



National Rural Health Association

Rural Medical Education Conference

May 16, 2023 - San Diego, CA

“Changing Climate: Thriving in Challenging Times”

8-8:15 a.m.

Introductions/Session Objectives

Kamille Sherman, MD, NRHA Rural Medical Education Committee, Senior Co-Chair

8:15-9:30 a.m.

Keynote Presentation - How to Teach Climate Medicine

Bhargavi Chekuri, MD, University of Colorado Anschutz, Family Medicine, Assistant Professor

Climate change is a public health emergency which demands increased engagement and preparation from clinicians already on the front lines of dealing with its inequitable consequences. As trusted messengers of science, clinicians have the unique ability to implement evidence-based community and public health practices while leading and defining equitable climate health policy. We present the University of Colorado Climate and Health Program’s approach to, and experience with climate change and health education in undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education settings. Examples of how academic innovation in this space can help address health inequity will be reviewed. Lastly, opportunities for further growth and leadership in the rapidly developing fields of ‘climate medicine’ and ‘planetary health’ will be reviewed.

Bhargavi Chekuri (She/Her) is an assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Colorado, and also faculty at the CU Climate and Health Program where her focus is graduate and continuing medical education. To that end - she co-directs a residency elective, as well as the Diploma in Climate Medicine at the University of Colorado. Her current areas of interest include the intersection of primary care, community medicine and climate change with a focus on systems medicine and health and gender equity. She is a technical contributor to the 5th National Climate Assessment, attended and presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). She is also co-chair of the Planetary Health Collaborative at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Prior to her climate medicine work, she completed her residency training at New Hampshire Dartmouth and attended medical school in Australia.

9:30-10:15 a.m.

Guided Discussion

10:15-10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 -11:45 p.m.

Changing Climate in Healthcare

Brenna Doheny, PhD, MPH, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus, Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health

The growing awareness of the outsized role of social and environmental factors in determining health status and quality of life is shifting perspectives on the role of healthcare providers and health systems. The societal reckoning with systemic racism over the past few years and the worsening climate crisis underscore the profound influence of interconnected social and environmental factors on health, as communities that have been historically oppressed are disproportionately burdened by the negative health impacts of climate change. In this session, we'll discuss how to incorporate climate justice into medical education, using examples from curricular materials developed for undergraduate medical students.

Dr. Doheny is an advocate for climate health and its impact on human health, with special emphasis on rural, Native, and other marginalized communities. She serves as the Executive Director of Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate, an organization that inspires and activates health professionals across Minnesota to address climate change through interprofessional education, clinical practice, and public advocacy.

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
Networking Lunch

1-2:45 p.m.
Showcase of Best-practices or program highlights

2:45-3:10 p.m.
Break

3:10-4:10 p.m.
Student Presentation - Changing Climate of the Application Process

4:10-4:30 p.m.
Closing Remarks

4:30-5 p.m.
RME Business Meeting

**Thank you for your attendance and your continued support of NRHA and the RME Conference!
Join us next year in New Orleans on May 6, 2024!**