Twitter and other social media platforms.
NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION PROGRAM

Throughout its history, PSR has provided a strong medical voice against the development and use of nuclear weapons. On July 7, the international movement to draw the world’s attention to the health and humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons took a history-making step forward when 122 nations voted to adopt the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

PSR is proud to have delivered some of those “yes” votes. We fielded a team at the U.N. in New York to spend a full week lobbying for the ban treaty alongside ICAN campaigners—the largest team that any American organization fielded to the negotiations. PSR executive director Jeff Carter moderated a press event at the U.N. during the negotiations, cosponsored by the Austrian Permanent Mission to the U.N., PSR/National, PSR/New York, Western North Carolina PSR, and others.

In October, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). PSR’s international federation, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), founded ICAN in 2007 to mobilize civil society across 100 countries to ban and eliminate all nuclear weapons. PSR is a partner organization of ICAN, and is honored to work with ICAN by contributing scientific data on the medical consequences of nuclear weapons and promoting nuclear abolition in the USA. PSR’s health professionals were leaders since the onset of the Humanitarian Impact campaign.
The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a milestone international agreement that creates pathways toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

**FILLS THE LEGAL GAP**
Before the TPNW, nuclear weapons were the only class of weapons of mass destruction that were not prohibited under international law. The treaty categorically outlaws nuclear weapons, including their possession.

**CULTIVATES NORMS**
The TPNW creates an international norm stigmatizing nuclear weapons. All other weapons of mass destruction were first stigmatized by the international community before achieving their sharp curtailment.

**COMPENSATES VICTIMS**
The treaty requires assistance to nuclear victims and environmental remediation of contaminated areas. The TPNW recognizes the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on women and indigenous people.

**VERIFICATION STANDARDS**
The TPNW requires an international authority to verify the irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons programs, including all nuclear weapons facilities.
The Greenland Ice Sheet will melt, causing significant sea level rise and endangering coastal cities around the world.

The Amazon rainforest will die back by as much as 80 percent due to lengthening dry seasons and droughts. If this happens, we lose a gigantic carbon sink (a storage device that reduces atmospheric levels of gas).

Much of the world’s permafrost will melt, releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide and methane from the soil.

The resulting acceleration of climate change due to methane’s warming impacts would likely make parts of the world unlivable.

If average temperatures rise more than 2 degree Celsius over preindustrial levels, scientists think we will hit a tipping point making climate change catastrophic and irreversible.
The effects of climate change are already impacting health and costing lives due to more frequent intense storms, flooding, heat waves, expanding disease ranges and other effects. Within the foreseeable future, climate change consequences including sea level rise, drought and forced migration threaten to increase conflict and suffering on a global scale. PSR’s Environment and Health program educates health professionals and others about the health consequences of climate change and mobilizes them to respond.

In 2017, PSR published a report that made a major contribution toward increasing public awareness of the health and climate change impacts of methane, *Too Dirty, Too Dangerous: Why Health Professionals Reject Natural Gas*. A potent greenhouse gas, methane’s byproducts contribute to climate change, resulting in an increase in heat, extreme storms, and sea level rise, each of which unleashes dangerous health consequences.

This report was delivered to congressional offices and put to use at the local level by our chapters and others:

- Oregon PSR used the report in testimony it presented at hearings at city/county level.
- PSR Florida used the report in its anti-fracking work with the state legislature.

Virginia activists used it in hearings and meetings with state and local officials to inform them about the health effects of pipelines.

Even at the federal level, we have seen some indication that the dangers posed by methane are being taken more seriously: in May 2017, the U.S. Senate voted 51-49 to preserve the Bureau of Land Management’s rule that reduces methane leaks and waste from oil and gas wells. PSR was among the health groups that campaigned to save the rule.
**PSR FLORIDA**
Used PSR’s methane report to educate Florida legislators on the public health harms of fracking, and grew local support for a statewide fracking ban, with over 90 communities passing measures against fracking.

**PSR WASHINGTON AND PSR OREGON**
The Washington Department of Ecology denied a key permit for Millennium’s proposed coal terminal in Longview, Washington, effectively ending coal exports in the region. Health professionals from both chapters helped educate the public and policymakers on the health impacts of the coal terminal.

**PSR CHESAPEAKE**
A leader in the successful crusade to make Maryland the first state to pass a statewide fracking ban.

**PSR PHILADELPHIA**
Student PSR members organized citywide advocacy trainings for health professionals and students at Thomas Jefferson University and the University of Pennsylvania. Over 200 people participated.

**PSR WISCONSIN**
Continues to serve as the lead partner for the Wisconsin Environmental Health Network (WEHN). Their 2017 annual conference in February attracted 100 participants from throughout the state.

**PSR TEXAS**
Texas PSR’s Toxic Free Child Program educated over 200 low-income pregnant women and young families about the dangers of common household toxics, and offered simple strategies to minimize exposure and prevent health complications.

**PSR CHICAGO**
Organized a half-day conference on climate change and public health, attended by about 40 physicians, medical students, and other health care professionals.

**PSR SAN FRANCISCO**
SFPSR members launched a new core curriculum at UCSF on environmental health for all first-year medical students. SFPSR members were also faculty for the Stanford Medical School first-year elective “Physicians and Social Responsibility,” which drew an average of 80 students.

**PSR LOS ANGELES**
Organized a delegation of physicians, nurses and public health experts to hand-deliver a health professional letter with over 300 signatures to the LA City Council urging the city to take seriously the health impacts associated with drilling for oil in close proximity to people. Advocated for the passage of a 2,500 foot human health and safety buffer, and got unanimous support from the Los Angeles Health Commission. PSR-LA also worked with partners to pass a bill to bring critical clean energy research dollars to disadvantaged communities.
The addition of a full-time communications manager to PSR's staff in 2017 allowed us to update the visual design of our reports, publications, and communications, to better convey our message and mission, and more effectively engage with our constituents.
2017 FINANCIALS

**INCOME**

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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PSR would like to thank all of our donors, and would like to recognize the following who sponsored our Celebration of Visionary Leaders in November 2017:

**CONTINENTAL**
- John W. Rachow, PhD, MD & Maureen McCue, MD, PhD
- Harvey Fernbach, MD, MPH
- Andrew S. Kanter MD, MPH, FACMI & Alina Oganesova
- Nancy Newman & Mark Walstrom, in honor of Tom Newman, MD
- Tom Newman, MD & Johannah Newman
- Robert Romanow
- David Knierim

**AMBASSADORIAL**
- Bruce Amundson, MD & JoAnn Amundson
- Dorothy Anderson, MD & Roy D. Hankins, MD
- Paul Omelsky, MD
- Ploughshares Fund
- Robert Gould, MD & Patrice Sutton, MPH

**NATIONAL**
- Sidney Alexander, MD & Susan Alexander
- Vicente Artur Carneiro & W. Taylor Johnson, MFA, DLS
- Jeff Carter, JD
- David E. Drake, DO & Claire Cumbie-Drake, JD
- Cathey Falvo, MD
- Steven Gilbert, PhD & Janice Camp
- Linda Headrick, MD & David Setzer, PhD
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Gilbert Omenn, MD & Martha Darling
- Lynn Ringenberg, MD & Georganne Demotses, ARNP
- Vic Sidel, MD
- Soka Gakkai International-USA Buddhist Association
- Valory Wangler, MD & Kristine Cruz, MD
- Austin Wertheimer, MD
- Jimmy Hara & Diane H. Hara

**REGIONAL**
- PSR/Arizona
- PSR/DC Metro
- PSR/Florida
- PSR/Maine
- PSR/Pennsylvania
- PSR/San Francisco Bay Area
- PSR/Washington
- PSR/Western North Carolina
- Doyle Printing
- Dr. Lonnie Draper, MD
- Ms. Christine Herrmann
- Dr. Robert Little
- Bernard & Sandra Otterman Foundation
- Lewis Patrie, MD, MPH & Jeanne Patrie
- Dr. Todd Sack & Dr. Barb Sharp
- J. Dix Wayman, DDS
- Andy Harris, MD
- James Maier, MD & Elizabeth K. Maier
John Rachow, PhD, MD, President
Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Iowa, Department of Medicine

James Baier, MS4
Medical/MPH Student, University of Pennsylvania

Jeff Carter, JD
Executive Director, PSR Secretary

Johanna Congleton, PhD
Senior Scientist, Environmental Working Group

Robert F. Dodge, MD
PSR LA President, Family Practice

David E. Drake, DO
Psychiatrist in private practice

Harvey Fernbach, MD
Psychiatrist in private practice

Steven Gilbert, PhD
Director, Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders
Affiliate Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health, University of Washington

Robert Gould, MD
President, PSR San Francisco Bay Area
Associate Adjunct Professor
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences; and Director of Health Professional Outreach and Education, Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the UCSF School of Medicine

Alan S. Greenglass, MD
Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair, Christiana Care Quality Partners and Christiana Care Accountable Care Organization

Ira Helfand, MD
Co-Chair, Nuclear Weapons Abolition Committee
Co-President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
Physician in private practice

Katie Huffling, RN, MS, CNM
Executive Director, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Environmental Health Program Manager, University of Maryland School of Nursing

Alan Lockwood, MD, FAAN
Emeritus Professor at the University at Buffalo, Neurology, Nuclear Medicine

Alfred C. Meyer
President, New York PSR

Michael Musharbash, MS2
Medical Student, Northwestern University

Lynn Ringenberg, MD, FAAP
Past-President
Consultant Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, University of South Florida

Karin Ringler, PhD
Psychologist

Poune Saberi, MD, MPH
President-Elect Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Todd Sack, MD
Co-Chair, Environment & Health Committee
Chair of the Environmental & Health Section of the Florida Medical Association (FMA) Physician, Borland-Groover Clinic

Val Wangler, MD
Co-Chair, Environment & Health Committee
Member, New Mexico PSR Board

Elizabeth Wiley, MD
Family and Community Medicine

Peter Wilk, MD
One PSR Committee Co-Chair
Psychiatrist in private practice

Lauren Zajac, MD, MPH
Fellow, Pediatric Environmental Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
PSR NATIONAL STAFF 2017

Jeff Carter, JD, Executive Director

Nuclear Weapons Abolition Program
Martin Fleck, Director

Environment & Health Program
Barbara Gottlieb, Director
Kathy Attar, MPH, Manager

Finance & Administration
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Julia Morgan, Web Manager
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Molly Hammersmith (U Findlay)
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Kathryn Topalis (UConn)
Adam Yusen (U IL)

(BACK COVER)
Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima survivor, and Beatrice Finn, executive director of ICAN, accept the Nobel Peace Prize.
Photo: Jo Straube/ICAN