

In this issue: Climate and Health

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Being nimble and responsive is a goal of the Academy/DPHA, so when we learned of the Climate + Health Conference presented in June of this year, we became engaged in the dialogue. The State's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control sponsored the conference, and to say that it was a success is an understatement. During the afternoon session, attendees were challenged to respond based on what we had learned about the connections between climate and health. This is when the concept of this issue, published a scant four months later, was born.

Ironically and sadly, the timing of this issue is coincident to the stunning, worldwide, natural disasters and unusual weather that have occurred in recent weeks. Hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, unseasonable cold and early snows. We would be remiss if we did not mention earthquakes that affected our neighbors in Mexico – but that is not (strictly speaking) climate or weather. These are all tragedies, and as humans, we share in the frustration, pain, and prayer that accompanies times and circumstances such as these.

Since this was originally written, the impact of the devastating hurricanes (Maria and Irma) on Puerto Rico is still unfolding. The scope of the disaster is unprecedented for this island nation, already beleaguered by a downturn in the economic climate. We ask for your support and outreach to assist our fellow Puerto Rican Americans. You can provide financial resources to a variety of organizations, including Unidos por Puerto Rico/United for Puerto Rico at: <http://unidosporpuertorico.com/en/>

As public health professionals and advocates, we endeavor to understand, prepare for, and respond to the relationship between climate and population health. There is essentially no disagreement about the reality of global warming and climate change.

The main areas of concern should be minimizing and mitigating the effects so that we may face fewer disaster relief efforts in the future.

As usual, we have a broad range of articles, lexicon of terms, a resource guide, and an extensive toolkit, which we link to online. Our guest editor is Kerri Yandrick, Climate Change Project Specialist for the State of Delaware. With her assistance, we have scratched the surface of the complexities we face in Delaware. There is a second conference in the early stages of planning, and we welcome your input.

As always, we hope you'll enjoy this edition of the Journal and we welcome your feedback and comments.

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