

FINAL DRAFT - 04/22/2021

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) Welcomes New Staff and Board Members

Press Contact

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April 22, 2021

Washington, D.C.— **Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)** is delighted to announce the addition of two new staff members and seven new board members — including four new student representatives.

“Our new staff members are joining PSR at a critical time,” said **Jeff Carter, PSR’s Executive Director**. “I’m excited about the skills and talent they will bring to our team. Meanwhile, our newest board members bring a depth of knowledge, experience, and perspective that will bring new energy to our core mission while helping us develop meaningful diversity, inclusion, and equity strategies. It’s exciting to have all of these talented people joining the organization all at once, as we work collectively to reexamine our program activities through the lens of social justice and racial equity.”

New Staff



LaTisha Henderson

La Tisha Henderson joined PSR on April 5th as our new **Direct Mail and Membership Manager**. Ms. Henderson is nonprofit management professional with more than 14 years-experience in membership and operations management. She is a native Washingtonian, holds an Associate Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, and is due to complete the Bachelor of Science in the summer of 2021.



Mari Faines

On June 1st, Mari Faines will be joining PSR as our new **Director of Communications and Outreach**. Ms. Faines has a background as a corporate project manager, podcast host, and diversity and equity activist, with skills in non-profit organizational development, policy, fundraising, communications and marketing. She holds a Master of Science in the Politics of Conflict, Rights, and Justice from SOAS University of London. She serves on the Board of the UK chapter of Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Resolution (WCAPS) and as UK Project Lead and Steering Committee Member for their global DEI initiative, Organizations in Solidarity (of which PSR is a member). She is returning to the U.S. after living in London for the last several years.

New Board Members



Laalitha Surapaneni, MBBS, MPH

Dr. Laalitha Surapaneni is an assistant professor of internal medicine with a public health degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a practicing hospitalist at the MHealth Fairview University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis. She is faculty advisor for Health Students for a Healthy Climate and mentors medical students in the Twin Cities Medical Society public health advocacy fellowship.

Dr. Surapaneni also serves on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council, and is a member of Minnesota Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate. As a science communicator, she speaks regularly with media outlets about the public health impacts of climate change and has been interviewed by City Pages, MPR, Associated Press, and the Guardian. Her work has been cited in print and online outlets including the Star Tribune, MN Daily and Common Dreams. She also regularly contributes opinion pieces and her work has been published in Ensia, MinnPost and Duluth News Tribune.



Adrienne L. Hollis, PhD, JD

Adrienne L. Hollis, PhD, JD is the Senior Climate Justice and Health Scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). Dr. Hollis has more than 20 years of experience in the environmental arena, particularly focused on environmental justice, equity and inclusion, and the adverse health effects of environmental exposures and climate change on vulnerable communities.

At UCS, she leads the work on methods for accessing and documenting the health impacts of climate change on communities of color and other traditionally disenfranchised groups and ensures scientific information from UCS is communicated in a culturally competent and helpful manner to vulnerable populations. Dr. Hollis works with environmental justice communities to identify priority health concerns related to climate change and other environmental assaults and evaluates climate and energy policy approaches for their ability to effectively address climate change and benefit underserved communities.



Tova Fuller, MD, PhD

Dr. Tova Fuller is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), serving as an inpatient psychiatrist. She has an MS in biomedical engineering and a PhD in computational genetics in addition to her MD. She is also a part of UCSF's Climate Change and Mental Health Task Force.

Dr. Fuller has been involved with PSR since her first year of medical school. She sat on the national board of directors as a medical student representative and has worked with PSR's Los Angeles, Washington, and Currently serves as Vice President of the SF Bay PSR chapter. She served as an International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) delegate to the 2009 Nobel Peace Laureates Summit, and currently serves as an IPPNW deputy councilor. She is the author of the 2020 American Public Health Association (APHA) policy statement, "Towards a Nuclear Weapons Free World," and presented at APHA on the mental health effects of climate change. In 2011 she was awarded the Lown-Alexander-Sidel Award for Medical Advocacy.

New Health Professions Student Representative to the Board

Ashton Lewandowski is a third-year medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He is active with multiple student organizations at the university such as PSR and the AMA, where he focuses on getting himself and other students to be more involved in medical advocacy. **Cassandra Papaleo** is a first-year medical student at University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is Vice President of the student PSR club, where she helps promote education on social determinants of health to her medical school community. **Mary Sun** is a MD/MSCR student at Mount Sinai and current Research Fellow at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She is a co-founder of the Diversity Innovation Hub and is part of the executive leadership of Medical Students for a Sustainable Future. **Shruti Sinkar** is an aspiring physician with a B.S. in Biology, and is currently getting her MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. As an undergraduate, she founded her own community organization focused on housing and food insecurity issues titled "Hunger and Homelessness Movement."

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About Physicians for Social Responsibility

PSR is a nonprofit organization representing medical and health professionals and concerned citizens, with over 40,000 individual members and supporters and with chapters in major cities and medical schools throughout the United States. Our mission is to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival. Founded in 1961, and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985, PSR works at the intersection of public health, the environment, and social justice collaborating with public health and equity advocates to address climate change, environmental health, and the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. Learn more at www.psr.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).