



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
2026 Climate & Health Summit – VIRTUAL AGENDA

Overview: The National Academy of Medicine’s third annual Climate and Health Summit will bring together leaders across the health sector to explore the latest insights, innovations, and opportunities at the intersection of climate and health. We hope that this Summit will continue to signal the importance of climate and health to the nation and beyond, while equipping participants with practical perspectives and pathways for collective action.

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 | 9:00am-5:30pm EDT

Virtual Attendance Logistics: All non-concurrent sessions will be livestreamed on the [NAM event page](#). To join a concurrent session, click on the embedded links below.

9:00am–9:10am Welcome Remarks

- ❖ **Judith Rodin**, *NAM Climate Grand Challenge Chair, Rockefeller Foundation (former), The University of Pennsylvania (former)*

9:10am–9:30am 2026 Climate and Health Summit Keynote

Session Description: The climate and health community has navigated a period of real complexity and change. Shifting policies, funding uncertainties, and evolving priorities have created challenges in our day-to-day work and in our long-term planning. And yet, even in the midst of that uncertainty, meaningful progress continues across the United States and around the world. This keynote will help set the stage for the Summit by spotlighting just a few examples of the thoughtful, innovative work underway. It’s a chance to take a breath and reflect not only on how far we’ve come, but on why this work continues to matter so deeply. We remain focused on climate and health because the stakes are clear, and so is the opportunity. As we continue to move forward together, grounded in evidence and guided by science, we can shape a future defined by healthier communities, stronger systems, and greater resilience for generations to come.

- ❖ **María Neira**, *World Health Organization (former)*

9:30am–10:50am Opening Plenary Panel: Envisioning an Optimal State of Delivering on Climate & Planetary Health: 25 Year Vision

Session Description: This opening plenary panel serves as a forward-looking thought experiment inviting participants to visualize the optimal state of the United States health sector



in 2050 if it has truly met the need for climate and health alignment. Five distinguished experts will describe the concrete features of a resilient, climate-aligned health system across clinical practice, hospitals and health systems, supply chains, capital and investment models, community partnerships, public health, and future forecasting. Each perspective will illuminate how care is delivered, financed, and/or governed when planetary health is treated as inseparable from patient health. Taken together, these perspectives will illuminate a clear and compelling vision of what a fully aligned health sector looks like at maturity.

- ❖ Moderated by **Colin Cave**, *Kaiser Permanente (former)*
- ❖ Speakers:
 - **Elizabeth Baca**, *Deloitte*
 - **Bechara Choucair**, *Kaiser Permanente*
 - **Gregg L. Furie**, *Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School*
 - **Cristina Indiveri**, *Vizient Inc*
 - **Rob Roy**, *AdventHealth*

10:50am–11:10am BREAK

11:10am–12:10pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1, 2, 3

11:10am–12:10pm [Concurrent Session #1: The Health Sector's Entry Points into Global Climate Action: Toward COP31](#)

Session Description: How can the health sector help drive global climate action and ensure climate commitments deliver measurable gains in health for all? This session will spotlight a targeted set of high-leverage processes and clarify how health actors (particularly United States health institutions) can engage to shift priorities, strengthen standards, and move resources in ways that measurably improve health, equity, and resilience. Drawing on real-world examples from emerging policy coalitions, major negotiation tracks, and climate finance architecture, the discussion will identify concrete entry points to translate health evidence into policy leverage, influence global agendas, and strengthen accountability across key decision-making forums ahead of COP31 and beyond.

- ❖ Moderated by **Vince Blaser**, *U.S. Department of State (former)*
- ❖ Speakers:
 - **Kumi Naidoo**, *Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative*
 - **Avinash Persaud**, *Inter-American Development Bank*



- ❖ Reactor: **Judith Rodin**, *NAM Climate Grand Challenge Chair, Rockefeller Foundation (former), The University of Pennsylvania (former)*
- ❖ Reactor: **Vanessa Kerry**, *Seed Global Health*

11:10am–12:10pm **Concurrent Session #2: Now More than Ever: Hyperlocal Community Solutions as a Model for National Climate & Health Action**

Session Description: Across the country, hyperlocal initiatives are demonstrating how community-driven climate and health strategies can shape broader systems change. This session highlights effective approaches to advancing climate and health action at the neighborhood and municipal levels, featuring speakers from diverse regions of the United States who will share how partnerships with frontline communities have informed and influenced policy. The discussion will focus on practical tools for fostering meaningful engagement, strengthening shared decision-making, and translating local innovation into scalable impact.

- ❖ Moderated by **Rachelle Reyes Wenger**, *CommonSpirit Health*
- ❖ Speakers:
 - **Emmanuel Alcantar**, *Los Angeles County Commission on Youth and Climate*
 - **Jennifer Chan**, *Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine*
 - **Armen Henderson**, *Dade County Street Response*

11:10am–12:10pm **Concurrent Session #3: Count on Us: Metrics and Indicators on the Path to Transformative Health Care Performance**

Session Description: As the climate and health movement spreads and sustainability measures take hold, the need for accurate and standardized metrics and indicators grows. Whether documenting a facility's performance to executive management, a health system's performance to a payor or regulator, or a nation's health sector performance to a global audience, metrics and indicators are critical to translating aspirations into results. This session will examine the state of development of metrics and indicators for climate and health at a variety of levels, as well as the potential influence of international Global Goal on Adaptation indicators for health.

- ❖ Moderated by **John Balbus**, *Climate Care Consulting, LLC*
- ❖ Speakers:
 - **Jenny Keroack**, *Health Care Without Harm*
 - **Marina Romanello**, *Institute for Global Health, University of College London*
 - **Shubhayu Saha**, *Tracking California, Public Health Institute*



❖ Reactor: **Jonathan Gilmour**, *The Impact Project*

12:10pm–1:25pm **BREAK**

1:25pm–2:25pm **NAM Spotlight Talks: “My Journey into Climate and Health”**

Session Description: For decades the work of climate and health has been championed by individuals who saw what few did, that climate change is a human health crisis, and worked tirelessly to build the foundation that makes all our work possible today. Hear directly from a handful of changemakers from multiple eras about their inspiration, challenges, personal stories, accomplishments, and hope for the future of our sector.

- ❖ Moderated by: **Arielle King**, *The Joy Report Podcast*
- ❖ Featured Speakers:
 - **Howard Frumkin**, *University of Washington School of Public Health*
 - **Beverly Malone**, *National League of Nursing*
 - **Harleen Marwah**, *Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*
 - **Cecilia Sorensen**, *Columbia University*
 - **Sacoby Wilson**, *University of Maryland-College Park School of Public Health*

2:25pm–2:40pm **BREAK**

2:40pm–3:40pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4, 5, 6**

2:40pm–3:40pm **Concurrent Session #4: Equipping Our Trusted Messengers**

Session Description: Climate change is increasingly shaping the conditions that determine public health, from air quality and extreme heat to infectious disease patterns and food security. Health professionals are some of the most trusted messengers on these issues. But how do we move from being trusted messengers to being effective messengers? In this session, communication experts will share different approaches that can be used to successfully reach diverse audiences and bring more people into the climate and health conversation. Attendees will leave with concrete strategies on how to use their voice more effectively within their various spheres of influence.

- ❖ Moderated by: **Neelu Tummala**, *New York University Langone Health*



- ❖ Speakers:
 - **Will Howard**, *Potential Energy Coalition*
 - **Preeti Jaggi**, *Emory University*
 - **Zoya Teirstein**, *Grist*

2:40pm–3:40pm **Concurrent Session #5: Beyond the Federal Level: State and Local Pathways to a More Climate-Resilient & Sustainable Health Sector**

Session Description: As policy environments shift, leaders outside of the federal government are sustaining momentum and advancing climate and health action across the health sector. This session will spotlight exemplar strategies from climate and health centers, state and local governments, and amongst others, illustrating how programs have evolved and adapted amid evolving policy, funding, and political contexts. Panelists will explore program growth, maintenance, and long-term strategy, offering practical lessons and forward-looking insights on building a more climate-resilient and sustainable health sector.

- ❖ Moderated by: **Aparna Bole**, *Health Care Without Harm*
- ❖ Speakers:
 - **Elena Ateva**, *Americares*
 - **Melissa Hoffer**, *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*
 - **David Hondula**, *City of Phoenix, Arizona*

2:40pm–3:40pm **Concurrent Session #6: AI for Climate & Health: Advancing Innovation While Strengthening Stewardship**

Session Description: Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how health systems anticipate, adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of climate change, from operational resilience and predictive modeling to population health and care delivery. As adoption accelerates, leaders must also confront questions related to environmental footprint, workforce readiness, and organizational governance. This session will showcase current AI capabilities and real-world applications already delivering measurable impact, explore emerging developments beyond large language models and their implications for the future of care and system performance, and examine practical pathways for responsible implementation. Panelists will address how organizations can strengthen education and workforce readiness, mitigate environmental risks, and develop organizational roadmaps that support sustainable, trustworthy scaling. By connecting evidence,



innovation trajectories, and implementation priorities, the session will help leaders translate AI innovation into responsible, scalable impact across climate and health systems.

- ❖ Moderated by: **Seema Wadhwa**, *Health in Climate*
- ❖ Speakers:
 - **Santosh Mohan**, *Advocate Health*
 - **Amit Phull**, *Doximity*
 - **Chethan Sarabu**, *Cornell Tech, Weill Cornell Medicine*

3:40pm–4:00pm BREAK

4:00pm–5:10pm Closing Plenary: How Climate Action Can Make America Healthy

Session Description: The Closing Plenary of the Summit will explore how climate-related actions can improve health outcomes and strengthen communities across the United States by highlighting concrete leadership opportunities across sectors. Framed around the theme “How Climate Action Can Make America Healthy,” the session will bring together leaders from health policy, business, philanthropy, and the public and private sectors to speak directly to what their respective sectors and constituencies can do to advance effective, health-centered climate initiatives. Speakers will share practical commitments, actionable strategies, and examples of where leadership is most needed, and possible, to translate climate action into measurable health benefits. The discussion will surface cross-sector collaboration opportunities, areas of bipartisan alignment, and specific ways the health sector and broader health community can use their influence, data, and convening power to move policymakers and communities toward action.

- ❖ Moderated by: **Mary Woolley**, *Research!America*
- ❖ Speakers:
 - **John Balbus**, *Climate Care Consulting, LLC*
 - **Jay Inslee**, *State of Washington*
 - **Renee Salas**, *The Cooperative*
 - **Rick R. Suarez**, *AstraZeneca*

5:10pm–5:30pm Closing Fireside Chat

- ❖ Featuring **Victor J. Dzau**, *National Academy of Medicine*
 - Moderated by: **Bechara Choucair**, *Kaiser Permanente*