



# National Academy of Medicine: Climate and Health Day of the US Climate Action Summit

Thursday, April 25, 12:30-5:30pm ET  
National Academy of Medicine Keck Center



**CLIMATE AND HEALTH DAY OF THE US CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

**Keck Center of the National Academies**

*500 Fifth Street NW, Washington DC 20001*

This panel will delve into the multifaceted impacts of climate change on health while also exploring equitable solutions to address these challenges. Panelists will discuss not only the various health risks posed by climate change but also the disproportionate burden borne by marginalized and underserved communities. Panelists will be asked to highlight initiatives and interventions aimed at promoting health equity, such as equitable access to healthcare services, community-d

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# NAM Climate and Health Day

Speakers



## NAM Climate and Health Day of the US Climate Action Summit | SPEAKERS

**SUSAN ANENBERG**, *Professor and Chair, Environmental and Occupational Health Department, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, Director, George Washington Climate and Health Institute*

Susan Anenberg is a Professor and Chair of the Environmental and Occupational Health Department at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. She is also the Director of the GW Climate and Health Institute. Dr. Anenberg's research focuses on the health implications of air pollution and climate change, from local to global scales. She currently serves on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science

Advisory Board, the World Health Organization's Global Air Pollution and Health Technical Advisory Group, and the National Academy of Science's Committee to Advise the U.S. Global Change Research Program. She also serves as President of the GeoHealth section of the American Geophysical Union. Previously, Dr. Anenberg was a Co-Founder and Partner at Environmental Health Analytics, LLC, the Deputy Managing Director for Recommendations at the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, an environmental scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a senior advisor for clean cookstove initiatives at the U.S. State Department.

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# NAM Climate and Health Day

*Speakers*



**LAURA KATE BENDER**

## NAM Climate and Health Day

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**PAM CHENG**, Executive Vice President, Global Operations, IT & Chief Sustainability Officer, AstraZeneca

Pam was appointed Executive Vice-President, Operations & Information Technology in June 2015 and assumed additional responsibility for the

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**OLUFUNMILAYO CHINEKEZI**, *Program Officer, Climate Communities Network, National Academy of Medicine*

Olufunmilayo 'Funmi' Chinekezi is a dynamic public health professional and Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) with 10 years of experience in program management, community engagement, qualitative research, and more. Most of the work Funmi has done in recent years has centered around capacity building to advance health equity and social justice. Her notable strengths include technical writing, program evaluation, and team building. She also cares deeply about and possesses expertise on topics related to racial/ethnic minority health, particularly the built environment.



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During Dzau's tenure, the NAM has launched important initiatives including the Global Health Risk Framework, the Human Genome Editing Initiative, the Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience, and the Healthy Longevity Grand Challenge. In 2020, the NAM launched the Grand Challenge on Climate Change, Human Health, and Equity, a multi-year global initiative to improve and protect human health, well-being, and equity by working to transform systems that both contribute to and are impacted by climate change. In 2021, Dzau inaugurated the NAM Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the Health Sector, bringing together leaders to develop a B.1 (H&E) (2020) (14) (a) (i) (4) (s) (6) (m) (4) (3) (0) (1) (r) (4) (c) (3) (6) (9) (N H&E)

## NAM Climate and Health Day

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climate resilience, promote learning about the health impacts of climate change, and address environmental justice issues. Jess's work has focused on community-based participatory research in public health and environmental health. Before coming to NACHC, Jess held various positions with AMOS Health and Hope in Managua, Nicaragua focused on community based primary health care. She also served as the Health Equity Evaluator at the New Mexico Department of Health in response to COVID-19. In addition to her role at NACHC, Jess leads a course on Monitoring and Evaluation for non-profits and civil society organizations at the United Nations University for Peace, in San Jose, Costa Rica. Jess received her

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## **NAM Climate and Health Day**

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**RENEE SALAS**, *NAM Interest Group-19 Chair (ex-officio), Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital*

Dr. Renee N. Salas is the Founding Director of The Cooperative. She is a guest editor for The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) Group's "Fossil-fuel Pollution and Climate Change" series and serves as the Co-Director of NEJM Group's Climate Crisis and Clinical Practice Initiative. Dr. Salas is also a member of the global Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, serving as the lead author of the U.S. Brief between 2018 to 2021 – moving to senior author in 2022 –

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Smith's accomplishments include numerous awards and distinctions, including being named an inaugural recipient of Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders: Racial Equality award, and being named co-chair of the Drawdown Georgia Leadership Council, which addresses climate change in Georgia through the intersection of climate and equity.

### **NEIL VORA**, *Policy Fellow, Conservation International*

Neil Vora, MD, is a policy fellow at Conservation International where he leads its efforts on pandemic prevention. He served for nearly a decade with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and a Commander in the US Public Health Service. Neil deployed for CDC to Liberia in 2014 and to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019 to assist in the responses to the two largest Ebola outbreaks ever. He also led the investigation of a newly discovered smallpox-like virus in the country of Georgia in 2013. From 2020-2021, Neil developed and led New York City's COVID-19 contact tracing program, overseeing a team of over 3,000 people. He has published more than 80 articles in leading outlets such as the New York Times, Nature, New England Journal of Medicine, and JAMA. He is an Associate Editor at CDC's Emerging Infectious Diseases journal, an Adjunct Professor of Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Columbia University, and a Presidential Leadership Scholar. He is currently co-chairing a Commission for The Lancet on prevention of viral spillovers. He still sees patients in a public tuberculosis clinic in New York City.

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healthier, more equitable communities reflects her unwavering dedication to creating a healthier future for all.

### **JOSHUA B. WEIL**, *Emergency Physician, Kaiser Permanente*

Dr. Weil is an Emergency Physician at Kaiser Hospital in Santa Rosa since 1998. He grew up in Northern California and completed his B.A. degree at the University of California, San Diego, his medical degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and then his residency training at UC Davis Medical Center. He has served numerous senior leadership roles locally and regionally with Kaiser Permanente, Northern California. In 2017 he was on duty in the Emergency Department when the Tubbs Fire swept through Santa Rosa, CA, destroying over 5000 buildings and causing widespread destruction. He was the Incident Commander responsible for evacuating Kaiser Hospital. A strong interest in volunteerism and disaster medicine has taken him to Sri Lanka following the tsunami, Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, Haiti to respond to the earthquake, and the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan. Locally he has served on the Board of Directors for the American



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**ALI ZAIDI**, *Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor, White House Climate Policy Office*

Ali Zaidi serves as Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor. In this role, he leads the White House Climate Policy Office, which coordinates policy development and President Biden's all-of-government approach to tackle the climate crisis, create good-paying, union jobs, and advance environmental justice. Zaidi is a longtime advisor to President Biden, having provided counsel and leadership on climate policy development, legislation, and executive action from day one of the Administration and on the Biden presidential transition and campaign. Before his current role, he served as Deputy National Climate Advisor. During his time in the Biden-Harris Administration, Zaidi has led on

Nowhere are the effects of climate change manifesting more clearly than in human health. While many consider climate change to be a looming environmental threat—one that stands to impact future generations more so than today—millions of people die globally every year because of health issues linked to climate change. Further, these health threats and impacts are not evenly distributed or experienced across geographies or populations, but rather, are disproportionately burdening historically and currently marginalized populations, due to systemic inequities. The climate crisis is a public health and equity crisis that will continue to pose significant threats in the absence of concerted action.

Recognizing that climate change is among the most important and urgent global health threats and opportunities of the 21st Century, the U.S. National Academy of Medicine (NAM) launched a Grand Challenge on Climate Change, Human Health, and Equity in 2020. The Climate Grand Challenge is a multi-year global initiative to improve and protect human health, well-being, and equity by working to transform systems that both contribute to and are impacted by climate change. The initiative will highlight the most robust actions to address climate change that could yield a healthier, more equitable, and more resilient society. To this end, the Climate Grand Challenge has the following strategic objectives:

- Ø *Communicate the climate crisis as a public health and equity crisis.* Across the Climate Grand Challenge workstreams, the NAM will communicate and elevate the impacts of climate change on health and equity, as well as evidence-informed opportunities for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Public awareness of

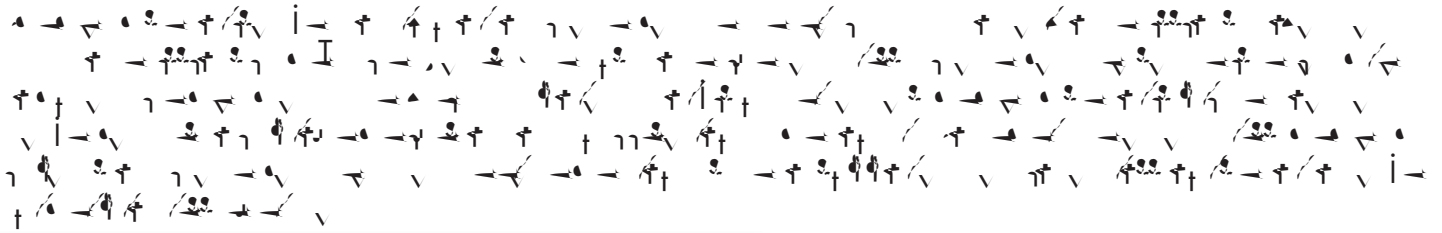
Ø *Reduce the carbon footprint of the U.S. health sector.* While transformation is necessary across all major systems, there is an immediate, actionable opportunity for the NAM to catalyze transformation within the U.S. health sector, which is responsible for 8.5% of U.S. carbon emissions and 25% of health sector carbon emissions worldwide. As such, NAM launched an [Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector](#) (Climate Collaborative) in 2021. The Climate Collaborative is a public-private partnership, mobilizing over 60 leaders from across the federal government, biomedical and pharmaceutical industries, hospital systems, private payers, health professions, and more, to co-develop and implement a shared action agenda to reduce the carbon footprint of the health sector and strengthen its resilience. The Climate Collaborative is focused on four priority areas, including: health care supply chain and infrastructure; health care delivery; health professional education and communication; and policy, financing, and metrics. The Collaborative will operate on 2-year renewable cycles. The first cycle began in September 2021 and will run through December 2023, and the second cycle will launch in January 2024. It is anticipated that it will take a minimum of 2-3 cycles to achieve the Collaborative's goals.

Ø *Accelerate research and innovation at the nexus of climate change, human health, and equity.*



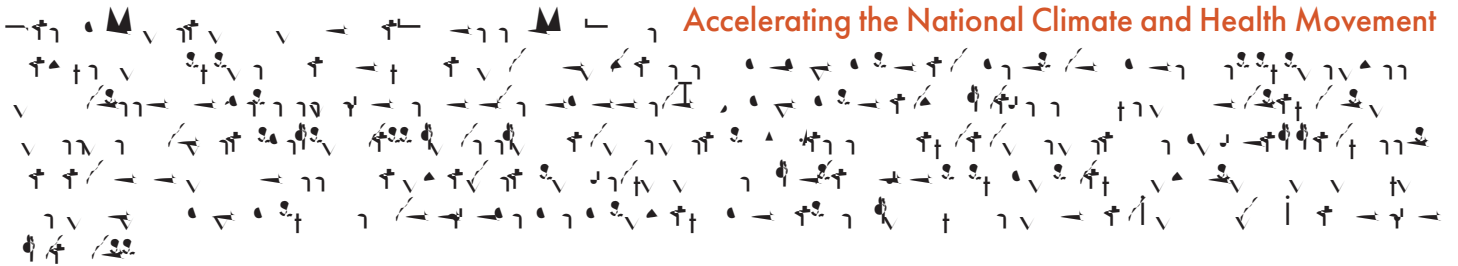
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# Accelerating the National Climate and Health Movement



Your role in the Climate and Health Movement

## Accelerating the National Climate and Health Movement



Accelerating the National Climate and Health Movement

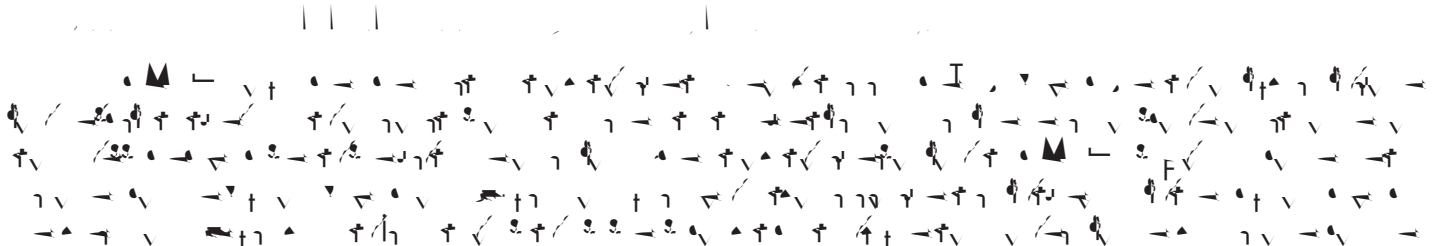
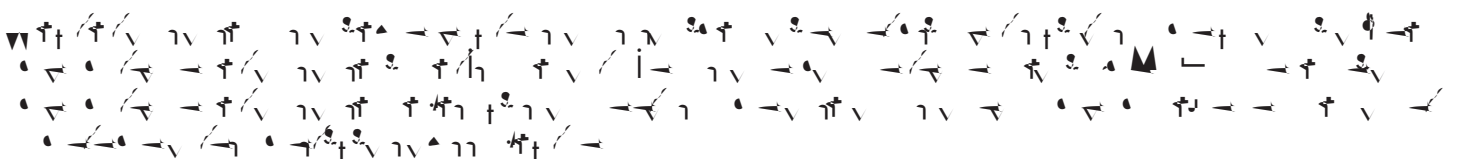
Accelerating the National Climate and Health Movement

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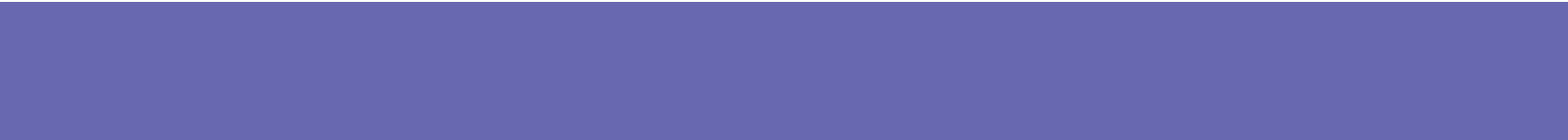


Learn more & accelerate the movement:  
[nam.edu/ClimateMovement](http://nam.edu/ClimateMovement)



The National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative) is a public-private partnership of leaders from across the health system committed to addressing the sector's environmental impact while strengthening its sustainability and resilience. Members of the Climate Collaborative represent health and hospital

Historically and currently marginalized communities are rarely engaged in an equitable way when it comes to decisions which impact their health. This is especially true in the context of climate change. The drivers and impacts of climate change have serious health and equity implications that affect community well-being. The impacts of climate change (e.g., extreme temperatures, more damaging storms, rising sea levels), coupled with unfair social and economic factors, such as racism and poverty, compound health inequities in this country. By advancing climate and health solutions that are fair, equitable, and designed to advantage people who have been historically and are currently marginalizo (gned t)16 (o ad)8 (v)9 (ant)-3.9 (a)10 (4i ha), wgin (r)1o3(gned t)16





## Research and Innovation Program

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The Research and Innovation (R&I) program seeks to catalyze research to advance the understanding of

orientated research and transformative innovation and to reduce the risks from climate change, particularly for countries and communities that are most vulnerable – at the scale and urgency required.

Historically, research and evidence has remained siloed and fragmented which limits the global understanding of the impacts of climate change. The first initiative within the R&I program includes catalyzing regional hubs that will elevate, and support research and innovation led by local and global partners and facilitate uptake and translation to policy. The research hubs will also provide a foundation for capacity building and bidirectional knowledge exchange.

There is a need to correct the historic global imbalance in climate and health research and strengthen research capacity in low- and middle-income countries. The regional hubs would leverage a partnership approach that centers researchers and innovators in low-income countries and bring together diverse stakeholders across regions to share learnings, best practices, solutions, tools, and resources to address climate change impacts on health.

The hubs would serve as a strategic platform for collaborative action to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Strengthen regional scientific capacity workforce and training; surveillance and monitoring; community engagement; facilitate uptake to policy
2. Leverage regional leadership creating a shared regional research and innovation agenda that spans borders, disciplines, and sectors
3. Accelerate innovation identify promising innovations from local communities to maximize their impact across a region; network of researchers and innovators to facilitate collaboration and share lessons learned
4. Scale solutions share lessons and solutions across countries within a region and across regional hubs

The second initiative within the R&I program includes partnering with Kaiser Permanente to implement a two-phase approach to build a climate and health research agenda and supporting web portal that will be accessible to a wide range of audiences. The research agenda will identify and fill critical evidence gaps in climate and health research by mapping existing research efforts, identifying opportunities and evidence gaps in climate change and health research, facilitating dialogue among experts from a range of disciplines including community representatives, researchers, and policy makers, and catalyzing additional research funding.

The aggregated information from this initiative will serve as a foundation for stronger climate and health communications and informed decision-making.

## About the Grand Challenge on Climate Change and Human Health

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The R&I program is one pillar of the NAM's Grand Challenge on Human Health and Climate Change - a multi-year global initiative to improve and protect human health, well-being, and equity by working to transform systems that both contribute to and are impacted by climate change. Learn more at [nam.edu/ClimateChange](http://nam.edu/ClimateChange).