



Professional Enrichment Course

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Office of Medical Education

PEC Registrar – Denise Downs d downs@pitt.edu 412-648-8749

Medicine and Climate Change

Enrollment Period:	Spring 2023
Course Dates:	January 4 th , January 18 th , February 1 st and February 15 th from 6-8
Student Max:	20
Class Year:	MS1, MS2
Course Director:	Noe Copley-Woods, MD Email: copleywoods@upmc.edu
Course Administrator:	Sherry Parker: parkersm2@upmc.edu
Location:	Scaife Hall
Registration:	Via Amp Up- you will receive an email with enrollment info
Course Description:	This course will be an overview of the interaction between healthcare and climate change. Two meetings will be focused on the field of Climate Medicine, which seeks to understand the health effects of climate change and how it acts as a disparity potentiator. The second two meetings will explore the new field of Healthcare Sustainability, which seeks to understand the environmental impact of our practices as healthcare professionals and how we can reduce harm to the environment. An optional field trip will be planned to visit the Neville Island Recycling Plant.
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Students should be able to describe how a warming planet harms human health and who is the most vulnerable.2) Students should develop an understanding of how the practice of medicine contributes to climate change and should be able to articulate eco-literate solutions.
Pre-Requisites:	none
Requirements:	Participation in 4 meetings
Texts:	Optional: Global Climate Change and Human Health, From Science to Practice Second Edition

Session One – Overview of Climate Medicine

This session will review the current state of climate change and the key global and local health impacts. Students will discuss health effects using clinical cases and will be expected to present one case.

Session Two – Air Pollution and Climate Change

This session will delve a bit deeper into how air pollution effects health globally and locally and we will discuss local sources of air pollution and how that effects patient's health.

Session Three – The Carbon Footprint of Healthcare

This session will focus on the greenhouse gas emissions of the health care industry, focusing on the principal of "first, do no harm." We will learn about and discuss the unique environmental impact of the practice of medicine. Students will be expected to discuss one area they are passionate about making a change.

Session Four – Tree-Planting as a Public Health Initiative

This session will focus on the multiple benefits of trees and scientific evidence that shows how trees are a low-cost intervention with high impact on the health of communities. These benefits range from improved respiratory, cardiovascular, and pregnancy outcomes, to improved mental health and decreased gun violence. We will understand trees as a social determinant of health.

Field Trip (Optional)

We will visit a local site which accepts medical waste. The Neville Island Recycling Center or Monroeville Landfill- date and location TBD.