From: humanandplanetaryhealth on behalf of Steve Luby
To: humanandplanetaryhealth@lists.stanford.edu
Subject: [LLW] [humanandplanetaryhealth] Stanford"s Human and Planetary Health 2023 End of Year Note
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HUMAN & PLANETARY HEALTH | Stanford University

The latest at the intersections of environment & health – at Stanford and beyond.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As 2023 ends, I extend my gratitude to you for being part of the exciting journey we've had with Human and Planetary Health at Stanford. Our initiative envisions a thriving future for our planet and all who call it home. 2023 was a year of growth, and as I look ahead to 2024, I see a vibrant and committed community and feel optimistic about what we can accomplish together.

Looking back on this past year, as a Human and Planetary Health community, we have faced enormous challenges and made noteworthy advances. The *Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change* underscored the need for urgent action and revealed new and alarming projections about an intolerable future. COP28 held the first Health Day, which unlocked $1bn in funding for mitigation and adaptation programs for health, and shed light on the need for phasing out fossil fuels as a public health strategy. While the declarations made at COP28 are promising, immediate action is imperative.

In close collaboration with the Center for Innovation in Global Health (CIGH) at the School of Medicine, our Human and Planetary Health initiative, situated at the Woods Institute for the Environment, is deeply committed to improving equity and advancing practical solutions. With the invaluable support of our dedicated faculty, staff, students, and external partners, we are driving progress in our four focus areas – climate and health, pollution and health, ecosystems and wellbeing (currently framed as the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Initiative), and healthy foods for people and the planet.

A few accomplishments from Stanford in 2023 include:

- Enabled over 13 interdisciplinary Human and Planetary Health research projects through the Woods Institute's Early Career Awards and CIGH seed grants, and supported 6 extraordinary Human and Planetary Health postdoctoral Fellows.
- Encouraged student participation in 55 Human and Planetary Health courses, launched a new Human and Planetary Health Action Lab, and engaged over 130 students in an Introduction to Human and Planetary Health course (SUSTAIN 103).
- Led by CIGH and the University of Washington, produced a new resource called Medicine for a Changing Planet - for health professionals to recognize and treat a variety of health challenges impacted by environmental stressors.
- Strengthened the Stanford Human and Planetary Health community by launching a new seminar series and holding an annual convening.

We expect that 2024 will be an exciting year for our initiative. Specifically, we plan to:

- Advance solutions-oriented research through awarding new Human and Planetary Health Early-Career Awards (proposals due January 15, 2024), partnering with CIGH's Human and Planetary Health Postdoctoral Fellowship program, and pursuing myriad new research projects.
- Inspire Stanford students and advance Human and Planetary Health education, through courses and two Action Labs - one on Blue Foods in Indonesia (winter and spring quarters), and another on Rural Health in the Clean Energy Transition (spring quarter). We will also expand collaborations in environmental humanities to foster student engagement and university-wide contemplation of humanistic dimensions of Human and Planetary Health.
- Build the Human and Planetary Health community at Stanford by convening our community, partnering with the GSB and SDSS's Initiative on Business and Environmental Sustainability to host an academic conference, hosting the annual Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, holding regular events as part of our *Spotlight on Human and Planetary Health* speaker series, and hosting our annual celebration.
- Foster evolution of the initiative to a new Center for Human and Planetary Health.

We wouldn't have made so much progress this year without your support. I'm joined by Human and Planetary Health Managing Director Allison Phillips, Senior Advisor Kathy Burke, CIGH Program Manager Erika Veidis and more in gratitude for all your contributions to this effort. Your enthusiasm, partnership, and innovative thinking continues to inspire us.

We look forward to working toward a healthier, more equitable world in 2024. I wish you a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with positive change.

Steve Luby, MD
Faculty Director, Human and Planetary Health initiative

The Stanford Human & Planetary Health Initiative is led by the Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health and the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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