Dear Planetary Health Alliance members,

We have enjoyed circling back with you over the past few months, hearing about your latest updates, needs, and ideas for the Planetary Health Alliance. As the PHA continues to evolve, your input is foundational in informing how we structure our approach, and the following newsletter synthesizes key points from this comprehensive series of one-on-one conversations. We appreciate you taking the time to connect, and we look forward to continuing to keep in close contact with all of you. It’s exciting to see the momentum in planetary health building around the world, largely spurred by the strides all of you are making in planetary health research, education, policy, and practice. We applaud your efforts and aim to support you however possible.

This newsletter represents an effort to meaningfully engage the PHA membership around a common vision for the planetary health community. Though the following pages capture merely a snapshot of your work, we hope they will provide a glimpse into the diversity and robustness of the planetary health community and provide fodder for ongoing discussions. We highlight opportunities to get involved, summarize your key needs and ideas and corresponding PHA developments, and showcase some of your latest initiatives in education, research, and policy.

Please reach out to us with any questions about any of the following. While this is by no means a comprehensive overview of all of your activities, please let us know if we missed something important.

Thank you again for your engagement in the Planetary Health Alliance!

Warm wishes & talk soon,
Erika and the PHA team
Getting involved

Call for Case Studies

The Planetary Health Alliance and The Lancet invite researchers, educators, and decision makers to submit real-world examples of planetary health in action for further development into case studies. Case studies in planetary health are an urgent priority to illustrate integrated approaches for optimizing human health in the face of global environmental change and exemplify the complex, systems-thinking, and solutions-oriented nature of planetary health. Learn more about the call for case studies.

Annual Meeting

We hope to see many of you in Edinburgh on May 29-31, 2018. We encourage you to submit your work in the call for research abstracts, as well as apply for the travel scholars program. We also invite you to an important PHA members session on Friday, June 1, to discuss the future of the Planetary Health Alliance, which will serve as a continuation of the dialogue highlighted in this newsletter. More information will be available soon.

Education Platform

About three-quarters of you are engaged in planetary health education in some form, and we encourage you to explore and utilize the resources on the Planetary Health Education Platform. If you have any teaching materials that you would like to contribute as resources for the broader community (shared freely under Creative Commons Licensing, with attribution), please do so here. All content will be reviewed for suitability by the Planetary Health Education Fellow.

Online Community

Join the Planetary Health Online Community to connect with others around the world involved in planetary health. Use this platform to network, share ideas, and spark collaborations. Existing posts include recent research articles, opportunities, events, reflections, and questions for the community.

Storytellers

More than half of you expressed interest in the Planetary Health Storytellers project, meant to translate planetary health science into publicly digestible communications to be shared through our channels and those of partner media organizations. “This is exactly what we need,” some of you have said, to raise awareness of planetary health issues and effect behavior change in the broader population. As this evolves over the coming months, please share any of your creative ideas and reach out if you’d like to be involved in this effort. In the meantime, visit our new blog and let us know if you’d be interested in contributing.

Postdoctoral Fellowship

With support from The Rockefeller Foundation, the Planetary Health Alliance has created The Rockefeller Foundation Planetary Health Fellows program to enable recent doctoral degree recipients to tackle complex research questions at the intersection of global environmental change and human health. The application deadline is January 12, 2018. Please share this opportunity with your networks and learn more here.
Getting involved

Student Projects

Do you have any projects at your institution in which you’d like to involve students and early career investigators from around the world? Help us engage the next generation of planetary health scholars by filling out this form to share any existing or early-in-development projects with the Emerging Scholars Network. We are eager to help bridge the gap between those of you with “more projects and project ideas than students” and those of you seeking meaningful ways to involve your students directly in on-the-ground planetary health work.

Emerging Scholars

The collection of independently-run planetary health clubs for students and early career investigators is growing quickly. The PHA supports these clubs through providing informational resources, access to opportunities (e.g. special events at the Annual Meeting), and connections within our community. Please encourage any individuals from your institution interested in starting a planetary health club to reach out to us directly.

150+ individuals are already engaged, and planetary health clubs are materializing around the world, most recently at:

- Brunel University London
- SUNY Downstate
- University of British Columbia
- Imperial College London
- Grantham Institute
- Doane University
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- icddr,b in Bangladesh
- University of West Indies

Contributions

Finally, please continue to send us your latest updates – including planetary health educational developments, research projects, opportunities, and events – to include in our newsletter and “Who’s Doing What, Where” map. We’re happy to publicize your efforts.

Submit Annual Meeting abstracts
Submit case studies
Share your projects on our website
Post in the online community
Share education materials
Email us
Almost three-quarters of you explicitly expressed interest in increasing connections with others in the planetary health community. To help facilitate the exchange of ideas across disciplines, geographical divides, and generations, we launched the Planetary Health Online Community earlier this fall and are preparing for the second Planetary Health Annual Meeting (and other events) to bring you together.

Nearly half of you mentioned efforts to bridge departmental gaps at your home institutions as a prominent issue, particularly in academic settings. As you build your local planetary health communities, please reach out to us if we can be of any assistance. To help facilitate the exchange of ideas around effectively forging intra-institutional collaboration, we are currently developing a webinar series to showcase approaches that various PHA members have taken to integrate planetary health programs at universities and in non-profit settings. We will be in touch with more information.

Many of you explicitly mentioned funding for planetary health research and programs as a major concern. As a community, we can help address this need by improving communications and working to create opportunities. This involves not only collaborating on individual grants, but also working together in bringing planetary health to the attention of funders. Stay tuned for further details about a PHA member-led effort to bring a planetary health funding proposal before government agencies. In the meantime, please use the Planetary Health Online Community to post resources and find partners for interdisciplinary grant proposals. As always, let us know of any other ideas.

The interest in seeing what’s going on in planetary health globally was mentioned in about a third of the member follow-up conversations conducted over the past couple of months. In addition to relaying announcements through Twitter and Facebook, we are actively developing improvements to the map on our website, and we have recently launched a “This Week in Planetary Health” blog series. Sign up to receive these weekly updates, and please email us your latest news. To be included on the map, please fill out these forms for education initiatives, research projects, or Emerging Scholars clubs.

Many of you also expressed an interest in additional informational resources to support your efforts to increase awareness and understanding of planetary health. We are currently working with a group of undergraduate students to digest our bibliography of planetary health primary literature into key points to display on our website. Once we have initial drafts prepared, we will reach back out to you to gather your input on key highlights within each of planetary health’s thematic areas, as well as suggestions for additional materials to include (e.g., datasets, factsheets, videos). In the meantime, we encourage you to post any resources directly in the Planetary Health Online Community and tag them by thematic area using the hashtag symbol (e.g., #biodiversity).
Your ideas

### PHA Working Groups

While it’s important to stay united as an interdisciplinary, international community, a number of you expressed interest in forming substructures within the PHA, organizing by thematic area of focus and/or geographic location. We agree that we can expand our collective impact by organizing more strategically. As we work to address this need – for example, through the development of regional satellite sessions around the Annual Meeting – we encourage you to start forging these bonds in the Planetary Health Online Community, delineating your thematic interests in your profile and utilizing the #topics function to share and explore work within a regional hub or specific arena of planetary health. Please let us know of any questions.

### Events

In about a third of conversations, you mentioned an interest in creating planetary health events at your home institutions, infusing planetary health into existing conferences, or organizing planetary health events for broader communities. We are eager to support these efforts in the following ways:

- If you are hosting an event at your home institution, please consider livestreaming or recording video so that these important messages can be promoted to the global community. We would be thrilled to develop relevant recorded video into an educational resource and promote your efforts.
- Stay tuned for more information on upcoming PHA-hosted webinars in which you can directly participate.
- Please feel free to contribute to this PHA-members-only document to brainstorm ideas for speakers and other resources.

### Private Sector Engagement

Some of you asked us about involving the business community in planetary health, and we do agree that the private sector can uniquely approach the translation of planetary health science to practice. The Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting is currently seeking ways to integrate the private sector in the upcoming conference. The PHA is also proud to collaborate with the UNFCCC Momentum for Change Lighthouse Award Winners in Planetary Health this spring, highlighting their efforts to leverage various sectors in support of environmental and health outcomes in a Harvard seminar series and through the development of teaching cases. Additionally, we welcome your suggestions for forging strategic industry connections to craft innovative and scalable planetary health solutions.
Over the past year, we have been thrilled to see the expansive development of planetary health education at your institutions, spanning from degree programs, to courses, to new professorship appointments. See below for some examples, and visit the “Who’s Doing What, Where” map on our homepage for additional information. If you have anything to add, please let us know.

**Degree Programs**

- Brunel University London creates a planetary health track in the new undergraduate “Global Challenges” degree program.

- Cornell University incorporates planetary health into its Master of Public Health program.

- The University of Copenhagen School of Global Health integrates planetary health into its Master of Disaster Management program.

- The Yale School of Public Health offers an online certificate program on climate change and health.

- The University of Miami is developing a graduate program Master of Science in Climate and Health.

**Faculty Appointments**

- The University of Sydney names the inaugural Professor of Planetary Health; the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health names its first Principal Research Scientist in Planetary Health and announces a search for an Assistant or Associate Professor of Nutrition and Planetary Health.

**Platforms**

- The Planetary Health Alliance, having completed the initial phase of curating resources for the Planetary Health Education Platform, solicits input and resources from professors for open access distribution, develops new interactive classroom activities, and compiles a set of “cross-cutting principles” with the planetary health education community.

- The Columbia Climate & Health Program is spearheading the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education to advance global health security and educate professionals on the effects of climate change.

**Initiatives**

- Doane University launches the Institute for Human and Planetary Health.

- The University of California Center of Expertise on Planetary Health, part of the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine One Health Institute, forges inter-university collaboration to address global and local planetary health issues.

- The University of Sydney launches the Planetary Health Platform to promote multidisciplinary research and education.

- The University of New England facilitates collective brainstorming around a university-wide planetary health strategy through a World Café event.

Academic Courses & Public Education

Many of you have relevant courses integrating the environmental and health sciences at your home institutions, abroad, and online. These include:

- A few courses explicitly titled “planetary health,” such as the University of Toronto’s “Planetary Health” seminar, Harvard’s “Planetary Health: Understanding the Human Health Impacts of Accelerating Environmental Change,” and the University of Arizona’s planetary health course within the One Health MPH program;

- Efforts to involve the broader community in educational initiatives and collective discussion, including the University of Toronto’s FutureTalks, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History’s planetary health seminar;

- Efforts to integrate the environment and health into law curricula, including those undertaken by the University of Illinois and the Georgetown O’Neill Institute;

- Educational initiatives expanding beyond the traditional university-focused audiences and targeting high school students, including efforts launched by the University of Milan’s Landscapes, Agro-bionomics, and Human Health Laboratory and Transition Earth.

Lecture Series

Institutions around the world have been hosting lectures and lecture series on planetary health, including Dartmouth, the University of Southern California, the Academy of Medical Sciences and The Lancet, Stony Brook University, Brunel University London, the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Additional events are included on page 11, and the PHA highlights upcoming happenings in our monthly newsletter and on our social media channels.
Research in planetary health has been flourishing on all fronts at your institutions, with frequently-mentioned foci including biodiversity, pollution, urban health, climate change, food systems and nutrition, and population health and development. A brief snapshot of some recent examples can be found below. For a more complete list, please visit our bibliography, past issues of our newsletter, and our social media. Please continue to reach out to us to share your materials.

*Brief note that not all thematic areas of planetary health are represented in this selection.*

**Biodiversity**

The California Academy of Sciences conducts research on biodiversity and mosquito-borne disease in Hawaii; the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies looks at Lyme disease in the context of declining biodiversity (and warming temperatures); Surfaces PNG of the Brighton & Sussex Medical School investigates biodiversity conservation and public health in Papua New Guinea; the Grantham Institute looks at how biodiversity, along with land use change, impacts emerging infectious diseases; Projeto Interface, associated with the University of Sao Paulo, assesses the impacts of biodiversity and land use change on human health.

**Pollution**

The Gund Institute comes out with a new study on the impact of upstream watershed conditions on childhood diarrheal disease in developing countries; The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, co-chaired by the Icahn School of Medicine’s Phil Landrigan and Pure Earth’s President Richard Fuller, issues a report on the health and economic impacts of soil, air, and water pollution; researchers from Stanford, Emory, and others find that agrochemical pollution increases risk of human exposure to schistosome parasites; Doane University investigates the use of biofilms in environmental bioremediation, with an emphasis on pesticide pollution; the University of Washington publishes research on the mental health effects of air pollution.

**Urban Health**

ICSU’s Urban Health & Wellbeing: A Systems Approach generates urban health knowledge in a 10-year global interdisciplinary research program; the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health works on a new project on a systems thinking approach to urban health in Malaysia; LSHTM is involved in the Sustainable Healthy Urban Environments project; the African Population and Health Research Center continues research on the links between urbanization and the transmission of microbial pathogens in Africa; the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Global Health Institute creates a new model to improve active transport in cities; the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, in coordination with the SUNY Downstate Planetary Health Club, works to assess relevant planetary health challenges in the local Brooklyn population; and Stanford conducts new research with Monash University on revitalizing urban slums.

**Climate Change**

Faculty from the University of Washington publish a paper on the health risks of climate change and variability; the icddr,b’s ESPA Deltas project focuses on coastal communities’ health in face of climate change; Imperial College London’s Grantham Institute assesses climate change risks and adaptation, focusing on water security, sea level rise, and food security; the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research investigates the health benefits of land-based practice, contextualizing its work in the context of the unique climate change challenges experienced by indigenous populations in northern Canada; the University of Technology Sydney projects climate change impacts and assesses disaster relief systems in the Pacific islands.
Food Systems & Nutrition

ANCORS at the University of Wollongong conducts research on the interactions between climate change, fisheries, and food security, focusing on the Pacific islands; Bioversity International comes out with a new book on the environmental and health implications of agrobiodiversity; the California Academy of Sciences conducts work on conservation, food systems, and health in Ethiopia; LSHTM develops new program on "Sustainable & Healthy Food Systems"; the Harvard School of Public Health continues progress on fisheries research and work focused on the impact of carbon dioxide levels on nutrition; the Center for International Forestry Research synthesizes approaches to sustainable management of fisheries; the University of Nottingham School of Health Sciences conducts research on “Future Food,” working to improve food security and nutrition in a changing environment.

Population Health & Development

The Population Reference Bureau works on a research project on population interventions for health and environment co-benefits; PIVOT assesses the idea of poverty traps and the environmental and economic drivers of health outcomes; the UC Center of Expertise on Planetary Health issues a seed grant for work on agroclimatic variability and population health in the developing world (along with seven others focused on planetary health).
In addition to the policy implications of action-focused planetary health research, many of you have continued to make progress in your programmatic focus on the translation of planetary health science to solutions. Some highlights include:

**Health & Conservation**

Health In Harmony directly engages with local communities in Borneo to identify and execute innovative solutions that improve health and forest conservation outcomes; Blue Ventures enables coastal communities to build resilience in the face of climate change through community-based marine resources management and community health services; the Global Health Asia Institute features their work as a "success story" in IUCN’s #NatureForAll campaign (and joins their Commission on Education and Communication), highlighting environmental health and sustainability field courses, environmental literacy curriculum, and other community engagement efforts; Wildlife Health Australia pursues community-based projects focused on bat health, recognizing their crucial role as pollinators and the importance of managing wildlife diseases to safeguard human health.

**Climate Change**

ecoAmerica’s Climate for Health program creates and disseminates tools and resources designed to inspire and effect change; the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continues efforts to safeguard natural resources in building resilience to climate change; the American Public Health Association continues its Year of Climate Change and Health, collecting resources and mobilizing a diverse community to raise awareness and support advocacy efforts.

**Pollution**

BREATHE focuses on air pollution in Africa, creating community outreach events and training programs to improve knowledge and mediation of respiratory issues; Global Medic Force promotes environmental pollution remediation in their provision of healthcare to vulnerable populations (as well as a commitment to a zero-energy healthcare goal); the ICES Foundation works to construct strategic remedies for ocean pollution through the use of satellite sensor technology; the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment pushes for a nation-wide coal phase-out and works to improve policy around pesticides and active transport.

**Population Health**

The Population Reference Bureau wraps up a project on family planning and resilience in Tanzania; Pathfinder International improves access to resources to improve reproductive health and natural resource management in the Lake Victoria Basin; Transition Earth conducts efforts in public education and empowerment; PHE-Ethiopia continues several projects focused on reproductive health, ecosystem conservation, and food security in the context of environmental change; the Population Media Center leverages the power of entertainment to effect behavior change related to environmental and health issues.
Many of you have been active in organizing events centered on planetary health themes. Here is a snapshot of upcoming and past events involving PHA members. Have a future event that you’d like to promote to the planetary health community? Email us.

**Upcoming Events**

The University of Sydney hosts an event to launch its new Planetary Health Platform with The Lancet’s Richard Horton and former UNDP Administrator/former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark. (December 14, 2018, Sydney, Australia)

Stanford plans for its annual global health research convening in February, this year entitled “Planetary Health in a Changing Climate.” (February 9, 2018, Stanford, CA, USA)

The 18th International Congress on Infectious Disease features a session on planetary health. (March 1-4, Buenos Aires, Argentina)

The Cities and Climate Change Science Conference is being organized by Future Earth and the UN, among others, in Alberta this coming March. (March 5-7, 2018, Alberta, Canada)

A workshop on “Transforming Life: Unifying Personal, Public, and Planetary Health,” organized by the inFLAME Global Network, will be held in the Canadian Rockies this spring. (April 4-6, 2018, Canmore, Canada)

The second Planetary Health Annual Meeting will bring together new communities around the world to stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration towards ground-breaking solutions to major planetary health challenges. (May 29-31, 2018, Edinburgh, UK)

**Past Events**

GlobalPDX hosted an “Achieving the SDG’s Conference” that highlighted planetary health. (November 17, 2017, Portland, OR, USA)


This year’s 2017 Academy of Medical Sciences and The Lancet International Health Lecture was be presented by PHA Director Dr. Sam Myers, entitled “Planetary Health: Protecting Global Health on a Rapidly Changing Planet.” (November 13, 2017, London, UK)

The Global Health Asia Institute organized a “Systems Thinking and Integrated Approaches to Health and Disease” workshop. (November 7-10, 2017 Krabi, Thailand)

Future Earth organized the second Conference of the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society. (November 7, 2017, Oaxaca City, Mexico)

The UC Center of Expertise on Planetary Health participated in a global health event at UC Berkeley that looked at maternal health, climate change, and infectious disease. (November 7, 2017, Berkeley, CA, USA)

The Bonn 2017 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 23) convened a High Level Planetary Health Panel and showcases the UNFCCC Momentum for Change Lighthouse Award Winners in Planetary Health. (November 6-17, Bonn, Germany)
Past Events

The American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene features planetary health at its 66th Annual Meeting. (November 5-9, 2017, Baltimore, MD, USA)

The American Public Health Association hosted its annual meeting, this year called “Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health.” (November 4-8, Atlanta, GA, USA)

The UC Davis One Health Institute, along with Students for One Health, convened the “2017 One Health Symposium: Water is Life.” (November 4, 2017, Davis, CA, USA)


The Lancet Countdown’s 2017 report on health and climate change was launched with events around the world. (October 31, London, UK)

Stony Brook University convened a “Precision Planetary Health Speaker Series.” (October 26, 2017, Stony Brook, NY, USA)

The BRIDGE Collaborative, focusing on health, development, and the environment, was launched in October. (October 25-26, London, UK)

ecoAmerica hosted the 2017 American Climate Leaders Summit. (October 25-26, 2017, Washington, DC, USA)

The University of Sydney’s Tony Capon gives a talk on “Planetary Health: The Idea for the Times” at Edith Cowan University. (October 25, 2017, Joondalup, WA, Australia)

The Executive Director of The Rockefeller Foundation Economic Council on Planetary Health, Doaa Abdel-Motaal, spoke about planetary health at the World Resources Forum annual meeting, WRF 2017. (October 19, 2017, Geneva, Switzerland)

The United Nations University International Institute for Global Health, along with the University of Philippines Cebu, organized a global health seminar entitled “Governance Challenges for Planetary Health and Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia.” (October 11-13, 2017, Cebu City, Cebu, Philippines)

Future Earth’s Josh Tewksbury presented on “Sustainability and Science in the Anthropocene” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. (October 5, Madison, WI, USA)

The GBD 2017 Anniversary Event highlighted planetary health as a key component of planetary health, as presented by The Lancet’s Richard Horton. (September 26, 2017, Seattle, WA, USA)

The University of Illinois Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment organized an annual conference in September on “Building Resilience to Climate Change.” (September 18-20, 2017, Urbana, IL, USA)

The United Nations General Assembly featured a session on “Planetary Health: Moving from Concept to Action—Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” (September 13-26, New York, NY, USA)

RSTMH held a One-Day Annual Meeting on Planetary Health involving LSHTM, the APHRC, BSMS, and others. (September 13, 2017, London, UK)

The University of West Indies hosted a conference discussing zoonoses in the context of planetary health. (September 10, 2017, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago)

The Australian Society for Microbiology highlighted planetary health at their Annual Scientific Meeting. (July 1-4, 2017, Brisbane, QLD, Australia)

The Public Health Association of Australia organized a Planetary Health Forum at the University of Sydney. (June 28, 2017, Camperdown, NSW, Australia)

The Lancet Planetary Health celebrated its launch. (June 20, 2017, London, UK)

ecoAmerica’s Climate for Health program sponsored the “Climate Change, Health, and Nursing” conference. (June 12, 2017, Washington, DC, USA)

Brunel University London hosted the UK’s 1st Symposium on Planetary Health. (June 6, 2017, London, UK)

The inaugural Planetary Health/GeoHealth Annual Meeting was organized by the Planetary Health Alliance, the American Geophysical Union, The Lancet, The Rockefeller Foundation, Ecological Society of America, the Harvard University Center for the Environment, and Wellcome Trust. (April 29-30, Boston, MA, USA)
Thank you for your engagement in the Planetary Health Alliance