The role of behavioral medicine in combating climate change

Michael A. Diefenbach, PhD
Professor, Departments of Medicine, Urology, Psychiatry
Deputy Director, Institute for Health Innovation and Outcomes Research
Northwell Health, Manhasset, NY
Ambitious Timeline

- **Steering Committee**
- **June 18th:** Survey Released
- **AUG 1:** Survey Closed Data Analyses
- **Final Cluster & representative question selection by SC**
- **Membership ranks importance of clusters**
Steering committee members

Catherine Alfano, Ph.D., ACS
Lindsay Bullock, Executive Director, SBM
Andy Burnett, knowinnovation.com
Cynthia Castro Sweet, Ph.D., Omada Health
Joost Dekker, Ph.D., Univ of Amsterdam, ISBM
Bill Klein, Ph.D., NCI
Suzanne M. Miller, Ph.D., Editor TBM
Alison Philips, Ph.D., Univ of Iowa
William Riley, Ph.D., NCI
Rachel Shelton, Ph.D., Member Delegate
Michael Taitel, Ph.D., Walgreens

@ibtnetwork  #ibtn2020  @DrMDiefenbach
Generating ideas: A bottom-up process

Received 296 questions

Provocative Questions received

Remove Duplicates

Postcards from Future

Wellsorted Cluster Analysis

Steering Committee

Final Ranking

SC selected the most representative description for each cluster

Identification of truly provocative questions by study team

Final ranking provided by membership
How should we regulate the future of transhumanism (the merging of organic human beings with machines or other technologies)?

Is technology and big data all it's meant to be? Or do we as behavioral scientists need advocate for the importance of "small" data?

How do we change a research paradigm that has failed to promote any population health impact based on the use of scientific experts and tired randomized control trial designs?
Seven Categories send out to members

1. How can we use artificial intelligence to improve the health of all individuals?
2. How can emerging technologies be leveraged to positively impact behavioral medicine interventions and overall population health?
3. How can behavioral medicine eliminate health inequalities and advance social justice?
4. How can behavioral medicine solve sociopolitical issues like climate change, gun violence, and fake science?
5. How do we better tailor and scale behavioral medicine interventions for sustained behavior change?
6. How do we better integrate behavioral medicine into the healthcare system and personalized medicine approaches?
7. How do we improve our scientific methodologies and research translation?
4 consistently higher ranked categories:

Integration of behavioral medicine into the healthcare system and personalized medicine approaches

Improve tailoring and scaling behavioral medicine interventions for sustained behavior change

Behavioral medicine’s role in eliminating health inequalities and advancing social justice?

How can behavioral medicine solve sociopolitical issues like climate change, gun violence, and fake science?
3 categories received consistently lower ranking scores

How can we use artificial intelligence to improve the health of all individuals?

How can emerging technologies be leveraged to positively impact behavioral medicine interventions and overall population health?

How do we improve our scientific methodologies and research translation?
Category #7: How can behavioral medicine solve sociopolitical issues like climate change, gun violence, and fake science?
What are the health disparities that are influenced by climate change?

Which behavioral methods are best suited for sustained climate-related behavior change?

Which emerging technologies can support climate-related behavior change?

How do we integrate climate-related behaviors into our personal lives, communities?

Which tailored and targeted interventions can best be scaled up?

Use AI and data-mining techniques to identify trends in climate behavior change.

Integration

Climate Change

Tailoring/Scaling

Inequities

Methods

Emerging Tech

AI
We can not do this alone....

Public Health  Environmental Sciences

Communication Science

Psychology  Agriculture

@ibtnetwork  #ibtn2020
Next Steps

- President working group
- Collaboration w/ NCI & interested groups
- Series of webinars on climate change and behavior
- Dissemination of results
Presidental Working Group on behavioral medicine and climate change

• Goals:
  • Develop research questions at the intersection of climate change, behavior change and health
  • Identify potential strategies and solutions to be developed and tested
  • Identify collaborative opportunities to form a new network of scientists, practitioners, and lay public to develop and conduct research aimed at positively affecting individual health and mitigating climate change.
Key objectives of the PWG

• Advance research on climate change and health

• Facilitate cross-disciplinary collaborations and cross-organization partnerships

• Raise awareness and enhance knowledge through outreach activities
Climate Change Initiative: Foundational Webinar #1

“The Fundamentals of Climate Change and Health Behavior Change”

Date: 6/24/20, 1:30-3:00 EST

Moderated by:
Michael A. Diefenbach, Ph.D.
Foundational Webinar #1: Speaker Overview

Dr. Robert Bindschadler  
*NASA Climate Scientist (Retired)*  
*Formerly Chief Scientist, NASA Laboratory for Hydrospheric and Biospheric Science*

Dr. Susan Michie  
*Professor of Health Psychology and Director of the Centre for Behaviour Change*  
*University College London, UK*

Dr. William Dietz  
*Sumner M. Redstone Center Chair, Milken Institute School of Public Health*  
*George Washington University*  
*Co-Chair of Lancet Commission Report on Global Syndemic*
Climate Change Initiative: Foundational Webinar #2

“Climate Change, Behavior Change, and Health: Tackling Global Challenges Together”

Date: TBD (mid/late July)

Moderated by:
Kara L. Hall, Ph.D., NCI
SBM Community Outreach and Collaboration

Connecting and collaborating: (Virtual) Randomized Coffee Talks

Andy Burnett
CEO Knowinnovation
i2ihub.org
Knowinnovation.com

- Questions from PWGs, greater SBM community, and climate change experts will be utilized to inspire collaboration
THANK YOU!

mdiefenbach@northwell.edu
@DrMDiefenbach