



## Editorial

## Health Professionals need to lead this ultramarathon for civilization

The heat intensity is obvious as are the droughts and the floods. All over the earth we are seeing the signs of climate change. Denial remains prevalent worldwide as war distract people from our existential crisis and short-sighted financial gains entice investors. Still, as knowledgeable clinicians, scientists and researchers, we must continue to conquer climate change and protect health but we must also work to dispel the doubters in order to limit fossil fuel exposure. In a previous editorial [1] we utilized the term CCLEAR - Communicators, climate leaders, educators, advocates and researchers to describe the pathways that health care professionals can take to use our trusted voices in the fight against fossil fuels. Now, more than ever our work is crucial.

In order to help ensure that our readers are ready for this challenge, The Journal of Climate Change and Health is broadening its scope and inviting new formats for communications. Beginning with this issue we are inviting artists to submit climate-relevant artwork to showcase on our cover and we are happy to highlight Terry Matthews' piece, *...drink up your blood like wine*, an etched linoprint with hand-tinting, 1/10 non-editionable prints.

As Dr. Matthews describes, while planetary insect life in general is collapsing with biodiversity loss, global heating and climate change are creating conditions favorable to the increased spread of mosquito-borne viral and parasitic infections such as dengue and malaria, transmitted by *Aedes* and *Anopheles* species respectively.

As transmission seasons lengthen and new populations are exposed due to spatial spread and shifts towards higher altitudes, an additional 4.7 billion people may become at-risk by 2070 compared to 1970-99. At the same time, climate-related pressures on preventive and curative health systems may reduce access to services for many in the global south [2].

Terence Matthews is a London-based artist who has worked as a public health physician and in international development. His professional background, including work in the Solomon Islands and Nepal, which are already suffering the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, has influenced the content of his work and the methods he employs. More recently, he has been involved in

climate activism, notably with *Extinction Rebellion* as a photojournalist, and as part of the *Healthcare Arts Collective*, an offshoot of *Doctors for Extinction Rebellion*.

In addition to visual arts, we welcome your submissions in other artistic areas. These will require communication through [malexander@sustainourabilities.org](mailto:malexander@sustainourabilities.org) so please send your ideas. In addition, we will be adding invited perspectives, submission of research protocols and will be sharing information on international negotiations on climate change as we have recently done with the piece by Arthur Wyns, *Six months out from Glasgow, the health commitments made at COP enter a new phase* [3].

One goal of this journal is to create community and we need you to join us to be successful. Consider joining us by signing up to receive regular updates of new papers or as a reviewer. Finally, we are in need to experienced researchers in climate and health to join our editorial board, especially from the Global South and East. Please send an email along with CV if you believe you would be a good candidate for the editorial board.

Marcalee Alexander  
University of Alabama at Birmingham,  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Sustain Our Abilities Birmingham, Alabama

## References

- 1 Duhaime AD, Futernick M, Alexander M, Erny B, Etzel RA, Gordon I, et al. The Journal of Climate Change and Health 2021(4). doi: [10.1016/j.joclim.2021.100078](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joclim.2021.100078).
- 2 Colón-González FJ, Sewe MO, Tompkins AM, Sjödin H, Casallas A, Rocklöv J, et al. Projecting the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in a warmer and more populated world: a multi-model, multi-scenario intercomparison modelling study. *The Lancet Planet Health* 2021(5):e404–14.
- 3 Wyns A. Six months on from Glasgow, the health commitments made at COP26 enter a new phase. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health* 2022. doi: [10.1016/j.joclim.2022.100151](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joclim.2022.100151).