

## **Planetary Health**

### *Integrating Human Health and Environmental Education*

Chair: Andrew Brown

#### Recommendations:

1. The health of existing and future humans is being compromised by environmental degradation. We recommend that the sustainability of interdependent human and environmental health become the primary focus of all educational, political and economic decision-making.
2. We recommend the transformation of learning communities to reflect the interdependence of human and environmental health, focusing specifically on:
  - a. Integrated thinking;
  - b. Systemic interconnections;
  - c. Understanding of natural limits;
  - d. Processes that empower self-directed community action; and
  - e. Common principles applicable at global, national, local, and individual scales.
3. At grade school levels K-12, we recommend the introduction of a basic curriculum on the social and environmental determinants of health, including nutrition, physical education, food production, and community self-sufficiency.
4. At post-secondary education levels, we recommend the expansion of the principles of interdependent human and environmental health into all disciplines and professional education programs, including law, business, engineering and architecture schools.
5. In educational programs for all health professionals, we recommend the introduction of a mandatory core curriculum on the principles of sustainable human and environmental health, and training in diagnostic procedures that reflects those principles.
6. In specific programs for public Health professionals, we request that the Association of Health Centers (AHC) immediately formally requests that the Council for Accreditation of Schools of Public Health establish mandatory criteria reflecting the principles of sustainable human and environmental health.
7. In scientific research programs focused on health and medicine, we recommend a shift in focus and funding support from a search for reactive cures to causation research, prevention and health promotion.

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8. In industry, we recommend initiatives that remove known or possible direct and indirect threats to interdependent human and environmental health.
9. In the political arena, we recommend, as a priority, ongoing dissemination of information establishing interdependent human and environmental health.
10. In the media, we recommend highly visible public awareness campaigns promoting interdependent human and environmental health, and advocating individual and community responsibility and action.
11. In urban and community development, we recommend the consistent application of the principles of sustainable interdependent human and environmental health.