
Creating an Interprofessional Consortium on Climate and Health for Higher Education as a Step Toward a Sustainable Future

Karin Gunther Russ, Shiladitya DasSarma*, Robyn Gilden, Marianne Cloeren, William Piermattei, Snehal T. Patel, Timothy Canty, Shailvi Gupta, and Lynn T.M. Michalopoulos

Abstract

Managing the far-reaching consequences of climate change requires professionals that are familiar with the best available science and trained to work with the community and a broad range of stakeholders. The Marine, Estuarine, Environmental Sciences (MEES) graduate program in the University System of Maryland is developing a training program for future scientific leaders to effectively address the significant challenges facing society. Through a partnership between the professional schools of Medicine, Nursing, Law, and Social Work, faculty at the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) and climate scientists in the MEES program have recently formed an interprofessional consortium on climate science, health effects, and policy actions to address the impacts of a changing climate on vulnerable populations. The consortium combines relevant expertise around the university system to provide graduate and professional students with the necessary tools to work effectively in teams across disciplines. This health-legal-scientific partnership represents an innovative strategy for addressing the impacts of the climate crisis in order to allow future sustainable development in the state and region. The initial step in our initiative is the development of an interprofessional course, *Climate Change, Health, and Society*, which will be followed by a plan to expand offerings to

create a graduate specialty certificate program, with the ultimate goal of establishing an Interprofessional Center for Climate Change Education.

Karin Gunther Russ, JD, MS, RN, Assistant Professor, Interim Director of Legal Affairs, University of Maryland School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Shiladitya DasSarma, PhD, Professor and Graduate Faculty, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, University System of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
E-mail: sdassarma@som.umaryland.edu (*Corresponding author)

Robyn Gilden, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, Family Community Health and Director, Environmental Health Certificate, University of Maryland School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Marianne Cloeren, MD, MPH, FACOEM, FACP, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

William Piermattei, JD, Managing Director, Environmental Law Program, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Snehal T. Patel, MD, MHS, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Timothy Canty, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, University of Maryland, College Park, MEES Program Director, College Park, Maryland, USA

Shailvi Gupta, MD, MPH, FACS, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Surgery, Shock Trauma Center Program in Trauma, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Lynn T.M. Michalopoulos, PhD, MA, Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

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