DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES

Environmental Accountability and Sustainability in Medicine and Medical Education

Last year, NOSM University announced its dedication to the concerns of climate change and social justice. As current and future physicians, an understanding of environmental sustainability and the importance of planetary health as it relates to medicine, medical education, and patient well-being is crucial. We are eager to discuss our individual and collective roles in relation to environmental sustainability in our personal and professional lives.



DR. JOSEPH LEBLANC

Dr. Joseph LeBlanc is a life-long Northern Ontarian and member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Forest Conservation, an Environmental Management Certificate, and a PhD in Forest Sciences from Lakehead University. Dr. LeBlanc is recognized as a leading expert in Indigenous food systems and community development in Canada. He has also received several awards including a Top 20 under 40 Northwestern Ontario Visionary Award and a Forty under 40 Northern Ontario Business Award. Dr. LeBlanc was appointed as NOSM's inaugural Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion, on July 1, 2020 for a five-year term. He is also an Assistant Professor of Indigenous Health at NOSM.



DR. JOE VIPOND

Dr. Joe Vipond has worked as an emergency physician for over twenty years, currently at the Rockyview General Hospital. He has been active on the climate crisis since learning of its repercussions 15 years ago. His first advocacy campaign was as a spokesperson and strategist for the Alberta Coal Phase Out movement, and the Canadian Coal Phase Out network, and with these has had an impact on approximately 66 MT of greenhouse gas emissions, or 9% of Canada's total GHGs. He is President of the national charity Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. He is also the co-founder and co-chair of the local non-profit the Calgary Climate Hub, and during COVID, the co-founder of #masks4Canada and #ProtectOurProvinceAB. Joe grew up in Calgary and continues to live there with his wife and two daughters.



DR. COURTNEY HOWARD

Dr. Howard is an Emergency Physician in Chief Drygeese Territory, and a globally recognized leader on the impacts of climate change on human and planetary health. She has advanced policy and advocacy on active transport, ecoanxiety, movement-building, plant-rich diets, fossil fuel divestment, carbon pricing, coal phase-out, hydraulic fracturing, vaccine equity, and health impact assessments. She led the 2017-2019 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Briefings for Canadian Policymakers, was the 2018 international policy director for the Lancet Countdown, and has researched wildfires and menstrual cups. Dr Howard sits on the boards of the CMA and the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the Steering Committee of the Planetary Health Alliance, the WHO-Civil Society Working Group on Climate Change and Health and the Editorial Advisory Boards of the Lancet Planetary Health and the Journal of Climate Change and Health. She loves dancing with her two daughters.



DR. MELISSA LEM

Dr. Melissa Lem is a Vancouver family physician who also works in rural and northern communities within Canada. President-Elect of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and Founder and Director of PaRx, Canada's national nature prescription program powered by the BC Parks Foundation, she is a globally recognized expert on the nature-health connection. She has also engaged in advocacy and policy work on a broad range of other issues, from climate change and hydraulic fracturing to sustainable health care and low-carbon transportation. A senior writer for the CBC, her work has been widely published by media including the Vancouver Sun, Toronto Star, Montreal Gazette, The Narwhal and National Observer. She was the resident medical expert on CBC TV's hit show Steven and Chris for four seasons, and is a regular contributor to CBC Radio and CTV News. Dr. Lem was the inaugural winner of University College's Young Alumni of Influence Award at the University of Toronto, a 2020 Joule Innovation grant recipient from the Canadian Medical Association, a 2021 World Parks Week Ambassador, sits on the Advisory Committee of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Health and Well-being Specialist Group, and is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia.

Moderator: Dr. Sarita Verma,
President, Vice Chancellor, Dean and CEO, NOSM University

Student Leaders: Rachel Peet, Ashlyn Kopanski, Rylee Mose, Jenna Simpson, Nusha Ramsoondar, Avery Newman-Simmons, Katie Zugic and Ericha Hendel

Sunday, April 24 from 3-5p.m.

Accessible via YouTube

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