

**Embargoed until 0200 Central European time, Monday 6th September 2021**

Climate & Health Editorial Quote Bank

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## Co-authoring editors

Country	Name	Role, Journal/Institution	Quote
Kenya	Professor Lukoye Atwoli, MBChB, MMed Psych, PhD	Editor in Chief, <i>East Africa Medical Journal</i>	<i>"The East African Medical Journal and Kenyan health professionals join our colleagues across the world in urging world governments to take more urgent action to mitigate and reduce the impact of climate change on the health of our populations. We note that while low and middle income countries have historically contributed less to climate change, they bear an inordinate burden of the adverse effects, including on health. We therefore call for equitable contributions whereby the world's wealthier countries do more to offset the impact of their actions on the climate, beginning now, and continuing into the future. Our governments must be held accountable for the commitments they make in reducing the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees centigrade, and be compelled to do even more. The year 2021 must be the turning point in our quest to restore nature and protect our collective well-being"</i>
International	Professor Abdullah H. Baqui	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition</i>	<i>"No temperature rise is safe. The environmental crisis is already damaging health across the world, falling disproportionately on those countries and communities who've contributed least to the problem and are least able to mitigate the harms. Wealthy nations must do more to support those on the frontline."</i>
	Dr Raffaella Bosurgi MSc, PhD	Executive Editor, <i>PLOS Medicine</i>	<i>"A healthy society is based on a healthy environment."</i>
UK	Dr Fiona Godlee	Editor-in-Chief, <i>The BMJ</i>	<i>"Health professionals have been on the frontline of the Covid-19 crisis. And they are united in warning that going above 1.5°C and allowing the continued destruction of nature will bring the next, far deadlier crisis. Wealthier nations must act faster and do more to support those countries already suffering under higher temperatures. 2021 has to be the year the world changes course - our health depends on it."</i>
UK	Stephen	Editor-in-Chief, <i>BDJ</i>	<i>"The British Dental Association and British Dental Journal are delighted to be</i>

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	Hancocks OBE		<i>part of this worldwide collaborative effort to make a positive difference to the health and lives of as many as possible as soon as possible"</i>
Brazil	Professor Carlos A. Monteiro	Editor in chief, <i>Revista de Saúde Pública</i>	<i>"To cut emissions, restore agrobiodiversity and stop the destruction of the natural world. We need to shift global dietary patterns towards more local, fresh or minimally processed, diverse plant foods."</i>
UK	Professor Ian Norman	Editor-in-Chief, <i>International Journal of Nursing Studies</i>	<i>"Nurses and midwives have a key role to play in safeguarding the future of our planet and human health through exercising our power as individual and collective consumers and, importantly, our influence as the largest group of health professionals to ensure that governments act decisively and collectively now, before it is too late."</i>
Canada	Kirsten Patrick	Interim Editor-in-Chief, <i>CMAJ</i>	<i>"While it's been overshadowed recently by the pandemic, climate change is the true health crisis of our time. Loss of biodiversity and rising temperatures will intensify the known upstream drivers of illness and increase health inequity. It's time for rich nations to take responsibility for their plundering of the global commons and move beyond weak policies that fall short of the minimum required to address the problem."</i>
UK	Nigel Praities	Executive Editor, <i>The Pharmaceutical Journal</i>	<i>"It is a rare occasion that so many different journals come together to make exactly the same statement; however, the urgency of the climate crisis demands it. We are already experiencing the health effects of climate change, and this situation will only get worse unless world leaders step up the pace and ambition of their plans at COP26 this November."</i>
Netherlands	Marcel GM Olde Rikkert	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Dutch Medical Journal</i>	<i>"Doing the best for patients requires health workers to share difficult messages every day. Today, the health community has come together to tell world leaders what they still fail to hear: emergency action on the environmental crisis must be taken to protect health. And for our health's sake and the future's sake, wealthy nations must do more to support those countries suffering the most."</i>

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USA	Eric J. Rubin, M.D., Ph.D.	Editor-in-Chief, <i>The New England Journal of Medicine</i>	<i>"The environment and health are inextricably intertwined. The changing climate is endangering us in many ways, including its critical impacts on health and health care delivery. As medical and public health practitioners, we have an obligation not only to anticipate new health care needs but also to be active participants in limiting the causes of the climate crisis."</i>
India	Dr Peush Sahni	Editor-in-Chief <i>National Medical Journal of India</i>	<i>"The recent examples of extreme weather all over the globe have brought into focus the reality that climate change is. We must act now lest it is too late. We owe it to the future generations."</i>
UK	Dr Richard Smith	Chair, <i>UK Health Alliance on Climate Change</i>	<i>"Health professionals have long been concerned about the harm to health from climate change, but our voices have not been heard clearly in the global debate. This unprecedented joint publication shows our global concern and how we want to be part of acting on climate change."</i>
Australia	Distinguished Laureate Professor Nicholas J. Talley, AC, MBBS (Hons.)(NSW), MD (NSW), PhD (Syd), MMedSci (Clin Epi)(Newc.), FRACP, FAFPHM, FAHMS, FRCP (Lond. & Edin.), FACP, MACG, AGAF, FAMS, FRCPI (Hon)	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Medical Journal of Australia</i>	<i>"Climate change is no longer theoretical; it's a real health emergency, and there is (or soon will be) no place to hide. The impact will dwarf COVID-19. Health professionals have an important role to play in this emergency; leading by example, driving system change in health to dramatically reduce emissions and waste, advocating politically, and educating our patients and the public. Our children, and theirs, depend on us acting now, not tomorrow"</i>

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International	Professor Sue TURALE RN, DEd, FACN, FACMHN	Editor in Chief, <i>International Nursing Review</i>	<i>"As our planet faces disasters from climate change and rising global temperature, health professionals everywhere have a moral responsibility to act to avoid this. We see at first hand the impact of climate change on health and well-being. In my profession, there are 27.9 million nurses, 59% of the global health workforce. Just imagine what an impact we could make if we joined forces to act against climate change to protect the planet, and the lives and health of people everywhere. Don't be an armchair climate change philosopher. Be an activist."</i>
Americas	Damián Vázquez, MD	Editor-in-chief, <i>Pan American Journal of Public Health</i>	<i>"In the Region of the Americas, many countries are already being severely affected by the environmental crisis. An integrated, equity-centered and multi-sectoral approach--including high-level political will and adequate human and financial resources--is urgently needed to prevent catastrophic environmental change and its associated health risks."</i>

**Political and institutional leaders**

Country	Name	Role, Journal/Institution	Quote
International	Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Director-General of the <i>World Health Organization</i>	<i>"The risks posed by climate change could dwarf those of any single disease. The COVID-19 pandemic will end, but there is no vaccine for the climate crisis. The IPCC report shows that every fraction of a degree hotter endangers our health and future. Similarly, every action taken to limit emissions and warming brings us closer to a healthier and safer future."</i>
International	Dr David Barbe	President, World Medical Association	<i>"As health professionals, we cannot stand by and see the destructive impact of climate change on our health, our societies and our planet. We are experiencing horrific weather events- extreme heat, floods, droughts, forest fires- all made worse due to our continued investment in fossil fuels that are warming our planet at an alarming rate. The impacts of climate change are highly inequitable, with the vulnerable paying the highest costs. This is a decisive moment for world leaders to address this emergency- prioritise green investments, renewable energy and clean air so that we are able to protect our planet and our health."</i>
International	Howard Catton	Chief Executive Officer, International Council of Nurses  <i>The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130f national nurses associations (NNAs), representing more than 27 million nurses worldwide.</i>	<i>"Climate change is one of the greatest threats to health today. Nurses around the world see both the physical and mental health impacts directly in their daily practice with people and communities. Climate change affects the social determinants of health, causes a rise in mosquito-borne viruses and infectious diseases, increases the risks of pandemics, and causes psychological distress. As the global voice of nurses, working on the frontlines of healthcare, ICN joins this call for emergency action to limit global temperatures in order to protect our environment and our physical and mental health."</i>
International	Dr. Enver Hasanoğlu, MD	President, <i>International Pediatric Association</i>	<i>"The climate crisis is a child health crisis. Pediatricians are on the front line: supporting families displaced due to climate change, providing better health services and access to treatment of vector borne illnesses and heat stroke, providing expanded vaccine access, and promoting better housing structures."</i>

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			<i>We call on policymakers to support our efforts by addressing the underlying cause—and immediately reducing carbon dioxide emissions.”</i>
International	Sheikh Hasina	Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum	<i>“Every country must pursue an ambitious target to curb Greenhouse gas emissions to keep the global temperature-rise below 1.5°C. Developed nations should facilitate the green recovery of the CVF-V20 countries. Dedicated support is required for reducing the cost of capital and encouraging private sector participation.” “Strict implementation of the Paris Agreement is the only way to check global emissions and thereby global warming. The time to take action to save the planet is not tomorrow, but today.”</i>
International	Christiana Figueres	Co-founder of Global Optimism and former Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC (2010-2016)	<i>“The tragedy of the current health crisis is a stark warning that humanity cannot flourish without achieving climate and biodiversity goals. The precise actions that will transition the global economy to stay below 1.5C are also those that will avert future catastrophic public health events. Health professionals alongside climate scientists are clear: the costly mistakes we’re experiencing now in human and economic terms must galvanise leaders to act with the speed and ambition this moment calls for.”</i>
International	Jeni Miller, PhD	Executive Director <i>Global Climate and Health Alliance</i>	<i>“In 2015, the health community around the world raised its voice to ensure that the ‘right to health’ was embedded in the first globally endorsed international accord on climate change, the Paris Agreement. More than half a decade later, the majority of countries are still not doing what’s necessary to protect people’s health from climate change. Climate change and damage to our natural ecosystems are the greatest health crisis we have ever faced, and no country is exempt. Health workers are seeing the impacts of climate change — whether heatwaves, extreme fires, floods, infectious diseases or crop failures -- in hospitals, clinics and communities in every region of the world. Countries that incorporate health and equity into their climate policies will see the greatest health benefits and savings from climate solutions, and will benefit locally and in the near term. We need our national leaders to do what is necessary to phase out fossil fuels now, transform our food and transport systems now, protect nature, and strengthen our health systems,</i>

			<i>now. Preserving a livable home for humanity, for our children, and for our children's children depends on it."</i>
International	Sonam P. Wangdi	Chair of LDC Group	<p><i>"Clearly everything possible must be done to limit temperature increase to 1.5C to avoid catastrophic harm to health. The least developed countries - the countries that have contributed least to climate change - are particularly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. Decisions and choices being made by other governments have grave consequences for our people.</i></p> <p><i>The warning from health professionals is clear: the climate crisis is the greatest threat to global public health. We already know the cure, but the world leaders must act now to keep global temperature rise to below 1.5C and to restore nature. Governments in high-income countries must do far more to support the rest of the world and shift the trajectory that we're on."</i></p>
International	Ambassador (Dr) Aubrey Webson	Chair, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and Ambassador, Antigua and Barbuda, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations	<p><i>"Our world is on the brink of climate chaos from the ravages of a warming world, and it will take extraordinary action to turn this around. The recent IPCC Report has laid bare the dire realities that will cripple humanity if greenhouse gas emissions are not significantly curbed. And even at 1.5°C of warming, nobody is more at risk than the Small Island States. The science could not be clearer, the very future of our islands is at risk and indeed, major emitters are not immune.</i></p> <p><i>Climate change is impacting us all, from Germany to the Pacific North West, from Mumbai to China, and everywhere in between. This editorial reiterates the demand that governments need to be doing more on reducing emissions and to ensure that we all transition to a just, equitable and fairer world. Equitable funding must be at the core of our response so that vulnerable nations like the Small Islands can have a fighting chance. We need developed countries to keep their promise to provide US\$ 100 billion in finance with a higher goal by 2025, and we also need to re-look the reality of</i></p>



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			<p><i>what it will actually cost developing countries to implement the commitments we have undertaken in the Paris Agreement.</i></p> <p><i>This is not simply a matter of money. It is a matter of our actual survival."</i></p>
International	Walter Ricciardi	President, <i>World Federation of Public Health Associations: WFPHA</i>	<p><i>"This unprecedented editorial is clear: the greatest threat to global public health is the continued failure of leaders to take adequate action to limit temperature rises to 1.5C and to restore nature. Public health professionals have been on the frontline of the Covid-19 crisis and they are united in warning that going above 1.5C and allowing the continued destruction of nature will bring the next, far deadlier crisis. 2021 has to be the year the world changes course - and realises a happier, healthier world in the process."</i></p> <p><i>"The WFPHA applauds the health journal editors in highlighting the human health consequences of climate change, and in particular, calling out responses that are too feeble to protect populations across the globe. Humanity cannot flourish on an unhealthy planet, or amidst climate mayhem. We are witnessing an unfolding Health Emergency. The WFPHA urges all governments and their representatives to prioritise humanity's future whilst negotiating agreements at COP26 by placing health and wellbeing central to their considerations."</i></p>

#### **Editors from other publishing journals**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role, Journal/Institution</b>	<b>Quote</b>
USA	John R. Adler MD	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Cureus</i>	<p><i>"Human wellbeing is closely related to environmental health. As an Open Access journal with a large global footprint, Cureus believes it is our responsibility to educate both the international medical community and patients everywhere about the massive healthcare crisis that Climate Change represents. We encourage all medical professionals to implore their respective leaders to take those actions which will minimize climate change and the related health emergency it causes."</i></p>

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Caribbean	Loren De Freitas	Deputy Editor, <i>Caribbean Medical Journal</i>	<i>"The climate crisis is at a critical tipping point and the small island developing states in the Caribbean are amongst the most vulnerable countries. A global collaborative effort is required to effectively address this crisis. It is imperative that action is taken now, with health professionals across the globe taking an active, leading role in mitigating this crisis."</i>
Belgium	Wilfried Gyselaers	Editor, <i>Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde en Gezondheidszorg</i>	<i>"Climate change is humanity's mirror showing us how much we're alienated from nature."</i>
UK	Suzanne Jarvis	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Vet Record</i>	<i>"The commentary is written by a number of human medical health journal editors and health climate change experts, so does have a focus on human healthcare systems and how these need to change. However, it doesn't take much to extrapolate what they are saying to the veterinary arena so Vet Record is happy to sign up to this call to action."</i>  <i>Investment in solving the issue of rising temperatures should be seen as good value. Climate change may be a large problem but success would lead to equally large benefits."</i>
USA	Dr. Beth Kelsey EdD, APRN, WHNP-BC, FAANP	Editor-in-Chief <i>Women's Healthcare: A Clinical Journal for NPs</i>	<i>"Nursing organizations and the nursing profession have a responsibility to meaningfully contribute to reducing vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions for the protection of the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities, and populations. Recognizing the devastating implications, particularly on pregnancy and women's health outcomes, and as representatives of women's health nurse practitioners, we join the editors of health journals worldwide to give voice to the urgency for actionable global and national policies and practices that will reduce harmful health effects within a socially and environmentally just framework."</i>
Journal is international, Philip is based in US	Dr. Philip J. Landrigan	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Annals of Global Health</i>	<i>"Climate change and its consequences affect us all, but fall with particular savagery on the world's poor. Those who contribute the least suffer the most. The pursuit of social justice must lie at the heart of our response to climate"</i>

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			<i>change. We have a deep moral obligation to save our Common Home and all who live here."</i>
Canada	Professor Elizabeth Rohrs	Editor in Chief, <i>Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy</i>	<i>"The hottest temperature recorded in Canadian history was in June 2021 in British Columbia with record wildfires burning, increasing the risk to respiratory health with reduced air quality in 9 out of 13 provinces. We can no longer hold our breath today and wait for change, we need to act now to ensure that we can breathe deeply tomorrow."</i>
Australia	Professor James Smith	Editor-In-Chief, <i>Health Promotion Journal of Australia</i>	<i>"Addressing the climate and health nexus is critical for sustaining global health equity. The UN and world's richest nations must do more, and fast. We have a very strong evidence-base to guide appropriate climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. We now need this matched by assertive political and policy action."</i>
USA	Douglas Taren, PhD	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Nutrition Reviews</i>	<i>"As a nutrition scientist, I relate to this call to limit global temperature as food systems are being disrupted more frequently by extreme natural hazards due to climate change and the insufficient provisioning, regulation and maintenance of ecosystem services that provide food for our planet."</i>
Journal is international, Sally is based in Canada	Professor Sally Thorne	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Nursing Inquiry</i>	<i>"Nurses see the everyday human interface of the social and environmental harms arising from the global environmental crisis we all now face. We stand firmly with our colleagues across the full spectrum of health professions in demanding fundamental structural changes to the root causes of the current climate emergency. We call on our practitioners, researchers and educators to address that which is our own responsibility in this regard, and urge our governments to demonstrate the political needed for essential action on behalf of planetary health."</i>

## Frontline health professionals

Country	Name	Role, Journal/Institution	Quote
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South Africa)	Dr Lwando Maki	Secretary, <i>Public Health Association of South Africa</i> ; Climate and Health Lead: <i>South African Medical Association</i>	<i>"We are seeing climate disasters occur more frequently than before- heatwaves, extreme drought, floods, tropical hurricanes. Our air is polluted, nature is at threat- and we are at risk more than ever before. As doctors we often tell our patients that prevention is better than cure- in the same vein we need governments to step up and prevent the climate crisis from becoming much worse. Prioritise actions and policies that make our air cleaner, that prevent extreme weather and that bring the balance back between nature and development. Healthy lives depend on a healthy planet and world leaders need to do what is best, not just for the short-term, but for generations to come."</i>
USA	Dr Renee Salas	Department of Emergency Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Harvard Medical School	<i>"This editorial shows that health professionals are making the diagnosis: climate change is harming our patients here and now, and swift action to address climate change is a prescription for improved health and equity. Global leaders must find the motivation and will to fill this prescription."</i>