



National Rural Health Association

Rural Medical Education Conference

May 16, 2023 – San Diego, CA

Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina – Driftwood Room

“Changing Climate: Thriving in Challenging Times”

All sessions will be available on demand on May 17, 2023.

Sessions will not be livestreamed, only recorded.

8-8:15 a.m.

Introductions/Session Objectives

Roberto Silva, MD, NRHA Rural Medical Education Committee, Junior 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 outsize 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

Tackling Rural Workforce Shortages: An interprofessional place-based approach

In 2015, Oregon Health & Science University began establishing three Campus for Rural Health locations: CRH-Klamath Falls, CRH-South Coast, and CRH-NE Oregon. This approach involves a regional staffing model to support clinical placements, housing and community inclusion for multidisciplinary health professions students, and the concurrent delivery of a rural community project IPE course.

Linda Martin-Stanger, M.Ed., OHSU Campus for Rural Health, Manager of Operations & Education

Supporting Medical Students of Color on Rural Clinical Rotations

The UW School of Medicine, Office of Rural Programs recently conducted two qualitative studies. The first study gathered MSoc's perspectives on the clinical learning environment in rural/underserved rotations. A follow-up study then explored clinical preceptors' perspectives supporting MSoc. This included understanding their challenges, best practices, and how medical schools can support their efforts. UW School of Medicine is currently working to adopt the recommendations from both students and preceptors in these studies to create a safer and more equitable learning environment.

Toby Keys, MA, MPH, University of Washington School of Medicine, Office of Rural Programs, Assistant Teaching Professor

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!**