

San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility

2021 Accomplishments



"I know that in all my years of practice, what I have done has saved lives.
But what you can do today will save more lives from cancer than two or three of my careers."
SF Bay PSR Board Member Dr. Janice Kirsch to air-quality regulatory board, quoted in *Reuters*

2021 has been an extraordinary year of opportunities for health professionals and other SF Bay PSR members to amplify our voices and grow our efforts in support of climate health, environmental justice, and the abolition of nuclear weapons locally, nationally, and globally.

At SF Bay PSR, we greatly expanded our capacity in support of education, communications, advocacy, and mentoring thanks to the generosity of our board, members, donors, and the hard work of our committees, staff and consultants.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Educating the Public, Health Professionals, and Policymakers

- **Monthly SF Bay PSR virtual events series** featured such topics as California environmental policies, decarbonizing finance, the public health threat of policing and mass incarceration, how cybersecurity threats are changing anti-nuclear activism, the consequences of war on the environment and health, and our Annual Gala with noted whistleblower and activist Daniel Ellsberg as keynote speaker, to name a few.
- **UCSF/SF Bay PSR Mini-Medical School, a virtual series, Environmental Justice and Human Health: Creating Systemic Solutions**, developed in collaboration with UCSF's Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, brought speakers from the front lines of environmental injustice to explore environmental impacts on health through the lens of our most vulnerable populations, and to advocate for systemic solutions.
- **Nuclear Weapons & Climate Change: Shine a Light, Stop the Hate, Lower the Heat**, an annual commemoration of the anniversary of the US dropping of atomic bombs on Japan, organized with local partners, and featured Daniel Ellsberg as keynote speaker.
- **Medical school and health curriculum development** supported ongoing work at UCSF, Stanford, UC Davis, and beyond regarding climate, environmental health, and racial justice in several medical specialties.
- **SF Bay PSR Racial Equity Reading Group**, as part of ongoing commitment to eradicate racial inequities, co-sponsored events with City Lights Bookstore to elevate books on racism in medicine and hosted deep-dive discussions.
- **Communicating science- and health-based solutions to the public**, expanded our communications with monthly action alerts, a quickly growing social media presence, and our newsletter that provides in-depth coverage of the intersections of our core areas and updates on members' projects.
- **Mentoring the next generation of health-professional activists** through direct mentorship, our internship program, support of student-led environmental and climate health electives, direct actions, and activities such as the NorCal Health and Climate symposiums, and recognition of outstanding student health-activists through our annual awards.

BOARD & TEAM

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Tara L. Weekes, MPA
–Executive Assistant

Advocating for Climate and Environmental Health and Justice, and Nuclear Weapons Abolition in Local, National, and International Forums

- Gave dozens of presentations for nonprofits, medical schools, health societies, conferences, and radio shows, and published articles and served as climate and health editors for various medical journals.
- Signed more than 100 letters, participated in green coalitions, gave public comments supporting regulatory decisions that would protect health and the environment, including the California Energy Commission, California Air Resources Board, the Bay Area Quality Management District, and numerous municipalities advancing building electrification codes to replace fossil fuels.
- Supported formal letters to presidents Biden and Putin asking them to reduce the threat of nuclear war, including a very recent letter with over 300 national signatories delivered to the President and Congress.
- Participated in the Back from the Brink (BftB) campaign to urge the adoption of measures such as “no first use” and “no sole presidential authority,” and advocate for local resolutions, with work in Berkeley, Arcata, Eureka, Menlo Park, Atherton, and San Francisco.
- Joined work by National PSR on the exorbitant cost of our nuclear weapons infrastructure and where it would be best served, including toward health care, especially during the pandemic, and the climate emergency.
- Surveyed a local network of nonprofits and created presentations to support a just transition to building electrification that keeps the health and equity needs of underserved communities front and center.
- Supported Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, West Oakland Environmental Indicator Project, and other groups, to advocate for climate solutions that advance the interests of environmental justice communities.
- Advocated for divestment from fossil fuel industries in retirement funds in UC systems and other public pension funds, collaborating on the work of Fossil Free California’s CalPERS/CalSTRS divestment campaigns.

Taking Direct Action

- Richmond Victory Air Quality Rule 6-5: SF Bay PSR and Bay Area health professionals supported community efforts to further reduce particulate matter emissions from oil refineries in the Bay Area and helped to win an environmental justice victory—covered by *Mercury News* and locally.
- National Day of Action to Stop Construction of Line 3 Fossil-Fuel Pipeline: SF Bay PSR and other PSR Chapters and health professionals around the country joined community groups to call on President Biden to stop construction—highlighted on KPFA radio.
- Environmental Justice Protest at CalEPA & DTSC: SF Bay PSR joined a demonstration in Sacramento organized by environmental justice groups from across California and spoke out to demand the agencies follow science and protect the health of vulnerable communities including San Francisco’s Bayview Hunter’s Point—covered by *Los Angeles Daily News* and others.
- United Nations Climate Conference, COP26: SF Bay PSR broadcast on social media PSR National’s daily reports from the conference, and supported multigenerational, youth-led marches in San Francisco and Berkeley as part of global days of action—covered by *KQED News*