FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hope for the Future

As some of you already know, I will be leaving my post as PSR’s executive director at the end of 2016. PSR is well on its way to choosing a new executive director and I’m delighted to help effect a smooth transition. Part of my excitement stems from my belief that we are nearing the tipping point at which green energy use overtakes that of fossil fuels, and that the successful Humanitarian Impacts campaign sweeping the globe will start influencing decision-makers in the U.S.

PSR’s policy work is a major part of the overarching solution to the most pressing problems of our time, and the interconnected work we are doing within coalitions is essential to our success. PSR launched its state reports, entitled Death by Degrees: The Health Crisis of Climate Change, in the early 2000s. We fired off the campaign Code Black: Coal’s Assault on America’s Health and backed it up with lawsuits against sources of mercury pollution, primarily coal-burning power plants. We testified before the EPA, we urged city councils and legislators to help close coal plants, and we achieved big wins. In 2015, we joined the Keep It in the Ground campaign and called on the Obama administration to review its coal-leasing program. Today, there is a moratorium on new coal leases on federal

Stop the New Arms Race

By Ira Helfand, M.D.

This year’s 71st anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings served as an urgent reminder of the momentous decision about nuclear policy that faces our country today.

The international community is working for a new treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The Obama administration is opposing that effort and proposing instead that the U.S. spend $1 trillion over the next three decades to maintain and “improve” our nuclear arsenal. Will we, as a people, allow our government to follow this dangerous policy?

During the coup attempt in Turkey in July, power was cut to the U.S. Air Force base at Incirlik, Turkey, and the base was essentially locked down for many hours. The U.S. houses some 50 hydrogen bombs at Incirlik, a short distance from the Syrian border, and the disruption of normal activity there set off alarm bells throughout the international community. What is the U.S. doing with an arsenal that can destroy modern civilization, parked at a location that is so terribly vulnerable?

This incident came amid a national debate over the sort of

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What is the U.S. doing with a nuclear arsenal that can destroy modern civilization parked in a country like Turkey that is so terribly vulnerable?

PSR’s Clean Energy Actions

With the U.S. Congress too mired in gridlock to pass meaningful energy policy, and the Clean Power Plan still awaiting definitive judgment in the courts, much of the action to secure our clean energy future is taking place in the states. Needless to say, PSR chapters are deeply involved.

From coast to coast, PSR chapters are advancing policies that replace fossil fuels with renewable energy and energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting health. Their approaches vary, but several common threads stand out from their work of the past six months: a clear vision of the future, resolve opposition to fossil fuels, and creativity in educating their communities.

Here are a few quick snapshots of those characteristics in action:

Clear Vision of a Healthy Future

In the Northwest, PSR/Washington and PSR/Oregon worked together to ensure that the city of Seattle committed itself to a clean-energy future. Under pressure from PSR and other groups, the full city council unanimously passed a resolution to:

- support clean and safe electricity production and oppose the use of fossil fuels and new nuclear energy in generating electricity;
- establish the goal of replacing all fossil-fuel and nuclear—generated electricity with increased energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy;
- require an ongoing evaluation of Washington State’s existing nuclear power plant, the Columbia Generating Station, on the basis of health, safety, reliability, and cost.

The strong coalition that won passage of the resolution was led by the Oregon/Washington Joint Nuclear Power Task Force, headed by Chuck Johnson, PSR/Oregon. PSR does not have a chapter in Nevada, but PSR activist Joanne Leovy, M.D., has been working overtime to improve the health of

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A Fond Farewell to Our Executive Director

After five extraordinary years as our executive director, it is with some sadness and great appreciation that we are preparing to say goodbye to Dr. Catherine Thomasson. She has been a strong, effective and dedicated champion of our work, and has led our efforts with boundless energy and loyalty to the PSR Family. Thankfully, she will be with us through the fall until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the national Board’s planning for the transition to our new executive director is going very well. We look forward to announcing our new executive director in early December.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Changing Climate: Impacts on Children’s Health

Being involved with a non-profit like Physicians for Social Responsibility is an insightful and rewarding personal experience. Every day it provides me invaluable scientific and medical information on climate change and its impact on health, especially that of children, minority populations, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

The Lancet report “Managing the Health Effects of Climate Change” stated in 2009 that “climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century.” The American Medical Association and American Academy of Pediatrics made recent statements that health is inextricably linked to climate change, and that clinicians need to understand this relationship to better recognize and anticipate climate-associated health effects, and advocate for health-protective public policy.

Physicians have a “special obligation,” as the Hippocratic Oath reminds us, to better understand how climate change is impacting the health of our patients.

There has been much public discussion about how sea-level rise from global warming is affecting our low-lying coastal regions, something which will only worsen in the coming decades. As a pediatrician caring for children for 35 years, I want to make sure that issues of public health, and children’s health in particular, are brought to the forefront of any discussions we have about the impacts of climate change.

Children will, of course, inherit the planet we leave them. But it’s important to point out that they are also the most vulnerable of all to the health impacts caused by climate change. The World Health Organization estimates that 88 percent of the diseases and deaths tied to climate change in the world now occur in children who are younger than five years. They suffer disproportionately from climate-sensitive diseases, and are exposed longer to the damaging health effects posed by climate change.

Clinicians who care for children are seeing climate change impacts firsthand in their practice today. Due to climate-related increases in ozone and pollution in the atmosphere, we see worsening respiratory problems, allergies, and asthma. According to the CDC, asthma rates are increasing every year in the U.S. weather affect the course of their lives and the lives of their children?” ask the authors of a recent journal published by The Future of Children, a joint project between Princeton University and the Brookings Institution.

I think about those same questions, and I feel a responsibility to get educated on the science of climate change and roll up my sleeves to work for change. Because even though scientists say we are too late to stop the Earth’s warming, we do still have a chance to slow it down by reducing the use of fossil fuels. We can also push for changes in our communities right now—including measures like energy-efficient design, more green space, cleaner and improved public transportation, safer areas to walk and bicycle, renewable energy like solar and wind, and climate resilience policies in our communities.

The Lancet report challenges us by saying that “health professionals have an essential role in the achievement of planetary health; working across sectors to integrate policies that advance health and environmental sustainability, tackling health inequalities, reducing the environmental risks and costs, and improving the resilience of health systems and populations to environmental change.” As President Barack Obama said: “Someday, our children, and our children’s children, will look us in the eye and they’ll ask us: Did we do all that we could when we had the chance to deal with this problem and leave them a cleaner, safer world?”

To learn more about PSR’s “Climate Change Makes Me Sick” campaign, please visit our website at www.psr.org.
risk and destroy modern civilization as we know it.

Faced with this existential threat, a strong majority of the UN member states voted last year to set up an Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) to recommend new legally binding measures to help achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. I had the privilege of leading the OEWG’s discussion on the medical consequences of nuclear war this May in Geneva. So far 107 nations, a clear majority of the 193 members of the UN, have indicated support for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The OEWG concluded its meeting in Geneva on August 19 with a 68–22 vote to recommend that the General Assembly launch negotiations for such a treaty in 2017 (see sidebar).

We in PSR have a special role to play in changing U.S. government policy. Our message about the medical consequences of nuclear war is the most powerful argument there is for a fundamentally new approach. Our campaign to “Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race” is designed to push legislators to abandon the trillion dollar nuclear spending spree that it is currently being planned. Instead, all Americans should support this effort to ban nuclear weapons as the next step towards a nuclear weapons convention among the nuclear weapons states that sets up a detailed, enforceable, verifiable process to eliminate these weapons, and the threat they pose to all humanity, from the world.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki have shown us what nuclear weapons will do. We have been warned. Whether we heed that warning is up to us.

A version of this article appeared in the August 4, 2016 edition of the Hampshire Gazette (Northampton, Mass.)
CLEAN ENERGY ACTIONS

Continued from page 1

Fighting against hydraulic fracturing has shaped how we interact with the world heavily reliant upon technology. The historic law that allowed for the extraction of natural gas, known as “fracking,” has been a potent greenhouse gas, as well as dangerous air pollutants and even radioactivity.

By Michelle Gin, M.P.H.

Elizabeth Fraser from Girl Gone Raw shows how easy it is to make veggie ice cream.

 Rejecting Fossil Fuels

Many PSR chapters are working to put a definitive end to the fossil fuel era. The state of Oregon passed the first-ever state legislation to transition away from coal and towards renewable energy. The historic law came about thanks to a strong coalition that collected signatures to put a similar measure on the November 2017 ballot. This prospect prompted the affected utilities to support the measure as a legislative bill, in order to avoid a fight at the ballot box. PSR/Oregon was proud to bring the voice of health professionals to the coalition and other partnerships to achieve this healthy climate milestone.

PSR members are actively fighting against hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to extract natural gas in many states. PSR/Philadelphia is educating and mobilizing health professionals across half of Pennsylvania, preparing them to inform lawmakers and the public about the damage to health caused by fracking operations. PSR/Maryland, which played a lead role in the passage of that state’s temporary moratorium on fracking, is gearing up to push for a permanent ban. PSR/Florida has been successful in convincing multiple city councils to call for moratoria on fracking and has testified at the state level. PSR/LA continues to fight urban fracking in Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, PSR/New York is focusing on the pipelines that move fracked gas from the wellsite to refineries, ports, or final users, often hundreds of miles away. PSR/New York partnered with the national PSR office in September to hold an in-person training to equip health professionals to take action to address the health dangers from natural gas pipelines and related infrastructure, which leak methane, a potent greenhouse gas, as well as dangerous air pollutants and even radioactivity.

Creativity in Action

In the nation’s more conservative heartland, PSR/Iowa reaches broad swaths of Iowans by bringing its message to popular public events. For Earth Day, the chapter pulled together more than 20 other organizations plus local environmentalists, students, faculty, and others to create an educational day of activities at a beautiful state park. The celebration focused on love for nature, complemented by activism to stop assaults on it. So, yes, there was tabling with postcards and petitions, but many groups opted for fun interactive activities including nature walks and scavenger hunts, nature-focused puppet shows, even a delicious smoothie-making activity.

Similarly, the chapter reached a diverse crowd by joining the local 4th of July parade. Under the banner of “Our Stressed Home Planet Earth: Don’t Bomb It, Don’t Burn It,” chapter members threw thousands of earth stress balls to the crowd from a parade truck fueled by food waste oil. The chapter was also a hit at the county fair, where PSR/Iowa featured bubbles—you need clear air and healthy lungs to blow bubbles and balloons. While the kids came for the bubbles, chapter members talked with the parents about clean, healthy energy options and urged them to fill out postcards to the governor about clean power policy.

PSR/Maine chose a different tack, highlighting the climate impacts of our food supply in an event they christened “Taste for Change: A Celebration of Food, Climate, and Eating.” The chapter partnered with the national PSR office to push for a permanent ban. PSR/Maryland, which played a lead role in the passage of that state’s temporary moratorium on fracking, is gearing up to push for a permanent ban.

Students Seek More Forms of Action—and Want to Learn from Your Experiences

By Michelle Gin, M.P.H.

Among the challenges faced by student chapters is how to balance academics, being active in professional organizations like PSR, and a personal life. Hosting educational events in an ever-changing world heavily reliant upon technology has shaped how we interact with one another, absorb information, and decide to take action. PSR is committed to the building skills of the next generation, and developed the Building Advocacy Skills webinar series in 2013 for that purpose. Now, it’s time for an addition.

We are very fortunate to have two students, both skilled in advocacy, serve as National Student Representatives (NSRs) on the PSR Board of Directors. Alli Stradiotto (Creighton University School of Medicine) and James Baier (Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania) are taking the lead to expand on the Building Advocacy Skills series. Three new modules will be launched this coming academic year: Coordinating with Other Local/Student Groups; The In's and Outs of Direct Action; and Online Activism. Alli notes, “Engaging other groups is critical to build capacity and work in partnership to accomplish shared goals. I’m excited to create the Coordinating with Other Local/Student Groups module to guide chapters in fostering connections that end.”

Baier describes The In’s and Outs of Direct Action as a module focused on non-violent direct action such as demonstrations outside of
Addressing Toxic Energy

By Kathy Attar

At long last, Congress updated the nation’s chemical policy, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), by enacting the Frank R. Launtenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. The tremendous advocacy effort by hundreds of non-profit environmental health advocacy organizations, including PSR, resulted in a final piece of legislation that makes progress over current law in certain areas. Unfortunately, viewed from the health perspective, the Launtenberg Chemical Act falls short of protecting the health of all communities.

PSR and our activists worked hard to pressure Congress for improvements. The act improves TSCA’s safety standard for chemicals by prohibiting consideration of costs in evaluating a chemical’s risks. Once a chemical is determined to be unsafe for a specific use or in a specific product, the EPA is mandated to eliminate that risk. However, funding is limited, so the EPA could be stymied by the lack of resources necessary to carry out chemical assessments, and the pace of assessments is slow. Finally, the new law creates unprecedented federal preemption of states’ abilities to enact legislation to protect their residents from hazardous chemical exposures, though it does not overturn prior state chemical legislation.

Focus on Air Toxics

With TSCA reform finally passed, PSR is focusing its toxics program on airborne toxics, including methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that poses a severe threat to the world’s climate and thus to human health. Natural gas mining and infrastructure are the single largest source of U.S. human-caused methane emissions. According to the EPA’s own figures, they represent almost 40 percent of total methane emissions. Methane can escape from oil and natural gas systems at various points: during well completion and extraction at the wellsite, during processing, and from high-pressure transmission pipelines and related infrastructure during transport, storage, and end-use distribution.

Five thousand people were ordered to evacuate near the disastrous Porter Ranch methane storage leak. But even worse, proximity to the fracked wells is now being shown to correlate with high rates of sinus problems, respiratory distress, migraines, lightheadedness and dizziness, blood and bone marrow damage leading to anemia and immunological problems, reproductive system effects, and birth defects and other harms to the developing fetus. To make matters worse, methane leaks are frequently accompanied by the leakage of other volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Some VOCs are known to be carcinogenic; some are hazardous air pollutants, and they all contribute to local formation of ground-level ozone.

Chapters and National Weight on Pipelines

New York has a ban on fracking, but New Yorkers aren’t safe yet from fracked gas. Major pipelines carrying gas fracked in Pennsylvania are being built across New York State, and more are planned. Those pipelines, and the compressors that drive the gas through them, bring the risk of VOC and methane leaks, and accidents and fires, into dozens of communities.

PSR National and PSR/New York are collaborating to train health professionals on the health implications of natural gas transport and storage facilities. The goal is to grow the cadre of health professionals who can bring their scientific knowledge to bear and change the debate around natural gas to one focusing on public health.

In Pennsylvania, where fracking is rampant, PSR/Philadelphia set out to train health professionals to be effective speakers on fracking. Now, with low natural gas prices reducing the rate of fracked gas extraction, the related issues of pipelines and compressor stations are emerging as a strong topic around which to network and organize. The chapter is gearing up to educate on that topic, and has submitted comments voicing their concerns about proposed pipelines. PSR/National has also spoken out to oppose new infrastructure—like the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project, which would take methane fracked in northeastern Pennsylvania and connect it with markets in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern states, even as far south as Alabama. The pipeline, almost four feet in diameter, would cut a corridor across farms and woodlands, limit how landowners may use their land, and expose nearby residents to a long-term threat of toxic leaks and explosions.

Given the scientific evidence that pipelines and associated infrastructure are linked to serious health impacts for nearby communities, as well as global consequences due to methane’s contribution to climate change, PSR is opposing these projects while pushing for cleaner, safer, low-cost wind and solar power for healthy energy.
PSR/Arizona: Building Resilient Communities

By W. Taylor Johnson, M.F.A., D.L.S.

It’s going to get real hot! A new study co-sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation predicts that if current heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions trends continue, there is a 90 percent chance that regions around the world will experience record-breaking heat between 2060 and 2080. A projected increase in temperatures by nine degrees in areas such as the U.S. Southwest could result in 110 degrees Fahrenheit or more being typical, rather than the average summertime high. Such extreme heat is likely to result in power outages lasting weeks, leaving communities vulnerable to significant heat-related health risks.

PSR/Arizona is working to educate neighborhoods in the Tucson area to build community resilience, adapt to climate change, and survive extreme heat events and power outages. I spoke with Barbara Warren, M.D., M.P.H., a founding member and current coordinator of the PSR/Arizona chapter, about this important and engaging work.

In the fall of 2012, PSR/Arizona initiated the Climate Smart Southwest (CSSW) Project to gather local and national environmental leaders, as well as members of Southwest communities, to address public health vulnerabilities to climate change. Six working groups were formed to address the following vulnerable communities: mental and spiritual health; food systems preparedness; low-income populations; cross-cultural and cross border concerns; and education of children in our schools. A major CSSW conference was held in September 2013, attended by over 400 members of Southwest communities, with 45 local and national co-sponsors including Sierra Club, Earthjustice, Union of Concerned Scientists, World Wildlife Fund, Center for Biological Diversity, University of Arizona, and PSR’s National Office.

"If the power grid were to go down regionally due to an extreme heat wave," notes Dr. Warren, "the potential impact is comparable to that of the deadly and destructive Hurricane Sandy," one of the costliest climate-related disasters in U.S. history. PSR/Arizona has advanced the project Building Resilient Neighborhoods (BRN) with the support of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sub-grant from the University of Arizona School of Public Health. PSR/Arizona offers facilitator trainings and workshops on BRN to help local communities respond to the health impacts of climate change. "PSR/Arizona is currently working with three very high risk communities in Tucson, each with different sets of needs and challenges, to help them help themselves," says Dr. Warren. Important products of PSR/Arizona’s efforts to enhance emergency preparedness and resilience are their free Citizen’s Guide for Readiness for Climate Extremes in the Desert Southwest and workshop guides and materials, available in both English and Spanish.

To bring people together from different socioeconomic groups who might be reluctant to participate—such as the elderly or non-English speakers—a “Potluck in the Park” proved effective in one of the communities. This was especially poignant since parks are identified as cooler spaces to go to in heat-related emergencies. The primary goal of the community gathering was to help neighborhoods become more cohesive and gather emergency preparedness resources. As a byproduct, community events such as this have also resulted in community members sharing ideas to reduce and prevent the emission of greenhouse gases and other adaptation plans. Their ideas include planting more trees; growing locally, sustainable foods; and conservation of water through home-harvesting and redirection of rainwater. Although these ideas are not novel, this demonstrates that bringing people together facilitates dialog and heightened awareness of the importance of being proactive in addressing climate change.

Inspired by the model of Transition Towns that emerged in the United Kingdom in 2006, Dr. Warren observes that in Tucson, “neighborhoods are learning to work together to address climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the way we live locally.” She further notes that “increasing localization and learning to be more kind to the environment in terms of how resources such as food, energy and water are acquired and used” help to achieve these goals.

Dr. Warren notes that as a result of PSR/Arizona’s workshops on Building Resilient Neighborhoods, the Tucson Green Building Council chapter “encouraged our participation in a 2030 District project to enable a densely built sector of Tucson with high resource consumption to reduce energy and water use by 50 percent by 2030.” Healthy Built Arizona’s efforts have encouraged individuals to make physical environments that are designed to integrate health and wellness as an integral part of a community. One of the 2030 District project co-developers received training as one of PSR/Arizona’s workshop facilitators.

Much of the PSR/Arizona’s work is done in coalition with other like-minded local organizations. “We work with climate scientists and others at the University of Arizona, including engagement with Students for Sustainability,” notes Dr. Warren, in addition, author and educator Susan Fairathers—a founding member of Sustainable Tucson—explores the possible outcomes of climate change in the Tucson area in her new book Threshold, incorporating illustrations of a climate disaster scenario like those used by PSR/Arizona.

PSR/Arizona is a well-rounded chapter. They actively work to address the causes of climate change by promoting solar energy incentives, plus energy efficiency in the built environment, to replace coal mining and combustion and thus reduce the health impact of fossil fuels. Their dedicated volunteers were integral to achieving support for the New Start Treaty and are educating legislators and the public about a new campaign to Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race and instead reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal. They also advocate for sane gun control. For more information on PSR/Arizona, please visit www.psr.org/chapters/arizona/ or www.psr.org/azclimate.
decision-makers’ buildings, sit-ins, die-ins, and similar scenarios where students can engage with the public and raise awareness. This module is meant for those who want more in-person interactions. It is also for those who may be frustrated with how dependent our society has become on technology to communicate when a conversation seeing another person’s body language and passion could make all the difference.

The last module, Online Activism, is intended for those who may not have the ability or capacity to be out in the streets. Some Student, PSR chapters are in rural communities and cannot easily participate in a protest in Washington, DC. This module will encourage other forms of meaningful interaction to push for policy change.

Clean energy and energy efficiency present us with true opportunities for change. They create jobs, reduce pollution, reduce the water used by coal plants and fracking, and will help save us from the most catastrophic effects of climate change. The state of clean energy development is positive but rarely touted: Texas is the largest wind producer nationwide; Iowa produces 31 percent of its electricity from wind, Hawaii gets 27 percent of its energy from solar, and when the state temporarily stopped allowing new permits for rooftop solar, it met with public outcry.

PSR’s Clean Energy Saves Lives campaign is widening its focus from the Clean Power Plan to state and regional programs that advance renewables and efficiency. We have launched a series of webinars to support our chapter work, outlined in this PSR Reports (p.1). I quote Bill McKibben, who wrote in the New Republic recently: “We are under attack from climate change, and our only hope is to mobilize like we did in WWII.” PSR members and staff understand the threat and agree: It’s time to light a fire under our legislators and our colleagues.

This is true not only for climate but for nuclear weapons as well. This year we brought these two issues together with conferences on Climate Change and the Increased Risk of Nuclear War, offered by PSR/Greater Boston and co-sponsored by ten leading medical institutions. And PSR/Iowa brought us the informative Climate Nuclear Nexus Forum in September. Don’t miss Ira Helfand’s article on p. 1 about our success moving toward an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Bolstered by this momentum, PSR has launched a legislative campaign, ‘Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race,’ to explain the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons to our legislators. We have already moved several senators and representatives to denounce components of the planned new trillion-dollar nuclear buildup. We are reaching out to the faith community, Rotary groups, and young people to help us spread the message.

Aided by the urgency expressed by the World Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and the Pope on both climate change and nuclear weapons, PSR will continue to raise the voices of health professionals in favor of a green energy tipping point and a ban on nuclear weapons. Your support makes all this possible, and I value your company these five years. We accomplished so much together.

Thank you!

CATHERINE THOMASSON, M.D.

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 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. Sign up to receive updates at psr.org.

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.

MATCH YOUR GIFT

Many companies provide matching gifts for employee charitable contributions. Please check to determine whether your gift to PSR will be...
Donors & Doers

By Christine Herrmann

Amazing how PSR members keep finding new ways to be relevant to our causes. They dazzle us. Space allows us to list just a dozen people; collectively they’ve volunteered and supported PSR for 340 years. Shout-outs to:

In February, Blythe and Frank Baldwin, M.D., organized talks on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons featuring Ira Helfand, M.D., at Cornell University and SUNY Cortland. Frank is continuing to meet with students to keep them involved on the topic.

PSR/San Francisco President Bob Gould, M.D., works to advance mainstream medical engagement on climate change with the California Medical Association and to create new medical school curriculum for environmental threats. He’s a fount of information on all of our issues and travels the country for our causes.

Epidemiologist and former PSR Board Member Tom Newman, M.D., M.P.H., works to advance sustainability and prevent runaway climate change by getting non-therapeutic antibiotics out of meat/poultry from the UCSF food system and stopping coal exports through the Port of Oakland. He also speaks to Rotary groups about why we must rid the world of nuclear weapons.

PSR President Lynn Ringenberg, M.D., manages to be everywhere: speaking about climate change and nuclear weapons on the university circuit, at community meetings and medical conferences, and with Student PSR groups, all the while keeping PSR functioning smoothly. Are you one of the lucky donors to receive a thank you call from Lynn?

Maureen McCue, M.D., John Rachow, M.D., and David Drake, D.O., make PSR/Iowa so effective while also doing so much with PSR/National. In the exhausting summer heat, they shined for PSR at anti-pipeline rallies and state fairs.

Ira Helfand, M.D., circles the globe for us regularly. This year, he was Brazil for the Rotary International conference, South Africa for the World Medical Association, and Rome for the Nobel Peace Laureates.

For climate and toxics solutions, we thank Cathey Falvo, M.D., for representing PSR (and International Society of Doctors for the Environment) at the United Nations.

Psychiatrist Harvey Fernbach, M.D., is PSR National’s go-to volunteer whenever we need help with a local event. His most recent gig was taking responsibility for Maryland’s Security lobby team on Capitol Hill in September.


Bravo, team PSR, and the many more volunteers like you.