



GLOBAL **HEAT** HEALTH
INFORMATION NETWORK

Capacity and Partnerships

1st GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH FORUM HONG-KONG
17-20 DECEMBER 2018



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President, World Organization of Family Doctors WONCA

Past President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

Chairman, HKJC Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute



WONCA – who we are



World Organization of Family Doctors

Membership of 500,000+ family doctors around the globe, with 150+ national colleges and academies represented

Working Parties (WPs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) research and work on a range of issues pertinent to primary care

www.globalfamilydoctor.com

Capacity



WONCA has a number of Working Parties and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and regional Young Doctors' Movements (YDMs) that work between world council meetings to progress specific areas of interest to WONCA and its members around the globe.

These groups comprise hundreds of family doctors who work by correspondence and intermittent face to face meetings.

Over the years they have carried out groundbreaking studies and research, and have produced a variety of important publications

Health

Health is about people – beyond the glittering surface of modern technology, the core space of every health system is occupied by the unique encounter between people who need service and those entrusted to deliver them.

The trust is earned through a special blend of technical competence and service orientation, steered by ethical commitment and social accountability which forms the essence of Professional work.

Health Professionals for a New Century Lancet 2010

Working with family doctors – impact for global health

Why should family doctors care about planetary health?

- Family doctors are at the frontline of protecting health – we need to understand the relationship between environmental change and emerging health risks
- Family doctors, as one of the most trusted sources of information, are in a unique position to understand and communicate the shifting landscape of planetary health risks

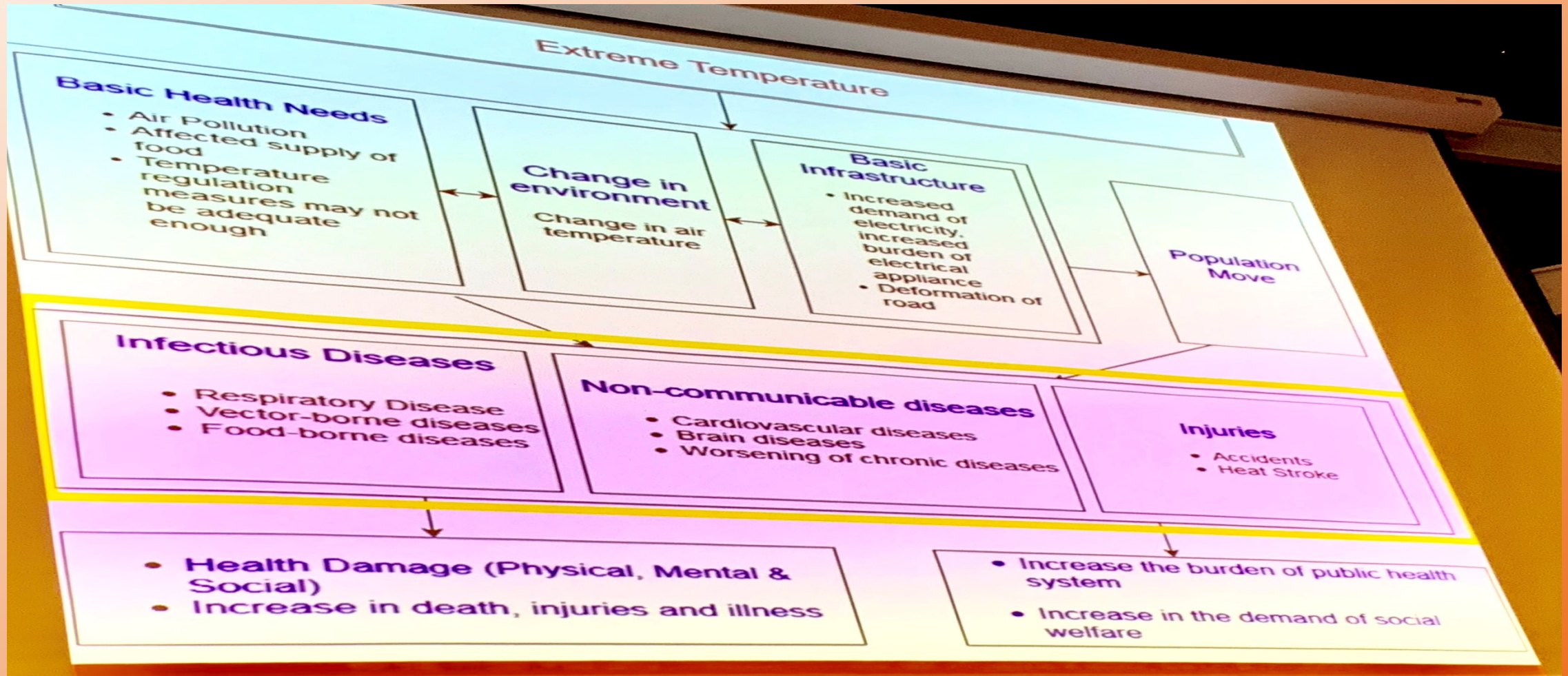


WONCA Working Party on the Environment

Our mission is to foster the role of family doctors in protecting the health of their patients and communities from the impacts of environmental hazards and environmental degradation, and to promote healthy and sustainable societies at the local and global level.



Prof Emily Chan GHHIN Forum Keynote 17th December 2018



Heat and Health

what we know

New infectious disease exposures: a variety of environmental factors affect where pathogens and vectors live and how quickly they reproduce, impacting infectious disease exposure across the globe.

Increased temperature can create conditions particularly suitable for the spread of malaria, Zika, dengue, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever and Lyme disease.

What we know

Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic lung diseases, obesity, diabetes and cancer account for three quarters of global mortality – we know these diseases are sensitive to various environmental variables, including air, water and land pollution, climate change and rising temperatures, and changes in our food systems

What we know

Warmer temperatures associated with climate change increase the formation of tropospheric ozone, a main constituent of smog and contributor to cardiorespiratory disease, and are associated with longer pollen seasons and increased pollen production, which intensifies allergic respiratory diseases such as asthma.

Impact of Global Warming on Disaster Risks

Direct Impact

- ❑ Heatwave
 - Record hitting heat wave in Japan in July 2018, causing more than 80 deaths



Indirect Impact

- ❑ Food security (Harvest losses) caused by drought
- ❑ Wildfires: deaths, air quality and loss of shelters
- ❑ Drought
- ❑ More intense and frequent rains → floods, landslides
- ❑ Increase sea level: higher storm surge
 - Super Typhoon Mangkhut 2018 caused a record storm surge in Hong Kong

Capacity Building for DRR and Resilience

- Capacity may include **physical, institutional, social or economic** means as well as skilled personal or collective attributes such as leadership and management
- Two approaches to respond to climate change (global warming):
 - Risk Mitigation: Identifying the causes and reducing the risks
 - Adaptation: . Efforts to reduce disaster risk and at the same time adapt to a changing climate
- A need to achieve recognition of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as essential elements of community resilience development
- Coherence between DRR and CCA required the creation of **awareness, mobilising resources, and action by public and private stakeholders, preferably in partnership**

Role of Family Doctors in Disaster/ Emergency Response

Roles of Family Doctors:

- Risk Assessment
- Emergency/Disaster Prevention
- Preparedness, e.g. vaccination, risk communications

Action / response - Alerting !!

- Maintaining regular medical services
- During Recovery/Rehabilitation, e.g. PTSD, reducing exacerbation of chronic illnesses



Capacity Building for DRR and Resilience

Integration of **Climate Change** to the Disaster Management Cycle



The *Lancet* Countdown, November 2018

..... tracked 41 indicators across five domains:

- (i) climate change impacts, exposures, and vulnerability
- (ii) adaptation, planning, and resilience for health
- (iii) mitigation actions and health co-benefits
- (iv) finance and economics
- (v) and public and political engagement

The report is the product of a collaboration of 27 leading academic institutions, the UN, and intergovernmental agencies from every continent and includes four key messages to be considered for global action.

WONCA is a member of the Planetary Health Alliance

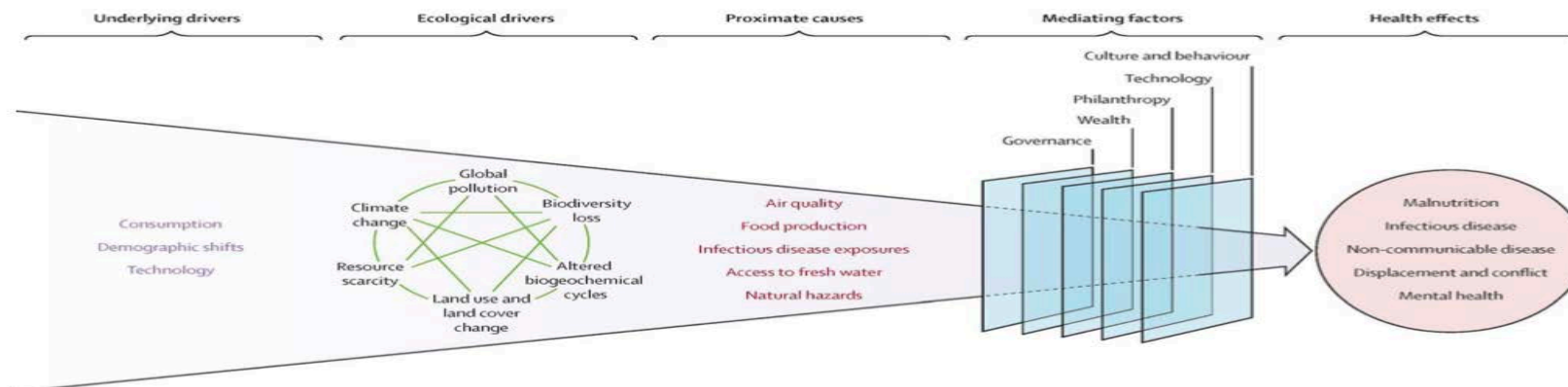


“A Memo to the Family Doctors of the World to Act on Planetary Health”

from the WONCA Working Party on the Environment and the Planetary Health Alliance Clinicians for Planetary Health Working Group. Beta version.

WHAT IS PLANETARY HEALTH?

Planetary health is a field focused on characterizing the linkages between human-caused disruptions of Earth's natural systems and the resulting impacts on public health. It aims to develop and evaluate evidence-based solutions to safeguard an equitable, sustainable, and healthy world (1).



Key opportunities for family doctors to intervene

- **Communicate to patients that their health ultimately depends on the environment, both in their immediate vicinity and globally**
- **Be aware of and monitor local environmental factors such as heat waves and other natural disasters, land clearing, air quality, which may affect patients' health or response to treatment**
- **Assess and plan for threats within our own practices: encourage local communities to have their own local disaster plans**
- **Advise patients about the importance of:**
 - ✓ **Food choices**
 - ✓ **Active transport**
 - ✓ **Energy choices**
 - ✓ **Reproductive health**
 - ✓ **Connecting to nature**
 - ✓ **Reducing personal environmental impact**
 - ✓ **Engaging in community**

Influencing policy

- Health arguments can be a powerful incentive and driver, in particular at city level, where benefits of local policy change can be seen among the local population
- Health arguments are not used often enough to unleash action
- Many potential advocates, specifically health actors, have not been mobilised due to a lack of knowledge and tools, and to a disconnect between health system programmes to address disease prevention and programmes to reduce air pollution
- Sectoral decision-making silos inhibit the co-operation necessary to ensure that relevant specialists from a range of sectors are fully engaged in addressing issues of mutual relevance

WONCA Partners

1. Primary Healthcare Team – e.g. International Council of Nurses
2. International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
3. World Medical Association
4. World Federation of Public Health Associations
5. International Society of Doctors for the Environment
6. Global Coalition on Circulatory Health
7. Academic Organisations – e.g. University of Toronto - Alan Abelohin who collaborates with WHO and with Air Quality Canada project
8. HKJC DPRI Disaster and Preparedness Response Institute of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute (HKJC DPRI)

- Set up in 2014 as a knowledge platform and training centre on disaster preparedness and response
- HKJCDPRI develops training courses, generates knowledge and facilitates capacity building on disaster preparedness for different sectors of Hong Kong
- Works with a wide range of partners in Hong Kong and globally
- Collaborates with the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Harvard University as academic partners



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同心 同步 同進 RIDING HIGH TOGETHER

World Medical Association

on 10th December issued a statement on why doctors need to join the fight against climate change

Dr Leonid Eidelman, President, said

‘By talking about the suffering our patients endure and could continue to endure, we are adding a human dimension to the already dire economic predictions of climate models’.

He encouraged discussion at global policy level and talking to politicians



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Thank you !