

Communities, Climate Change, and Health Equity - A New Vision

Committee

Jeanne Herb

Chair

Jeanne Herb is the Executive Director of the Environmental Analysis and Communications Group at the Rutgers University Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, where she leads initiatives at the intersection of social and environmental determinants of health, health equity, environmental sustainability, state and local public policy, and inclusive, participatory decision-making. Jeanne co-directs the state's Climate Change Resource Center, a service center providing support to communities, state and local decision-makers, and the private sector to advance equitable and science-informed climate change solutions. She also co-facilitates the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance, a collaboration of diverse New Jersey thought leaders that advances science-informed climate action in New Jersey. Prior to joining Rutgers, Jeanne spent more than two decades at the state Department of Environmental Protection, most recently as the Assistant Commissioner of Policy, Planning and Science, where she oversaw multidisciplinary programs related to environmental health, sustainable planning and development, environmental justice, climate change, and coastal management. Jeanne participated in the first cohort of the three-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leadership Program and the second cohort of the Rutgers Leadership Academy. She is a 1981 graduate of Rutgers University with a B.A. degree in environmental studies and a concentration in education and a 1984 graduate of New York University with an M.A. in science, health and environmental journalism.

Ana V. Diez Roux

Member

Ana V. Diez Roux (NAM) is Dean and Distinguished University Professor of Epidemiology in the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. Before joining Drexel University, she served on the faculties of Columbia University and the University of Michigan, where she was Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Her research areas include social epidemiology and health disparities, psychosocial factors and health, environmental health effects, and urban health. She has led large NIH and foundation funded research and training programs in the U.S. and in collaboration with various institutions in Latin America. She currently leads the Wellcome Trust funded Salud Urbana en America Latina/Urban Health in Latin America (SALURBAL) study and directs the Urban Health Collaborative at Drexel University. Diez Roux has served on numerous editorial boards, review panels, and advisory committees, including the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee of the EPA (as Chair), the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Health Statistics, and the CDC Community Preventive Services Task Force. She has received the Wade Hampton Frost Award for her contributions to public health from the American Public Health Association and the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Epidemiology from the American College of Epidemiology. She is an elected member of the American Epidemiological Society and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2009 and has served on numerous academies committees including the Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability, the Committee on Health Impact Assessment, and the Committee on Review of EPA's "Science to Achieve Results" Research Grants Programs. Originally trained as a pediatrician in her native Buenos Aires, she completed public health training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Jamie Donatuto

Member

Jamie Donatuto is a Community Environmental Health Analyst for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, located in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. A Swinomish staff member for the past 21 years, Dr. Donatuto specializes in working with Indigenous communities in the development and implementation of projects that address the community's priorities, as well as distilling and communicating results for multiple audiences using mixed methods and structured decision-making analyses. In her research, she works with numerous Tribes and First Nations in using community-engaged social science methods to improve natural resource management decision-making, such as modifying human health risk assessments to reflect Indigenous values; analyzing toxics in local traditional foods and subsequent Indigenous health impacts; evaluating climate related impacts to Indigenous health and wellbeing; and developing adaptive management strategies founded on Indigenous ways of knowing. Her publications are widely cited. Most recently, she is the lead author of the Indigenous health and wellbeing section of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Status of Tribes and Climate Change Report to inform the upcoming National Climate Assessment. Dr. Donatuto completed her doctoral studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada in the interdisciplinary program, with a focus on Indigenous community health and environmental studies.

Adrienne L. Hollis

Member

Adrienne L. Hollis is the Senior Climate Justice and Health Scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). In that position, she works at the intersection of public health, environmental justice and climate change and leads the work on methods for accessing and documenting the health impacts of climate change on communities of color and other traditionally disenfranchised groups. She works with environmental justice communities to identify priority health concerns related to climate change and other environmental assaults and evaluate climate and energy policy approaches for their ability to effectively address climate change and benefit underserved communities. Dr. Hollis has a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Meharry Medical College (1988) and a JD from Rutgers School of Law, Newark (2007). She is a professorial lecturer at the Milken School of Public Health in the Environmental and Occupational Health Program and an adjunct professor of Law at New York University Law School where she co-teaches an Environmental Justice seminar. She is a member of numerous committees, including the US EPA Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, the Endangered Species Coalition Board, the Physicians for Social Responsibility National Board, Title VI Alliance, the American Public Health Association's Environment Section and Environmental Justice Subcommittee.

Philip R. Johnson

Member

Philip R.S. Johnson is Senior Director of The Heinz Endowments' Environment & Health Program, which is part of the foundation's sustainability team and focuses on clean economy and environmental and public health goals. He currently manages a grants portfolio and community initiatives that focus on environmental systems (including air and water), environmental health, susceptible populations and at-risk communities, energy impacts and alternative energy, green infrastructure, community resilience, and climate change. Before joining the Endowments, Dr. Johnson worked for government agencies and nonprofits in fisheries and ecological restoration, public health, and environmental science. He is chair emeritus of the Health & Environmental Funders Network and serves on the board of the Environmental Grantmakers Association and the steering committee of the Environmental Health Matters Initiative at the The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Johnson received his MPH in environmental health, MS in environmental science, and PhD in risk analysis and management from Yale University.

Tisha T. Joseph Holmes

Member

Tisha Joseph Holmes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University. Her research examines planning and public health efforts to address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. Holmes' research on sea level rise adaptation planning in Florida has been funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Leroy Collins Institute. Her participatory action research on household impacts, responses and post-disaster recovery actions in the Florida Panhandle Region is supported by the UF-FSU Clinical and Translational Science Awards Program. Dr. Holmes is a co-PI for the CDC's Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Program in Florida and is a member of the APHA Center for Climate, Health and Equity Advisory Board. She teaches courses on climate change and coastal planning, community engagement and plan-making. Dr. Holmes earned a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA, a Master's degree from Columbia University, and Bachelor's degree from Williams College.

Rebecca E. Morss

Member

Rebecca E. Morss is a Senior Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, where she is also Deputy Director of the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Laboratory. She is an expert in weather forecasting systems and risk communication, with an emphasis on high-impact weather including hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes. She has more than twenty years of experience in developing research programs, leading projects, and building teams that integrate knowledge and methods across fields to address problems that cross disciplinary and science-society boundaries. Her current research foci include the communication and interpretation of weather-related risks, the use of weather and climate information in decision making, and weather hazard prediction and predictability. Dr. Morss received a B.A. in chemistry from the University of Chicago (1993) and a Ph.D. in atmospheric science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1999). She has served in multiple national and international leadership roles, including contributing to National Academies activities on the Keck Futures Initiative Steering Committee on Ecosystem Services, the Committee on Progress and Priorities of U.S. Weather Research and Research-to-Operations Activities, the Committee on Estimating and Communicating Uncertainty in Weather and Climate Forecasts, and the Organizing Committee for the First Indo-U.S. Frontiers of Engineering Symposium.

Bakeyah S. Nelson

Member

Bakeyah S. Nelson, PhD, is the Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston, a research-based nonprofit organization working to reduce the public health impacts of air pollution and advance environmental justice in the Houston region. Dr. Nelson has been working to reduce environmental inequities in Houston communities for 15 years. She was recently honored as the 2020 Texas Energy Summit's Clean Air Champion of the Year. In 2019, she was selected as an Aspen Institute's Health Scholar and in 2018 was one of the Texas Organizing Project's Community Champions of the Year. Dr. Nelson currently serves on a number of committees aimed at reducing environmental inequities. Dr. Nelson's doctorate in public policy, Master's in applied sociology, and Bachelor's degree in psychology all come from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Linda Rudolph

Member

Linda Rudolph serves as Senior Advisor on Climate, Health, and Equity for the Public Health Institute and for the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. She previously worked as Director for the Center for Climate Change and Health at the Public Health Institute, Deputy Director for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in the California Department of Public Health, Health Officer/Public Health Director for the City of Berkeley, and Chief Medical Officer for Medi-Cal managed care. Linda was the founding chair of the California Health in All Policies Task Force. She serves on the Board of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Advisory Committee for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Peggy M. Shepard

Member

Peggy M. Shepard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and has a long history of organizing and engaging Northern Manhattan residents in community-based planning and campaigns to address environmental protection and environmental health policy locally and nationally. She has successfully combined grassroots organizing, environmental advocacy, environmental health community-based participatory research, and environmental and climate policy to become a national leader in advancing the perspective of environmental justice in urban communities. A graduate of Howard University in 1967, majoring in English, she has been named co-chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and was the first female chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Black Environmental Justice Network and the Board of Advisors of the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Her work has received broad recognition: the Jane Jacobs Medal from the Rockefeller Foundation for Lifetime Achievement, the 10th Annual Heinz Award For the Environment, the Dean's Distinguished Service Award from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, and Honorary Doctorates from Smith College and Lawrence University. With her partners at Mailman School of Public Health she has co-authored 6 papers published in EHP and APHA. She has served on National Academies panels that published America's Climate Choices; Ethical Considerations for Research on Housing-Related Health Hazards Involving Children; and participated in the NAM Culture of Health Program.

Sacoby M. Wilson

Member

Sacoby M. Wilson is an Associate Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health. Dr. Wilson has 20 years of experience as an environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, and community-engaged research, including crowd science and community-based participatory research, water quality analysis, air pollution studies, the built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, community resiliency, and sustainability. Dr. Wilson directs the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) laboratory, which provides technical assistance and research support to communities fighting against environmental injustice and environmental health disparities in the DMV region and across the nation. He has worked on environmental justice issues, including environmental racism, with community-based organizations through community-university environmental health and justice partnerships in South Carolina and North Carolina, including the Low-Country Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC), in North Charleston, South Carolina; the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in Mebane, NC; and the Graniteville Community Coalition (GCC) in Graniteville, SC. Dr. Wilson received his B.S. degree in Biology/Ecotoxicology with a minor in Environmental Science from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, an M.S. degree in Environmental Health from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences and Engineering from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.