



National Academy of Medicine
Climate Week NYC 2025
Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Catalyzing Climate and Health Research Impact and Application

Overview: The National Academy of Medicine (NAM), along with Kaiser Permanente, will host an afternoon convening at the New York Academy of Medicine on Wednesday, September 24. This convening will bring together leaders across the climate and health space to discuss the challenges, available tools, and enticing opportunities of our sector's ongoing research efforts and early stages of artificial intelligence. Each of these topic areas will have major impacts on the near and distant application of our work, both on the delivery of health care as well as our ability to combat climate change. Participants attending this event will gain insights from leading experts who will underscore protecting and improving the health of patient communities as we explore new strategies to tackle the climate crisis with innovative tools, practical implementation of research, and solutions to better health outcomes for all.

Location: New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 5th Ave, New York, NY 10029

In-person access: 200 attendees. Open to all CWNYC attendees. Registration required.

Virtual Access: <https://nasem.zoom.us/j/91074586045>

EVENT AGENDA

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| 1:00 – 1:10pm | Welcome Remarks |
| 1:10 – 1:35pm | Opening Fireside Chat with Ali Zaidi |
| 1:35 – 2:45pm | Panel #1: Strengthening Climate and Health Research Through Shared Priorities and Available Resources |
| 2:45 – 3:05pm | BREAK |
| 3:05 – 4:25pm | Panel #2: The Promise and Peril of AI: Balancing Innovation, Health Equity, and Climate Responsibility |
| 4:25 – 4:50pm | Climate and Health AI Hackathon Awards Ceremony |
| 4:50 – 4:55pm | Closing Remarks with the NAM President |
| 4:55 – 6:00pm | Reception |

1:00 – 1:10pm | Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ann Kurth, PhD, CNM, MPH, President, New York Academy of Medicine

Chris Hanley, MBA, Director, Grand Challenge on Climate Change and Human Health, National Academy of Medicine

1:10 – 1:35pm | Opening Fireside Chat with Ali Zaidi

Description: Join us for an engaging fireside chat with one of the world’s prominent voice as we explore how the field continues to evolve to meet the mounting challenges of the past year. From navigating shifting policy landscapes to advancing innovative, health equity-centered solutions, this conversation will reflect on key lessons, share insights into where the field is headed next, and underscore why the path forward must be rooted in collaboration across sectors, disciplines, and communities to drive meaningful progress. This conversation will offer a rare opportunity to gain perspective on both the progress and possibilities shaping the future of climate and health—and how we can get there together.

Moderator/speakers:

- Moderator: **Shyla Raghav, MEM**, Chief Climate Officer, TIME, Co-Founder, TIME CO2
- Speaker: **Ali Zaidi, JD**, Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania and Former White House National Climate Advisor

1:35 – 2:45pm | Panel 1: Strengthening Climate and Health Research Through Shared Priorities and Available Resources

Description: Resources for climate and health research have historically been limited and today—like many other scientific fields—it faces growing restraints. As resources tighten, it is critical for our field to be strategic, collaborative, informed, and impactful with how we prioritize and conduct research. This session will provide guidance on how researchers can navigate this challenging landscape by identifying the areas of greatest research need and impact, improving access to data, integrating sustainability into research practices, and communicating climate and health linkages to diverse audiences. This session will highlight practical tools and strategies to support researchers, decision makers, frontline faculty, and more as they continue to drive progress in climate and health in a shifting funding and research environment.

Moderator & Panelists:

- Moderator: **Mary Meyer, MD, MPH**, Emergency Medicine Physician, The Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Permanente, Co-Lead of the Permanente Medicine Environment and Health Initiative
- Panelist: **Ying Goh, MD, MS**, NAM Fellow, former Public Health Director of the City of Pasadena and former Senior Policy Advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris
- Panelist: **Renee N. Salas, MD, MPH, MS**, Founding Director, *The Cooperative*, Lead, *Lancet Countdown U.S. Brief Working Group*, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School
- Panelist: **Jonathan Gilmour**, Co-Founder, The Impact Project
- Panelist: **Teddie Potter, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP**, Director of Planetary Health, and the Center for Planetary Health and Environmental Justice, Clinical Professor, School of Nursing University of Minnesota

2:45 – 3:05pm | BREAK

3:05 – 4:25pm | Panel 2: The Promise and Peril of AI: Balancing Innovation, Health Equity, and Climate Responsibility

Description: Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming health care—improving diagnostics, streamlining clinical workflows, and opening new pathways for personalized medicine. As these technologies accelerate progress in patient outcomes and system efficiency, as well as tackling critical issues of the 21st century, they also raise important questions about their broader impact. This panel explores how the health sector can harness the promise of AI while addressing its environmental impacts and implications for health equity. From the energy demands of large-scale AI models to the risks of exacerbating existing disparities, we'll examine how to align innovation with sustainability and health equity. By bringing together voices from health, technology, policy, and environmental communities, this session will highlight opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and coordination to ensure that AI serves all people and the planet.

Moderator & Panelists:

- Moderator: **Judith Rodin, PhD**, President Emerita, University of Pennsylvania and Past President, The Rockefeller Foundation
- Plenary Speaker: **Amy Luers, PhD**, Senior Global Director, Sustainability, Science & Innovation, Microsoft
- Reactor Panel:
 - **Vivian S. Lee, MD, PhD, MBA**, Executive Fellow, Harvard Business School and Senior Lecturer, Harvard Medical School
 - **Yury Dvorkin, PhD**, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University, US Director, NSF Global Climate Center Electric Power Innovation for a Carbon-free Society (EPICS)
 - **Tamara Kneese, PhD**, Director, Climate, Technology, and Justice Program, Data & Society Research Institute

4:25 – 4:50pm | Health in Climate AI Hackathon Awards Ceremony

Description: Climate Week NYC will feature its first-ever Health & Climate Hackathon on Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21, bringing together clinicians, climate experts, technologists, students, and innovators to tackle real-world challenges at the intersection of climate, health, and AI. From supply chain resilience to climate-driven data to patient-centered innovation, teams will develop bold, actionable ideas to accelerate climate-health focused solutions.

Join us to celebrate the creativity and urgency driving this work. Hear how participants tackled some of healthcare's toughest climate challenges—and how this hackathon marks the beginning of a broader movement for sustained, collaborative innovation across the sector.

Format:

- 4:25 - 4:35: Innovation Briefing
 - **Seema Wadhwa, ALM**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Net Positive Solutions, Health in Climate
 - **Chethan Sarabu, MD, FAMIA, FAAP**, Director of Clinical Innovation for the Health Tech Hub, Cornell Tech, Clinical Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine
- 4:35 – 4:45: Award Presentation
 - Five brief award presentations from the Health in Climate AI Hackathon. Each honoree will be recognized for their work to advance health-climate solutions in healthcare.
- 4:45 – 4:50: Closing
 - Final reflections and a collective moment of recognition. Awardees, hosts, and NAM leaders will gather for a closing photo and audience appreciation.

4:50 – 4:55pm | Closing Remarks from the NAM President

Victor J. Dzau, MD, President, National Academy of Medicine

4:55 – 6:00pm | Reception