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 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 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 briefings, 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 or call Physicians for Social Responsibility at 608.232.9945.
The mission of the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* is to provide a vehicle for professional communication and continuing education of Wisconsin physicians.

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