Medical Advocates for Healthy Air: Campaign for Health in a Changing Climate

Gayatri Ankem
Triangle and Eastern NC Manager
Mission

To ensure cleaner air quality for all North Carolinians through *education* and *advocacy* and by working with our *partners* to reduce sources of pollution.
Who we are

Lawrence Raymond, MD, ScM, FCCP
Chair, Medical Advocates for Healthy Air
Director, Occupational & Environmental Medicine
Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte
Professor of Family Medicine
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

June Blotnick, MEd
Executive Director
Clean Air Carolina

Rebecca Cheatham
Manager
Charlotte and Western NC

Gayatri Ankem, MPH
Manager
Triangle and Eastern NC
Why do we Campaign for Health in a Changing Climate?
How Can Climate Change Harm the Public’s Health?

**Regional Weather Events**
- Heat Waves
- Hurricanes
- Tsunami
- Severe Drought

**Changes in Temperature and Precipitation**
- Air pollution
- Disease carriers
- Contaminants

**Flood Destruction**
- Mold and mildew
- Contaminated food and water
- Lack of shelter
- Scarcities in food and water

**Pollutants and allergens**
- Mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, rodents
- Water- and food-borne diseases

**Health Outcomes**
- Heat stress and stroke
- Injury, illness, death
- Asthma and respiratory disease
- Malnutrition, starvation
- Mental illness
- Asthma, respiratory, heart & lung disease, cancer
- Malaria, Lyme disease, encephalitis, hantavirus
- Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, salmonella

Why health professionals?
How do we Campaign for Health in a Changing Climate?

- Educates medical and health professionals
- Advocates for strong clean air policies
- Partners with other organizations
- Harnesses voice of over 400 medical and health professionals
- Provides medical/health speakers & references to media
Climate Change

Climate change is happening before our eyes. Our seasonal weather patterns are changing at an abnormal rate due to human activity and the warming of our planet. If we don’t take action now, North Carolina will likely experience more extreme environmental changes including increasing sea level rise, heat waves, violent storms and severe drought. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, North Carolina, along with 30 other states, observed the warmest Spring on record in 2012. Higher temperatures can worsen ozone pollution levels and increase respiratory illnesses such as asthma and heat related deaths (Rising Temperatures, Worsening Ozone Pollution by Union of Concerned Scientists). Changes in climate can also affect our state’s water resources, threaten agriculture crops and damage forests and other valuable ecosystems our lives depend on daily. In January 2013, the National Climate Assessment Development Advisory Committee released a draft of its Third Climate Assessment with these key findings for the Southeast...
Clean Air Institute: What is it?

Clean Air Institute

MAHA is developing a Clean Air Institute to provide medical and health professionals with up-to-date educational resources related to air quality and health. The Clean Air Institute will consist of on-line courses and webinars on the health effects of ground level ozone, particulate matter, air toxics, diesel pollution, fracking and climate change.

Ground-Level Ozone

CME CREDIT! Ozone and Your Patient’s Health: Training for Healthcare Providers
By Environmental Protection Agency

Climate Change & Health

NEW! How Will Climate Affect Our Health in the Southeast US? During this webinar, Dr. George Luber, of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), examines this question and tells us what can be done to prepare for and prevent some of the adverse health consequences of climate change.

Climate Change: Managing the Shifting Environmental Health Risks
Dr. Jeremy Hess, a faculty member at Emory University School of Medicine and Emory University School of Public Health, describes the major human health consequences of a warming planet including infectious diseases, neurological disorders and heat-related morbidity. Dr. Hess also serves as Senior Medical Advisor for the Climate and Health Program, National Center for Environmental Health, CDC.

Webinars:
Dr. Jeremy Hess, 2012
NC Climate Ready program, 2014

CME credit course:
Ozone and Your Patient’s Health: Training for Healthcare Providers
Clean Air Carolina

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air News Update

Winter 2013

Climate Change and Health—MAHA webinar with Dr. Jeremy Hess

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air (MAHA) was delighted to welcome Dr. Jeremy Hess to Charlotte on December 4th for a special webinar on climate change and health. A faculty member at Emory University School of Medicine and Emory University School of Public Health, Dr. Hess is also a practicing Emergency Medicine physician and serves as Senior Medical Advisor for the Climate and Health Program in the National Center for Environmental Health, CDC.

In addition to speaking at Clean Air Carolina’s annual meeting on December 4th, Dr. Hess was a featured guest on WFAE’s “Charlotte Talks” program with epidemiologist Dr. Karin Yeatts of UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health. The program can be heard at http://www.wfae.org/post/climate-change-and-your-health
Climate Change Planning Assessment
Finding Common Threads In Regional Plans
Training Program for Pediatric Residents: Levine Children’s Hospital

**Human Health Consequences**
- Asthma, Respiratory Allergies, and Airway Diseases
- Heat-Related Morbidity and Mortality
- Foodborne Diseases and Nutrition
- Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke
- Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases
- Human Developmental Effects
- Waterborne Diseases
- Cancer

**How does climate change threaten health in North Carolina?**
- 1.7 million people in 19 counties where average summertime temperatures set records (2010)
- 19 counties set record-breaking nighttime temperatures (2010)
- Warming will likely cause Asheville and Raleigh to experience more than twice as many bad air days
- Wilmington will likely double the number of “orange alert” days

**What can you do?**

Learn more by visiting these sites:
- [http://tinyurl.com/np6sbc](http://tinyurl.com/np6sbc)
- [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/)
- [http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm)

Tell your patients about the heat index:
MAHA member Annette Hines, RN

Charlotte hearing on EPA’s proposed carbon rules on new power plants

MAHA member Dr. Daniel Neuspiel
MAHA Urges Leading Banks to Stop Financing Coal

May 15, 2013  Filed under Climate Change

Coal generation contributes to both air pollution and climate change, resulting in direct and indirect impacts on public health. Medical Advocates for Healthy Air is calling on major financiers of the U.S. coal industry to re-direct their energy lending to clean, renewable sources. A letter tailored to Bank of America, PNC Bank, Citibank, Morgan Stanley and UBS is currently being circulated throughout NC’s medical and health communities. The amounts next to each institution below notes their investment in the U.S. coal industry during 2009-2010 (source: Bloomberg League Tables):

- Bank of America – $4.3 billion
- PNC – $3 billion
- Citi – $2.8 billion
- Morgan Stanley – $1.5 billion
- UBS – $1.4 billion

If you are a medical or health professional, please add your name to the letter here. Clean Air Carolina Director, June Blotnick, spoke at the Bank of America shareholder meeting in Charlotte on May 8, 2013. Read her remarks and those of others on the health impacts of burning coal:

- June Blotnick, Executive Director of Clean Air Carolina, Bank of America comments
- Sara Behnke, Board Member of We Love Mountain Island Lake, Bank of America comments
Why use Media Advocacy?

Global warming bad for planet, but it may kill us first

Dr. Karl Fields

Do you have allergies? Asthma? Congestion or breathing difficulties? Good luck dealing with these until we act on climate change.

Our health is not a partisan issue; it is a basic right, and one that is at risk if global warming continues current trends. The decade from 1990 to 2000 was to that point the warmest in history, and every year from 2001 to 2010 exceeded the temperatures of
Current efforts

- Climate Action Campaign
- Climate Change Adaptation workshop
- 5K Run and Walk for CLEAN AIR
- Southeast Climate & Energy Network
Conveying the Human Implications of Climate Change

A Climate Change Communication Primer for Public Health Professionals
Stay involved!

Be an Advocate
Participate in sign-on letters and petitions, on-line or on paper. *When you wear a white coat, people listen.*

Contact Your Legislator
Write a letter or an email. Find out who represents you: [http://tinyurl.com/ncrepresents](http://tinyurl.com/ncrepresents)

Stay On Top of Climate Change Issues
Join newsgroups, environmental health lists, and our listserv! [http://MedicalAdvocatesforHealthyAir.com](http://MedicalAdvocatesforHealthyAir.com)

Write a Letter to the Editor
Find best-practice tips at [http://cleanaircarolina.org/?page_id=953](http://cleanaircarolina.org/?page_id=953)
Partnership

North Carolina Asthma

Mecklenburg County Medical Society

Beyond Coal

BREDL

Food & Water Watch

Moms Clean Air Force

Fighting for Our Kids' Health

USCAN: Climate Action Network

Southern Environmental Law Center

Mothers & Others

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www.MedicalAdvocatesforHealthyAir.org