Climate Action in Medical Education
Prepared by the next generation of physicians

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Why should students and young physicians care?
Doctors as the natural change agents for the poor

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Pathologies of Power: Rethinking Health and Human Rights

Paul Farmer, MD, PhD

Medicine and the allied health sciences have long been peripherally involved in work on human rights. Fifteen years ago, the door to greater involvement was opened by Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which underscored social and economic rights. "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control." But the intervening decades have seen little progress in the push for social and economic rights, and as a result, public health and medicine, whose central contribution to human progress in human rights will be linked to the equitable distribution of the fruits of scientific achievement. Such an approach is in keeping with the Universal Declaration but may counter to several of the reigning ideologies of public health, including those of scarcity, efficiency, and equity. (Am J Public Health. 1999;89:1486-1496)

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This article was accepted July 19, 1999.
A complex issue:

“The world’s people face daunting challenges in the twenty-first century. While apologists herald the globalization of capitalism, many people on our planet experience recurring economic exploitation, immiseration, and environmental crises linked to capitalism’s spread. Across the globe social movements continue to raise the issues of social justice and democracy.”

Joe R. Feagin
University of Florida
Why do I care?

A personal anecdote...
Chaguite
Global Economy
Trees can kill people?
So, now what?
April 18, 2017

Medical Community Gathers Steam to Tackle Climate's Health Effects

M.J. Friedrich

Article Information

Some Ideas

- Collaborative research programs
- Integration into pre-clerkship curriculum
- Volunteering in local communities
- Medical school exchange programs
- Higher standards within our own hospitals
Thank you!