



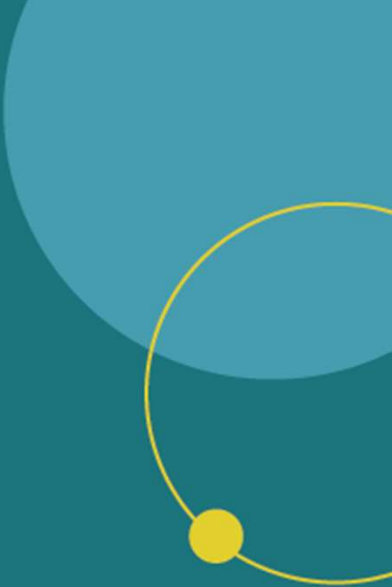
Rising to the Challenge: A Primer on Planetary Health Curricular Design

Stefan Wheat

Acting Instructor of Emergency Medicine

University of Washington

Objectives

- Tell our story
 - Provide insight into our process
 - Offer lessons learned
- 

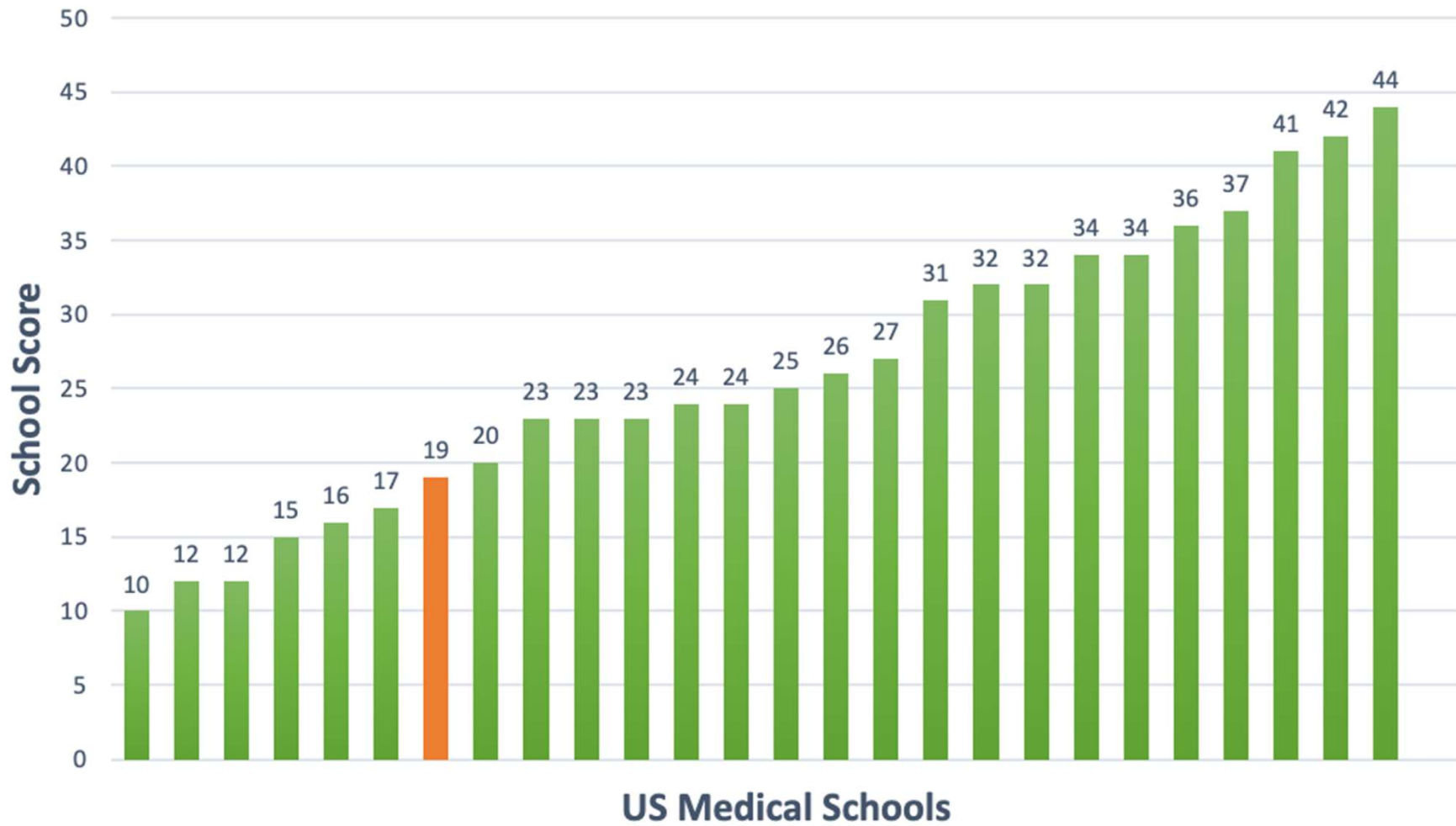
Planetary Health at UWSOM: Student Perspective

- ⑩ UWSOM joined PHRC in 2021 through medical student interest in Montana
- ⑩ Students from across WWAMI have contributed researching metrics across curriculum, interdisciplinary research, community outreach/advocacy, support for student-led initiatives, and campus sustainability
- ⑩ Curriculum consistently lowest scoring



**PLANETARY HEALTH
REPORT CARD**

PHRC Curriculum Scores: US Medical Schools



2021

Curriculum	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Planetary health content in the School of Medicine curriculum is severely lacking. Much of the content is offered only in electives and not as part of the core curriculum. Many important topics are completely overlooked, such as disproportionate health impacts of climate change on marginalized populations and the environmental impact of the health care system.	

2022

<u>Curriculum</u>	D
<p>The University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) offers medical students an introduction to planetary health through elective coursework and interest groups, but lacks substantial, longitudinal incorporation of planetary health concepts within its core curriculum.</p> <p>Recommendations: Student engagement with planetary health content should be a requirement, rather than a self-driven process. We recommend incorporating planetary health concepts into small group case-based exercises in both the foundational science curriculum and the required Themes in Medicine course.</p>	

2023

<u>Curriculum</u>	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The planetary health preclinical curriculum has made some improvements over the past year, but there is still more work that needs to be done. A major milestone this past year was forming the Planetary Health Workgroup, which is actively revising the curriculum.● Recommendations: Moving forward, the curriculum should focus on emphasizing the respiratory, cardiovascular, and reproductive effects of climate change, including pollution, extreme heat, and industry-related toxins.	

What currently exists

- ⑩ “Justice, Climate Change, and Infectious Disease”
 - ⑩ Themes in Medicine/Infectious Disease lecture
- ⑩ “Climate Change and Lung Health” & “Climate Change & Kidney Health” currently in development for new curriculum
- ⑩ UW formally joined the GCCHE




Justice, Climate Change and Infectious Disease - Intro
E22 Themes in Medicine, I&I

Sarah Murphy, MD, FAAFP
smurphy1@uw.edu

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



Looking ahead

- ⑩ More longitudinal integration through Themes in Medicine
 - ⑩ Planetary health session in orientation weeks prior to first year
 - ⑩ Addition of content into pre-existing lectures (cardiovascular, reproductive blocks)
 - ⑩ Interest in adding to clinical curriculum
 - ⑩ Planetary health pathway
- 



**Start with
students**



The Unique Role of Medical Students in Catalyzing Climate Change Education

[Benjamin M Rabin](#),^{1,*} [Emaline B Laney](#),^{1,*} and [Rebecca P Philipsborn](#)²

[Lancet Planet Health](#). 2022 Mar; 6(3): e186–e187.

PMCID: P

Published online 2022 Mar 9. doi: [10.1016/S2542-5196\(22\)00011-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00011-0)

PMII

Canadian medical student climate advocacy during the COVID-19 pandemic

[Alanna Jane](#),^a [Gillian Forster](#),^a and [Colin Faulkner](#)^a

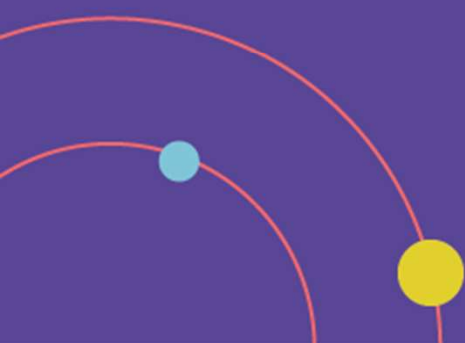
TRAINEE-AUTHORED LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medical Students as Agents of Change in the Climate Crisis

Fadadu, Raj P. MS¹;  Hampshire, Karly N.²; Ndovu, Allan M.³



PLANETARY HEALTH REPORT CARD



Interdisciplinary Research	A-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary research is UWSOM's strongest area in promoting planetary health. Research groups of note are the Center for Health and the Global Environment and the Climate Impacts Group. It would be helpful for the medical school to have a web page dedicated to research efforts so that students can learn and potentially become involved. UW as a whole has a robust sustainability website, and the School of Medicine could benefit from a similar project. • There should also be a more formal system for giving members of communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change, such as Native people, a voice in the direction and execution of climate health research efforts. 	
Community Outreach and Advocacy	B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One way that UW has made progress in community outreach is through their partnerships with Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Washington Health Care Climate Alliance. UW Medicine is doing well in providing educational materials for patients about environmental risk factors and the health effects of climate change. • UW could increase the efficacy and impact of this work by better communicating these projects and other planetary health information with students. • They should also offer a CME course on planetary health, as current physicians need training on how to address the effects of climate change on their patient's health. 	
Support for Student-Led Initiatives	B-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the available support for medical students interested in pursuing planetary health research, engaging in advocacy and activities related to climate change, and developing related projects comes from the institution and not the School of Medicine. Since UW is a large and well-resourced institution, there are opportunities available to medical students in these areas, but medical students need to find them on their own. • UWSOM should provide more internal planetary health-related opportunities for students. They should also promote institution-wide programs and have a central site where students can access information about relevant research and extracurriculars. 	
Sustainability	B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UW is taking appropriate steps to increase campus sustainability. There is a realistic plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. • Campus facilities are constructed sustainably, but the school could improve their use of renewable energy in their power sourcing. They should also commit to divesting from fossil fuels, as divestment has a significant effect on global carbon emissions. 	

Summary of Findings

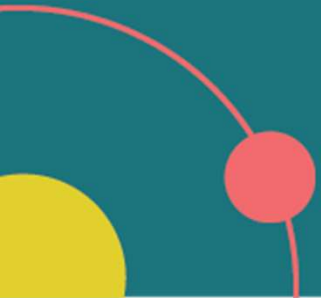
Curriculum	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planetary health content in the School of Medicine curriculum is severely lacking. Much of the content is offered only in electives and not as part of the core curriculum. Many important topics are completely overlooked, such as disproportionate health impacts of climate change on marginalized populations and the environmental impact of the health care system.	



**Assemble your
team**



Establish your goals



**PLANETARY
HEALTH**

**ONE
HEALTH**

**ECO-
HEALTH**



Ask for help

#

This is the very beginning of the # implementation channel

@CRHE created this channel on January 23rd.

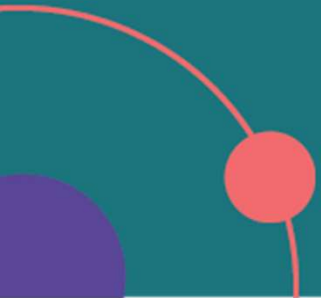
Questions about how to integrate CRHE resources into your curriculum? Ask our team members and community here! [Edit description](#)

 [Add people](#)

A collection of colorful, 3D-printed mathematical symbols including numbers, a plus sign, a minus sign, and a multiplication sign, scattered on a blue surface. The symbols are in various colors like yellow, red, blue, and green. The text "Divide and conquer" is overlaid in white on the symbols.

Divide and conquer

Build on what's already there





Questions?