

Upcoming Events

- March 31, 2020 | OCCA Advocacy Day at the Statehouse
Join your fellow clinicians in Columbus for a day devoted to education and advocacy. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information and to register to attend please [click here](#).
- May 2, 2020 | Climate & Health: Activate, Educate, Implement
Ohio's first climate and health-centered symposium will be held at the Cleveland Clinic's Lyndhurst campus auditorium. Topics cover a gambit of specialties and topics relating to the health impacts climate change has on our patients. Registration opens February 24, 2020, please check <http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/live/> on or after this date to reserve your spot.
- May 11-12, 2020 | ANHE Nursing Summit on Environmental Health
Join the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and nurses from around the country at the 2020 Nursing Summit on Environmental Health in Orlando, Florida. More information: <https://envirn.org/calendar/anhe-nursing-summit-on-environmental-health-2/>
- May 12-14, 2020 | CleanMed Orlando
CleanMed is the premier national conference for leaders in health care sustainability. It is the platform for health care leaders to convene, collaborate, and conduct societal transformation for individual, community, and planetary health. More information: <https://cleanmed.org/>
- May 17-19, 2020 | 2020 Annual Meeting- The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health
The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health will hold its third Annual Meeting, Climate Solutions are Health Solutions: The Climate and Health Roadmap, at George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia. More information: <https://medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org/annual-meeting/annual-meeting-2020/>

As more events are scheduled for this spring and summer, I will send out email notifications so you do not miss an opportunity to attend one of our OCCA events!

Networking- Coming to a City Near You!

You asked for it and we want to make it happen. In the needs assessment survey sent out in June of 2019 one of the key things you as members requested was to get to know others who shared your passion for health and environmentalism. Building networks of like-minded people in communities who can share knowledge and educate patients, colleagues, and friends is an important part of climate and health activism, and we want to be a part of it.

In November 2019, we partnered with Green Drinks Columbus to host our first OCCA networking event. With the help of Green Drinks Columbus' members and social media reach as well as our own OCCA members we had over 80 people show up to Columbus' Arena District at

Barley's Brew House to listen to the speakers and meet one another. We even had a Representative Kent Smith from the Ohio House come to meet people and listen to their concerns regarding climate and health issues.

The Cleveland networking event took place in mid-December in Cleveland Heights at a local venue called CLE Urban Winery. It was the second snow of the year and the roads were not great, yet 30 people braved the cold to listen to our clinicians speak about the effects climate change has on health.

Plans are in the works to hold at least two more networking events by the end of June. Our goal is to hold an event in both the Toledo and Cincinnati area, to do this we need your help. I am looking for two to three people who would like to be featured speakers at the networking events in those areas. What do people talk about you ask? Speak on what makes you passionate about climate and health, that is what makes the most impact. At our other two networking events topics ranged from climate resiliency to incorporating climate and sustainability in the med-school curriculum. If you are interested in being a speaker at the Toledo or Cincinnati networking event please contact Anna Cifranic at OCCA@theoec.org title the subject line "Networking Event Speaker".

Finally, OCCA would like to again thank it's members and members of the community who presented at our first two networking events. Without you, these events would not have been a success.

Join OCCA Leadership

This year a main goal for OCCA is to grow membership involvement. To do so, members of the OCCA Advisory Board are forming subcommittees in three focus areas: education, advocacy, and outreach. Each of these subcommittees, in tandem with the OCCA program manager, will focus on expanding the breadth and depth of OCCA programming for the next grant period (June 2020-June 2021).

These groups are in the beginning stages of formation. The first meetings of the subcommittees will take place in May. The majority of the subcommittee meetings will take place via phone and will happen at least once a month. If you would like to become actively involved in OCCA and have a zeal for growing grassroots organizations we need you. Please contact Anna Cifranic at OCCA@theoec.org to join a subcommittee or for more information.

Share Your Knowledge- Grand Round Exchange Program

Do you love to teach? Do you get excited at the prospect of sharing your knowledge and informing others about how climate change adversely impacts our patients? Great! OCCA is introducing a Grand Rounds Exchange program aiming to pair medical or community organizations seeking education with clinical professionals who can speak expertly on the topic of environmental impacts on health.

If you would like to sign up to be a Grand Rounds Presenter, please fill out the information form by [clicking here](#). Grand Rounds presenters will be reimbursed for their time and travel at a predetermined flat fee through June 2020 or until the budgeted funds for the Grand Rounds exchange program are exhausted.

Do you want to learn more about climate change and health? Do you think hosting a Grand Rounds at your organization would be beneficial to you and your colleagues? If you would like to request a Grand Rounds Exchange presentation to take place at your facility, please contact Anna Cifranic at OCCA@theoec.org. We will set up a phone call to discuss the particular needs of your organization and hopefully match you with an appropriate presenter.

To learn more about the Grand Rounds Exchange Program, please view the info sheet found by [clicking here](#).

Clinician Kudo's Corner

This quarter we would like to recognize Dr. Aprana Bole for her astounding advocacy work surrounding the impacts of climate change on children's health. Dr. Bole is the Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health, Medical Director of Community Integration at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, and Associate Professor of the Department of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, as well as a strong local and national voice for climate change solutions and social justice.

Dr. Bole has used her expertise and candor to educate not only the public with her guest spot on the RadioMD Podcast speaking on "How to Talk to Your Kids About Climate Change", but she also delivered testimony to the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in Washington, DC. Passing on knowledge and getting others involved in climate work is the cornerstone of Dr. Bole's passionate work. Thank you for your advocacy, Dr. Bole.

Check out how Dr. Bole makes a difference:

[RadioMD Podcast "How to Talk to Your Kids About Climate Change"](#)

[Testimony to the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis](#)

[University Hospitals Grand Rounds "What's good for the planet is food for our patients"](#)

Policy Updates

- Lake Erie TMDL Announced
 - The Ohio EPA released the [draft 2020 water quality report](#) that outlines the general condition of Ohio's waters and includes a list that identifies impaired waters that are not meeting their federal or state water quality goals, as well as waters that have improved to meet their goals. As part of this report, the

Governor announced that they will work to develop a [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) for Lake Erie's Western Basin over the next two to three years.

- Ohio Legislation
 - HB 360 (Rep. Erica Crawley) - would require the Facilities Construction Commission when building new schools to include water dispensing stations for water bottles, which reduces plastic waste and encourages more water consumption. We're supportive of this, and the Representative talks about the health benefits of water consumption in her testimony.
 - HB 7 (Ghanbari) - this would be long term funding for H2Ohio to reduce toxic algae
 - HB 427 (Wiggam) - the bill would alter requirements-secondary contaminants-safe drinking water, which basically means it would prevent the Ohio EPA director from asking water treatment facilities to be proactive in starting to regulate and treat for chemicals. We're opposed to the bill.
- National Legislation
 - The U.S. House passed 535, which would regulate forever chemicals in drinking water. All of Ohio's Democrats voted in favor - Beatty, Fudge, Kaptur and Ryan. Two Republicans voted in favor as well - Stivers and Turner.
 - House Republicans are starting to introduce their plan to tackle climate change. The plan will consist of three key solutions: carbon capture, clean energy, and conservation. Four carbon capture bills were introduced this week, with Ohio Congressman Brad Wenstrup (OH-2) sponsoring a bill to permanently extend the Section 45Q tax credit for carbon use and sequestration. This marks the first time that Congressional Republicans have introduced climate legislation.

Power a Clean Future Ohio Campaign:

A coalition of environmental organizations, grassroots activists, business associations and others have joined together to launch the Power a Clean Future Ohio campaign.

Our climate is changing. In Ohio, heavy spring rains followed by heat waves have impacted agriculture and driven up the price of food. A warming world and a shallow Lake Erie have exacerbated toxic algal blooms, impacted tourism and endangered drinking water. Almost 10% of Ohioans suffer from asthma and air quality projected to worsen over time could possibly exacerbate infant mortality rates, especially in urban communities.

Ohio can face these threats head on and prosper in the common-sense solutions that will bring new clean businesses to our state, and keep Ohioans working in these industries. The mission of the Power a Clean Future Ohio campaign to build momentum now for a clean, prosperous future by equipping local leaders for community-driven carbon reductions. The campaign will work with local leaders, businesses, and partner organizations to create a plan for Ohio cities to act together to reduce carbon and attract clean energy businesses to the Buckeye State through smart policies in renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation and land usage.

The campaign will be hosting the Ohio Clean Energy Summit: Local Communities Lead in Cincinnati on April 30, 2020, where we'll highlight what cities are already doing, and have cities pledge to do more on carbon reduction.

Follow the campaign here:

www.poweracleanfuture.org.

<https://www.facebook.com/Poweracleanfuture/>

<https://twitter.com/PoweraCleanOH>

The campaign is already making great strides with cities. Columbus Mayor Andy Ginther [announced exciting environmental initiatives](#) at his State of the City address, including that the city intends to go 100% renewable by 2022 through a ballot initiative where Columbus residents can vote to combine their energy purchasing power, and that the city operations will go carbon neutral by 2050.