In February, we hosted a panel discussion here in Washington, D.C. to discuss the Green New Deal, a non-binding resolution that had just been introduced in Congress aimed at addressing the dual crises of climate change and growing inequality. Before the program began, as I wandered around the room introducing myself to attendees, I came across a group of college students I didn’t know, and asked them what their connection was to PSR. They told me that they had, in fact, never heard of PSR until that evening — they were there because they were constantly on the lookout for opportunities to learn more about the Green New Deal.

The event turned out to be one of our most successful in recent memory. The room was packed with both PSR members new and old — and, I suspect, a fair number of people who were likewise unfamiliar with PSR, but were excited about the opportunity to talk about the Green New Deal.

Putting aside whatever you know or think you know about the Green New Deal, no one can disagree that the boldness of the plan has generated a lot of excitement, and — in particular — a lot of enthusiasm among young people. That conversation in February not only got me excited about the possibility of meaningful action on climate change, but also about the future of PSR. In my conversations with young people, it’s been made clear to me that they’re not afraid of new and bold ideas — and, some of them, I think, view the push for a Green New Deal as their first big opportunity to take some control over the direction of the future that they will inherit. The question is whether PSR will likewise come to be seen as a vehicle to help determine that future. I think it will be.

On the less optimistic side, there is news every day reminding us that the forces against progress are pretty formidable. At a time when we know we need to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid catastrophe, demand for coal, oil, and natural gas hit new all-time highs in 2018. The President’s Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposed cutting funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by over a third, while calling for an 11.8 percent increase for nuclear weapons, with a goal of completing production of a dangerous new low-yield nuclear missile this upcoming fiscal year.

Thinking big and being bold also seems appropriate the more you learn about the staggering amount of money that the defense industry and oil and gas companies spend to delay, control or block policies aimed at protecting our planet and our health. A recent report on oil and gas industry lobbying, for example, found that the five largest oil and gas companies spend nearly $200 million a year lobbying against policies to tackle climate change.

That’s what we’re up against, and why your contribution to PSR, whatever the amount, is so important. I’m looking forward to working with you on what so far has looked like a pivotal year for change, both in the country and at PSR.

Jeff Carter, JD
Student Members of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Climate Change Consortium, founded by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, participate in a climate change rally.

Photo: Joe Brusky/Flickr

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To receive PSR Reports regularly, we invite you to join PSR and support our work. Write to PSR, 1111 14th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005, or visit our website at www.psr.org.

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   Dr. REGINA LAROQUE
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Empty shelves at the toyshop and supermarket; this was my view of the Iranian revolution at age seven in Tehran. We certainly had unparalleled delicious food prepared by my grandmother, but we had to stand in line for rice, cooking oil and basic food necessities. There were no food imports; the only option was what could be grown locally. I believe this to be the origin of my obsession with avoiding food waste. Suffice it to say, friends who host dinner parties provide to-go containers with my name on them. Having lived this way all my life, imagine my surprise when Project Drawdown – a comprehensive analysis of proposed solutions to facilitate greenhouse gas reduction, edited by Paul Hawkins – noted that addressing food waste could reduce 70.53 gigatons of CO2 by 2050. That is the third listed solution out of 80. If only the Iranian revolutionaries knew they were promoting climate change mitigation habits in a child back in 1979!

Project Drawdown is one of two books I have found very thought-provoking and influential on the topic of climate change in recent months. The other book, Doughnut Economics, by English economist Kate Raworth, addresses the ways existing economic paradigms must change to comply with 21st century realities of environmental degradation and human suffering. For me, this book provided this jaw-dropper: “Economics is the mother of public policy.... [Economists] take front row seats as experts in the international policy arena.” This was particularly frustrating to read because my other passion is trying to figure out why health professionals like me have a limited voice in public policy, when every rule and regulation we can think of can be improved through the benefits of a public health perspective.

Both of these books demonstrate the important conceptual relevance of PSR’s goals and objectives. I first learned about nuclear famine after listening to a talk by PSR board member Dr. Ira Helfand on the frightening consequences for survivors of a nuclear war. This year, the political unrest and conflict between India and Pakistan heightened the urgency of PSR’s advocacy for nuclear weapons abolition worldwide. While my family did everything within their power to mitigate the experience of food shortages when I was a child, in the event of a nuclear famine or climate change induced food insecurity, many children won’t be so lucky.

PSR broadcasts and amplifies the voices and perspectives of health professionals on nuclear issues and global climate change. Without the work of PSR national, the chapters and all our members, advocates and supporters, there would be radio silence on many of these topics. This is evident from recent successes such as the endorsement by 20 cities across the United States of the Back from the Brink platform. When I recently took part in a Climate Reality Project training, Al Gore said Lancet is not the only organization that recognizes climate change as a public health emergency, and then flashed a slide that contained the names of several organizations, with PSR’s red logo prominent among them.

We must work hard for a seat at the table on public policy decisions, and we do it with the amazing work of PSR national staff, the untiring efforts of PSR chapters, and of course our donors and supporters. Help PSR turn up the volume on issues that matter and protect our communities from this century’s gravest threats to public health.

Pouné Saberi, MD, MPH
In March, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Wild Earth Guardians and the Western Environmental Law Center celebrated a significant victory for climate and health when a federal judge ruled that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ignored the potential climate impact of leasing public lands in Wyoming for fracking. The ruling temporarily blocked fracking on 300,000 acres in the state.

In 2016, PSR and our two fellow plaintiffs filed a joint lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Interior and the BLM for failing to account for such impacts when leasing public lands for fracking and other oil and gas operations. In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Rudolph Contreras agreed, holding that in failing to do so, the BLM was in violation of federal environmental laws. The lawsuit targeted more than 460,000 acres of public lands in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, where leases were sold to the oil and gas industry in 2015 and 2016.

While the ruling applies only to 300,000 acres of public lands in Wyoming, it casts doubt on future efforts to expand oil, gas and coal operations on public lands throughout the United States. Thus, while the lawsuit was filed during the Obama administration, it represents a major setback for the Trump administration, which has consistently prioritized fossil fuel industry interests over public health and efforts to address climate change. An article in The Guardian called this ruling “the first significant check on the Trump administration’s ‘energy-first’ agenda.”

Fossil fuels produced from public lands are estimated to account for nearly 25 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, making them a major contributor to climate change.

Extracting and burning oil and gas endangers the health and well-being of communities living near operations sites, making this ruling all the more important for future efforts to safeguard communities’ health and safety. PSR and our organizational partners will continue our efforts to demand justice for frontline communities and call attention to environmental health impacts of fossil fuel extraction. PSR
WHAT WOULD THE GREEN NEW DEAL MEAN FOR CLIMATE, HEALTH, AND JUSTICE?

By Barb Gottlieb

Climate change is a health emergency, and it’s time to treat it like one. Extreme weather events like heat waves, droughts, flooding and storms cause death, disease and destruction every year. Communities of color, immigrants, and low-income families are among the hardest hit by the adverse effects of climate change. Without bold and rapid action, climate change will worsen and its health effects will cut deeper. Recent reports from the *Lancet*, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the National Climate Assessment show that nations around the globe must slash greenhouse gas emissions in the next twelve years to avert catastrophic global warming.
However, it’s also clear that transitioning away from fossil fuels will present substantial economic challenges, so the move will need to be accompanied by policies that provide economic security and growth for those people whose jobs and communities will be disrupted by the transition.

What would that transition look like? Proponents of the Green New Deal believe they have an answer. Their plan would transform the energy sector with massive investments in clean renewable energy jobs and infrastructure. In addition, the Green New Deal seeks to reshape the existing economic model that exacerbates inequality and injustice. It draws on the historic concept of the New Deal that in the 1930s ushered in massive public works projects and massive job creation that had never been seen before in the United States.

Spurred by the desperate situation created by the Great Depression, with a bold vision that others weren’t sure could become a reality, President Franklin Roosevelt and his team created a mass mobilization that transformed the U.S. economy. The idea of a Green New Deal draws on that example to tackle the climate crisis, emphasizing a just transition for fossil fuel workers and priority attention to the voices and needs of impacted communities.

A Green New Deal resolution was recently introduced in Congress, providing a path for policymakers to enact solutions on a scale that is needed, including a just transition for fossil fuel workers and communities.

Members of Congress spoke about the urgency of to-scale solutions to curb climate change.

“We have a broader responsibility here. A responsibility to our sons and daughters. A responsibility to our grandchildren, and their sons and daughters,” said Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon during a speech on the Senate floor about the need to address climate change.

“This should be our nation’s moonshot,” said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, a presidential candidate, during a press conference on the Green New Deal, urging swift and comprehensive action to protect present and future generations from the effects of climate change.

The Green New Deal is also inspiring grassroots organizers to draft local and state initiatives with similar concepts. For example, Oregon PSR is championing their state-specific version; it embraces a phase-out fossil fuel infrastructure; strong regulation of pollution from the industrial, transportation, and energy sectors; transition to clean, community-controlled, 100% renewable energy; “climate-smart,” sustainable farms and forests; transportation reform; protection for communities already experiencing a changing climate, and funding for a just transition.

In February, PSR convened a panel discussion in Washington, D.C. to discuss the Green New Deal (see page 9 for details). Panelists Leslie Fields of the Sierra Club, author Tee L. Guidotti, and Tim Whitehouse, former Executive Director of Chesapeake PSR, spoke about potential impacts on communities. The broad-ranging conversation touched on ensuring that renewable energy is actually clean, addressing systemic environmental racism, and ensuring that in an energy transition, impacted communities are placed at the center of efforts at adaptation and mitigation.

PSR hopes that the Green New Deal becomes an inspiration for policies that take to heart the urgency of the climate crisis and offer bold solutions. Human health and survival is at stake, and we don’t have a moment to lose. PSR
The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that global warming must be limited to 1.5°C in the next 12 years — lower than the Paris Accords’ target, 2°C — to avert catastrophic effects on humans and our planet. Along with a changing climate, the rise in extreme weather events has severe potential implications for human health. PSR examined several forms of extreme weather—severe storms, heat waves, extreme cold, and drought—and the potential public health impacts that could result.

WEATHER IMPACTS HEALTH

SEVERE STORMS
Rising global sea levels and temperatures could result in intensification of severe storms, including hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, etc. Health outcomes can include drownings, accidental deaths, displacement, loss of access to healthcare, and mental health impacts, among other effects. Coastal and island communities, low-income communities, and communities of color are disproportionately impacted.

HEAT WAVES
Heat-related deaths will likely increase due to rising temperatures, largely due to cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and respiratory effects. Urban heat islands will amplify impacts on cities.

EXTREME COLD
Housing-insecure and transient populations, people with pre-existing conditions, children and the elderly are all at increased risk of complications or dangerous health conditions brought on by exposure to extremely cold temperatures and severe cold fronts.

DROUGHT
Drought-related health outcomes do not occur in isolation. Droughts intensify heat waves by reducing evaporative cooling. Health impacts can include drinking water contamination, increased recreational risks, decreased air quality, diminished living conditions, compromised food and nutrition, and increased outbreak of illness and disease.
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Changing Climate: EXTREME WEATHER IMPACTS HEALTH

The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that global warming must be limited to 1.5° C in the next 12 years — lower than the Paris Accords’ target, 2°C — to avert catastrophic effects on humans and our planet. Along with a changing climate, the rise in extreme weather events has severe potential implications for human health. PSR examined several forms of extreme weather—severe storms, heat waves, extreme cold, and drought—and the potential public health impacts that could result.

PSR EXPLORES THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF A GREEN NEW DEAL

Climate change is a global health emergency that is damaging communities and taking lives across the United States and around the world. What solutions can we pursue, and how can decision-makers, including Congress, enact them?

Offering a framework for developing new policy initiatives, the Green New Deal, recently introduced in the U.S. Senate, has become a pivotal vehicle for a much-needed nationwide conversation on tackling climate change in the United States.

To explore the potential climate, health and social justice impacts of a Green New Deal, PSR convened a live panel discussion in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 21. The panel was moderated by PSR’s Environment and Health Director, Barbara Gottlieb, and featured author Tee L. Guidotti; Tim Whitehouse, former Executive Director of Chesapeake PSR; and Leslie G. Fields, Director of Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships at Sierra Club.

Barbara Gottlieb launched the discussion by framing climate change as an urgent crisis and a health emergency.

Tee Guidotti agreed and called for to-scale solutions. “Climate change is a negative transformation on a global scale; the Green New Deal could be a positive transformation,” he said. “If we don’t like the idea of a national emergency on climate change...or an economic crash...this is our last chance.”

The Green New Deal is “ambitious and revolutionary, and I hope it will help organize people...particularly young people,” said Tim Whitehouse of Chesapeake PSR. He highlighted the need to ensure that renewable energy is actually clean and that communities actually see lowered emissions, not just industry polluters offsetting emissions.

Solutions like a Green New Deal also present an opportunity to address health disparities, economic opportunities and community resilience, noted Leslie Fields. “I’m tired of these band-aid remedies. Climate Change exacerbates inequality. Impacted communities need solutions, and they need them now.” PSR
#PSR is fighting so that younger generations won’t inherit a world threatened by #nuclearweapons, which put American families’ health and safety at risk for a #nuclearwar no one wants. The #US should lead by committing to #NoFirstUse of nuclear weapons.

"The world needs more #nuclear arms control, not less, and the last thing the world needs is a catastrophic escalation of a nuclear arms race". #PSR’s Martin Fleck speaking out in support of @TulsiGabbard legislation to preserve the critical #INFTreaty.

We are delighted to have a fantastic group of panelists discussing the #GreenNewDeal here at @busboysandpoets in #DC! Thank you Leslie G. Fields @SierraClub, author Tee L. Guidotti and Tim Whitehouse @ChesapeakePSR. #climatechange #ClimateChangesHealth

An eerie blue light in #NYC wasn’t from an alien spaceship, or a #MenInBlack neuralyzer—it was from an explosion at a power plant. It’s time for the US to quit #fossilfuels and embrace #RenewableEnergy for the sake of our #health and safety.

#PSR mobilizes medical and #health professionals on the gravest threats to human health and survival, including #nuclearwar and #climatechange. The @BulletinAtomic #DoomsdayClock is at 2 minutes to midnight, the closest it’s ever been. We can’t let it get any closer.

"We have a broader responsibility here. A responsibility to our sons and daughters. A responsibility to our grandchildren, and their sons and daughters." – @SenJeffMerkley on why the US must #ActOnClimate now @OregonPSR #ClimateChange

VICTORY: #PSR, @wildearthguard and @westernlaw sued the @Interior and @BLMNational for failing to account for #climatechange in leasing public lands for #fracking- @guardian calls the initial ruling “the first significant check” on an "energy-first" agenda.

MUST-READ @NEJM article by Dr. Regina LaRocque and Dr. Caren Solomon @gb_psr highlights ways #health professionals can help fight #climatechange as a health emergency, from educating colleagues to working for policy change.

Great news! With bipartisan support, #NewMexico legislature just passed a bill that requires state utilities to get at least 50% of their electricity from #renewableenergy by 2030, increasing to 80% renewable energy by 2040 and 100% carbon-free by 2045.

#PSR is excited and honored to announce our commitments to gender equity as part of the groundbreaking @gcnuclearpolicy initiative! During #WomensHistoryMonth, learn how we’re pledging to strike down gender barriers in #nuclear policy.

“We have a broader responsibility here. A responsibility to our sons and daughters. A responsibility to our grandchildren, and their sons and daughters.” – @SenJeffMerkley on why the US must #ActOnClimate now @OregonPSR #ClimateChange

PSR BRINGS A HEALTH VOICE TO TWITTER

DOCS SPEAK OUT

WWW.PSR.ORG

10 | PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
#PSR serves as a key public voice for health and medical professionals. Effects of #climatechange and the possibility of #nuclearwar present two of the gravest threats to human #health and survival. We are committed to safeguarding the health of present and future generations.

"This should be our nation’s #moonshot"—@SenGillibrand earlier today speaking about the urgent need to #ActOnClimate, swiftly and comprehensively, to protect present and future generations before it's too late. #ClimateChange

Thank you @SenWarren and @RepAdamSmith for championing #NoFirstUse of #nuclearweapons! This is a critical step to protect all American families' #health and safety and our national security interests.

"#ClimateChange is a real problem that deserves urgency." – Congressional champion Sen. @RonWyden on why we must #ActOnClimate. Thank you, Senator- climate change is a health emergency that is already impacting frontline communities. @OregonPSR

"Our #nuclearweapons should exist to stop a #nuclearwar, not to start it.” Thank you @RepAdamSmith! This is why the #US should commit to an official policy of #NoFirstUse. #HASCHearing

The task of creating a better future for present and future generations #IsWhatMakesMeFearless. As medical and health professionals, #PSR members take risks, make sacrifices, and do everything they can to safeguard their patients’ #health. That includes combatting #climatechange.

Young people didn't cause the #climatechange crisis or other environmental #health hazards, yet they'll bear the worst consequences. Support PSR's work to create a better future for present and future generations.

Join #PSR's #climate messaging webinar Mar. 14 at 1 PM EST: learn what to say about #climatechange and how to say it, with guest speaker @meighenspeiser, Executive Director of @ecoAmerica.

#PSR's Martin Fleck and PSR board member and #SFBayArea chapter leader Dr. Robert Gould via @CapTimes: "Keep us safe — keep the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty" #INFTreaty

The US policy of #NoFirstUse of #nuclearweapons. #Moonshot
The Woolsey Fire ignited on November 8, 2018 and burned 96,949 acres of land. The fire destroyed 1,643 structures, killed three people, and prompted the evacuation of more than 295,000 people. According to the County of Los Angeles government website, “This was an unprecedented, fast-moving brush fire, 14 miles wide, with a footprint of 150 square miles, driven by gusts of up to 70 mph—the most destructive fire L.A. County has ever seen. Three canyons were affected and 70,000 homes, businesses and other structures lay in the fire's path.”

To make matters worse, this wildfire had a toxic twist. The Woolsey Fire — one of three major, climate change-exacerbated wildfires that wreaked havoc in California in 2018 — started on the grounds of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), a former location of rocket engine and nuclear reactor and nuclear research, located just south of Simi Valley and west of Los Angeles. Shuttered in 1996, the lab was
the site of the Sodium Reactor Experiment, which led to the partial melt-down of a reactor in 1959 and the release of radioactive material. Decades later, federal government watchdogs and agencies have still failed to ensure proper testing and cleanup of the site.

As Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles noted in a statement, “Decades of nuclear and rocket-engine testing activity, including nuclear reactor accidents and other toxic spills and releases, have resulted in widespread contamination throughout [the lab’s] 2,850-acre facility.”

Almost immediately, PSR-Los Angeles utilized their trusted public health voice as a means to educate the public and the media about the dangerous health impacts associated with potential contamination and radioactivity exposure as a result of the Woolsey Fire, particularly for communities nearby and surrounding the SSFL.

Led by the extraordinary efforts of Associate Director Denise Duffield and Board President Dr. Robert Dodge, PSR-Los Angeles pushed back on the initial assertion that the SSFL was not contaminated, called on government agencies to enable independent testing and examination of the site, and for local government leaders to more carefully consider the potential risks to affected communities. Their call was picked up in local and national media, including The Los Angeles Times, NBC, The Los Angeles Daily News, the Ventura County Star, and the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists — and many other local and nationwide media outlets. Kim Kardashian weighed in on social media to echo PSR-Los Angeles and call for a better investigation.

“We know what substances are on the site and how hazardous they are,” noted Dodge in a PSR-LA statement on potential contamination in November 2018. “We’re talking about incredibly dangerous radionuclides and toxic chemicals such as trichloroethylene, perchlorate, dioxins and heavy metals. These toxic materials are in SSFL’s soil.
and vegetation, and when it burns and becomes airborne in smoke and ash, there is real possibility of heightened exposure for area residents.”

“The Woolsey Fire started at and burned most of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, risking heightened public exposure to its radioactive and chemical contamination,” said Duffield. “SSFL contaminants can cause cancers and leukemias, developmental disorders, genetic disorders, neurological disorders, immune system disorders, and more. If the state had enforced agreements that required SSFL to be fully cleaned up by 2017, we wouldn’t have these concerns. But years of foot-dragging and efforts to undermine the cleanup by the responsible parties and our state toxics agency meant that toxic contamination was present in SSFL’s soil and vegetation, which likely volatilized in the fire and was carried off-site by strong winds.”

PSR-Los Angeles was not only the main public health voice raising the alarm — it was the only public health voice raising the alarm — thus playing a critical role in getting statewide and national attention focused on this issue, which still continues to be investigated and debated. As the ongoing efforts to help communities recover from the Woolsey Fire continue, it is critical to accurately assess the level of risk of potential contamination associated with the SSFL site, and PSR-Los Angeles continues to serve as a critical voice in those efforts.

“Given that our state toxic agency was responsible in part for the site still being contaminated, it is not surprising that it dismissed health concerns from the fire related to SSFL,” said Duffield. “Yet as a new article published by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists points out, those denials are not supported by its methodology or data. We are hopeful that with Governor Newsom’s administration, there will be new concerted efforts to ensure that agreements to fully clean up SSFL are upheld and enforced.”

Denise Duffield, PSR-Los Angeles
One of the calls endorsed by every grassroots coalition against nuclear weapons, including United Against Nuclear War and Back from the Brink (PSR works with both), is for the United States to adopt a so-called “no-first-use” nuclear weapons policy, which would forbid the U.S. from launching a nuclear weapon unless such a weapon was deployed against the U.S. first. Earlier this year, Rep. Adam Smith, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren introduced companion bills in the House and Senate that would establish that principle in law. This graphic reflects current bill status as 4/8/19.

JAN. 30
Rep. Smith & Sen. Warren introduced No First Use legislation

Co-Sponsors in the House

Co-Sponsors in the Senate

Nations adequately prepared for a meaningful medical response in the event of a nuclear strike on an urban center
MEMBER SURVEY

WHAT DID YOU CHOOSE TO PRIORITIZE?

WHICH AREAS OF WORK INTEREST YOU THE MOST?
(PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Environment and Health
- Safeguarding federal policies that protect clean air and water and combat climate change
- Encouraging American health professionals to identify climate change as a global health crisis and call for urgent, large-scale action to address it
- Promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Opposing fracked gas along its entire supply chain

Nuclear Arms Abolition
- Working with Members of Congress to prevent a new nuclear arms race
- Building a larger, more visible constituency of Americans who oppose funding nuclear weapons programs and support their elimination
- Recruiting more medical voices at the local, state and national levels to make the health case for nuclear disarmament

DID YOU KNOW?
PSR helped to write a U.S. Call to Action on Climate & Health and will be using it to mobilize more health professionals.

DID YOU KNOW?
PSR is working with other leading organizations to garner public support and elected officials' endorsement of No First Use legislation in Congress. Several presidential candidates are leading or cosponsoring legislation.
MEMBER SURVEY

YOU SHARED YOUR INPUT. HERE ARE THE RESULTS.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN?
(Please check all that apply)

80% Taken action in response to a PSR email (signed a petition, emailed a legislator, etc.)

54% Visited the PSR website

40% Read a post on PSR blogs (psr.org/blog)

25% Read a specific PSR report

18% Visited the PSR Facebook page

OTHER ACTIVITIES PSR MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN:

- Attended a PSR event
- Followed PSR on Twitter
- Registered to become a Climate Ambassador
- Attended a PSR webinar or conference call
- Attended an Advocacy Skills Training
- Joined a local PSR Chapter

DID YOU KNOW?

You can help PSR build a larger constituency of Americans who care about human health and survival by forwarding PSR emails to your friends and family.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to our survey results, 1 in 4 PSR supporters is a medical or health professional. Do you know any medical or health professionals who might be interested in joining PSR?
ACTIVIST SPOTLIGHT:
REGINA LAROQUE, MD, MPH

Since joining Greater Boston PSR, Dr. Regina LaRocque has had an immense impact on the chapter’s work - from GBPSR’s statement in response to Massachusetts’ Health Impact Assessment for the Weymouth proposed compressor station, to the New England Journal of Medicine article on climate change as a health emergency that she co-authored with Dr. Caren Solomon. PSR asked her about what inspired her to join us, what drives her work, and what advice she has for medical professionals who are new to advocacy.

➤ What first inspired you to get involved with Greater Boston PSR and PSR in general?
I was looking to join with other doctors and health professionals who were speaking up about climate change, the greatest health threat of our time. Greater Boston PSR is well-known and respected locally, and I was excited to be able to connect with such a distinguished group.

➤ What are you most proud of so far in your work with Greater Boston PSR?
I’m most proud of the personal connections I’ve made to individuals in the group. I admire my colleagues at Greater Boston PSR so much.

➤ How has your perspective as a medical professional informed your advocacy work?
People trust doctors, and I think it’s our professional responsibility to speak out about health threats and be a voice for vulnerable populations.

➤ What advice would you give to a medical professional who’s new to advocacy and looking to get involved on issues that impact human health and survival?
Don’t be afraid to get involved! You’ll find friendship and inspiration along the way.

Dr. LaRocque has an MD from Duke University School of Medicine and an MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. She completed her training in internal medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and her fellowship in infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is on staff at the Massachusetts General Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is concerned about the impact of climate change on human health and the spread of infectious diseases. PSR
SUPPORTING PSR FOR HEALTH AND SURVIVAL
Make our planet’s future part of your legacy

Are you retired and interested in supplementing your income?

Consider establishing a charitable gift annuity with PSR.

Let us provide you with tax-favored lifetime payments, help you meet your charitable goals, and you may even be eligible for immediate income tax savings.

For more information, visit psr.mylegacygift.org or contact our Development & Membership Department at (202) 667-4260 or psrnatl@prs.org
Forwarding Service Requested

**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 issues of most concern to you? Contact PSR and we’ll help schedule a meeting and provide you with background materials.