

THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear Editor

As a member of the Carbon and Health Council I am writing to ask you to consider two simple but important actions that you can take in your role as an editor of a health related journal:

1. That your journal helps to bring the health effects of climate change to the attention of your readers.
2. That you support the efforts of the Carbon and Health Council by signing its pledge.
(<http://www.climateandhealth.org/getinvolved/pledge/>).

The accumulating scientific evidence shows that man made climate change, primarily resulting from the burning of fossil fuels, has had, and will continue to have, major adverse impacts on human health. The extreme heat wave of August 2003 in Europe resulted in about 70,000 excess deaths and the chances of such a heat wave occurring are estimated to have been doubled by man-made climate change. Climate change is profoundly affecting the most fundamental determinants of human health (food, air, water). The effects of future climate change will be widespread, distributed all around the world and no countries will be spared. Climate change is a major health issue worldwide.

Later this year world leaders will meet in Copenhagen to discuss who will cut their carbon emissions, by how much and by when. To date the voice of health professionals has been relatively weak in climate change discussions. The Climate and Health Council was established to ensure that the voice of health professionals is clearly heard. We hope to achieve 3,500 signatories by December 2009. Please do consider signing and encouraging your readers to sign.

Sincerely

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REPLY:

We have already signed the pledge of the Carbon and Health Council and we expect that our readers will also respond positively.

Editor

KUST Medical Journal