

# Wisconsin Environmental Health Network—A new resource for Wisconsin physicians

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As physicians, we are called on to recognize and foster the special beauty of Wisconsin's environment and to promote its citizens' health and well-being. The Wisconsin Environmental Health Network (WEHN) was created to educate and enable health professionals to be knowledgeable clinicians and effective voices on environmental health issues.

WEHN is a collaborative project of Physicians for Social Responsibility—Wisconsin, the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute, and the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program. The Network was inaugurated at the University of Wisconsin-Madison CME conference "Making the Connection; Human Health and the Environment" in June 2004. This past year, WEHN partnered with Wisconsin's Bureau of Environmental and Occupational

Health and offered a second day-long CME opportunity for health care professionals.

Historically medical school and post-graduate curricula have not included environmental health training. WEHN is in a unique position to educate health professionals on environmental

public policymakers and elected officials. WEHN assists its members through opportunities such as the following:

- To collaborate with citizens and organizations in their community and the state working on local environmental issues.
- To receive up-to-date brief-

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*WEHN is a strong advocate for a healthy and sustainable Wisconsin environment, now and in the future.*

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health issues by

- Providing easy access to Web-based resources and reference materials for both health care professionals and patient education.
- Offering regional CME conferences and lectures.
- Issuing monthly e-mail alerts focusing on Wisconsin environmental health issues with clinical and policy perspectives.

Medical professionals have a powerful role to play in influencing policy to promote and protect public health. Physicians are important and effective messengers, educating individuals and communities as well as pub-

lic policymakers and elected officials, helping to affect the legislative process.

- To become more effective communicators using a variety of different media.

WEHN provides a unique resource to help medical professionals improve their expertise in clinical practice and to participate as effective voices in environmental health policy. WEHN is a strong advocate for a healthy and sustainable Wisconsin environment, now and in the future.

For more information on becoming involved with WEHN, please visit [www.WiscEnviroHealth.org](http://www.WiscEnviroHealth.org) or call Physicians for Social Responsibility at 608.232.9945.

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# Wisconsin Medical Journal

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