

## **Abstract: Planetary Health Curriculum Integration: A 5 Step process to teach climate medicine at your Med School**

**Objectives:** This study addresses the escalating threat of climate change to global health through a comprehensive, turnkey approach that seamlessly integrates planetary health (PH) concepts into medical education (ME) curriculum at any US medical school. Recognizing that clinicians feel unprepared to tackle climate-health challenges, this work outlines a practical, low burden, and effective strategy for ME development by relying on free educational resources and minorly expanding existing Learning Objectives (LOs) to address PH impacts.

**Design:** The study proposes a five step methodology for integrating PH into all four years of medical school, while meeting ME LOs: (1) starting with existing public resources, (2) expanding non-PH LOs into PH LOs, (3) integrating new LOs within curriculum blocks, and (4/5) creating and deploying the content material for each objective. This framework demonstrates comprehensive integration with minimal faculty effort while avoiding traditional pitfalls and reducing curricular burden.

**Results:** From 130 PH publicly-available LOs, 70 were selected as eligible for integration and were cross-referenced with roughly 5000 LOs at our institution. 35 new LOs were identified for preclinical curriculum integration, 12 advanced LOs for post-clinical didactics, and an additional 23 existing LOs were expanded to include PH principles. Full scale integration represented a 1.4% change to the existing curriculum. By relying on standardized approaches to PH integration through the use of LOs as a common unit of curricular design, challenges to integration were minimized.

**Conclusions:** This framework highlights the accessible potential of integrating PH concepts into ME, empowering healthcare professionals to address complex health challenges in a rapidly changing world. By following the proposed stepwise approach, institutions can quickly equip medical students with the knowledge and skills necessary to champion planetary health, mitigate disparities, and advance medical knowledge.