

Department of Medicine
Medical Grand Rounds

DATE: 8/7/2020
LOCATION: Virtually via Zoom
TIME: 12:00 – 1:00 pm
TITLE: “Health Effects of Climate Damage”
Speaker: Dr. Michael S. Donnenberg

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Identify the leading causes of climate damage
- 2) Describe the consequences of rising temperatures
- 3) Prepare for climate effects on health
- 4) Plan to mitigate climate damage

QUESTIONS:

1. Investigators examining polar ice cores have found a close relationship between global temperature atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration for at least the past 800,000 years. Which of the following statements best describes the causal link between the two?
 - a. Rising CO₂ has preceded and been the predominant cause of almost all prior periods of increased warmth
 - b. Rising temperature has almost always preceded rising levels of CO₂, thereby excluding the latter as a cause of the former.
 - c. The current atmospheric CO₂ concentration and global temperature are the highest in Earth’s history.
 - d. The rate of CO₂ increase in the past century is unprecedented in the ice core record and is the predominant cause of current global warming.
2. Sea levels have been rising over the past century. Which of the following statements most accurately represents a prediction of the consequences of this rise?
 - a. If the Paris agreement goal is met, sea levels will begin to recede in the next 100 years.
 - b. Only a few island nations will be severely impacted by sea level rise before 2050.
 - c. A reanalysis of satellite data indicates that the number and size of urban centers that will likely be inundated have been underestimated.
3. A 53-year-old man with hypertension and type 2 diabetes is seen for a routine visit and laboratory testing. He is employed seasonally as an agricultural worker. He takes only metformin. His blood pressure is 138/88. The rest of the examination is normal. Which of the following medications would be most likely to increase his risk of heat stroke?
 - a. Amlodipine
 - b. Hydrochlorothiazide
 - c. Lisinopril
 - d. Valsartan

4. A 66-year-old woman is seen for a routine visit. Her BMI is 30.5, but the examination is otherwise unremarkable. Laboratory testing reveals a total cholesterol of 240 mg/dl with a calculated LDL of 126 mg/dl. Which of the following recommendations would most likely benefit her health and reduce her greenhouse gas emissions?
 - a. Eat less meat
 - b. Join a gym
 - c. Take atorvastatin

5. The incidence of which of the following infections has increased the northeastern US, in part because the vector that transmits the infection survives warmer winters in increased numbers?
 - a. Dengue
 - b. Lyme disease
 - c. Malaria
 - d. Vibriosis

DISCLOSURES: