WASHINGTON Physicians for Social Responsibility was founded over 40 years ago with the belief that health care professionals have a special duty - and opportunity - to address the gravest threats to human health and survival. Today, WPSR's passionate and dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly on the most pressing public health issues of our time: the threat of nuclear weapons, the specter of the climate crisis, and the growing impacts of economic inequity.

None of these threats are theoretical, nor are they future possibilities - we are all being impacted by each of them now, with communities of color and lower incomes bearing an unfair brunt of the burden. Of particular concern to WPSR are the adverse and growing impacts these issues have on people's physical and mental health.

The magnitude of these challenges is huge but hardly insurmountable. In our view, prevention is not only the best medicine; it is the only medicine. That is why WPSR members are on the front lines of these existential issues, working in partnership with coalitions and our national organization to advocate for bold, forward-thinking policy solutions that get at the root of these problems.

WPSR is a member-led and member-funded organization, and a home not just for health care professionals, but for all concerned citizens. We like to say that we are “empowered by compassion and undaunted by the odds,” and if you share that compassion and the optimism that you can make a difference, I hope you will join with us. With your continued support, we will continue utilizing the powerful health voice to build a healthy, peaceful, sustainable and just future.

It has been a tremendous honor to join WPSR as Executive Director at a time when our work is more important than ever. So, too, is your continued support and I thank you for your continued belief in our mission, and your engagement in our work.
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

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REVENUES

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EXPENSES

- Programs: 81%
- Administration: 10%
- Fundraising: 9%

REVENUES Graph

GRANT INCOME

INDIVIDUAL GIVING
CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH

The Lancet Medical Journal calls the climate crisis the greatest threat to health we face -- but also the biggest health opportunity. Unfortunately, our own country went the wrong way in 2019, with serious gutting of policy after policy that protect not just the environment, but the health of millions. Worldwide, lead by youth activists inspired by Greta Thunberg — and faced with an undeniable increase in the impact of extreme weather disasters and out-of-control fires — the climate message is reaching more people and calls for action are growing ever-louder.

In Washington, we celebrated the passage of several important, nation-leading pieces of climate legislation and continued our fight, and successes, against new fossil fuel terminal proposals. And, with the leadership of WPSR's 20-member Climate & Health Task Force, our climate program realized major progress in our own work to engage and grow the broader health care community in support of urgent climate solutions, climate justice, and advocating for renewable energy over new fossil fuel projects.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

- WPSR helped found the Power Past Fracked Gas coalition.
- WPSR joined two lawsuits to halt to the development of the fracked gas facility at the Port of Tacoma, and the world’s largest methanol refinery in Kalama, WA on the Columbia River.
- 12 WPSR health professional members testified in opposition to a proposed LNG facility in Tacoma, and we continue to stand with the Puyallup Tribe to advocate for renewable energy over fracked gas that threatens the health of their community and violates tribal sovereignty.
- We convened an unprecedented coalition of health and medical groups, including the WA State Medical Association, to advocate for strong equity provisions in the 100% clean electricity bill that passed the WA legislature. It's been called the strongest bill in the nation!
- After working for years to encourage more climate action from the Washington medical community, we saw major gains. Working with three major hospitals and Health Care Without Harm, WPSR helped organize a symposium on climate action for over 150 health professionals at Virginia Mason in December.
NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION

2019 was an incredibly important year for WPSR's Nuclear Weapons Abolition work. Growing tensions involving nuclear states, and the unraveling of the global arms control fabric, exacerbated the threat of nuclear conflict in ways not seen in years. Amidst a shifting global landscape and volatile domestic politics, WPSR saw major successes in our statewide efforts to engage with decision-makers and grow the anti-nuclear movement across Washington.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

- WPSR played a major role in securing new commitments to disarmament and nuclear security from WA Members of Congress.
- Our Nuclear Weapons Abolition Task Force and Washington Against Nuclear Weapons (WANW) Coalition partners met with 10 out of 12 of WA Members of Congress, both in-state and in DC.
- WPSR and the WANW Coalition became increasingly recognized as leaders in anti-nuclear advocacy within, and beyond, Washington state. WANW Coalition membership grew by 20%, from 40-48 organizations.
- 2019 public events included the People’s Town Hall on Nuclear Weapons, a forum for the International Day for a Just Peace, and talks featuring leaders of Win Without War, and the Arms Control Association.
- WANW Coalition members passed nuclear weapons resolutions in Port Townsend, Spokane and the Washington State Legislature.
- WPSR held events in Spokane, Bellingham, Kitsap County, Port Townsend, Yakima and Olympia to assist in the coordination of regional hubs for anti-nuclear movement activities.
ECONOMIC INEQUITY & HEALTH

WPSR’s newest program on Economic Inequity and Health is confronting a rapidly growing problem that is impacting all Washingtonians. As prosperity in our state continues to grow, so too does the gap between rich and poor—and growing poverty is closely associated with adverse health outcomes. WPSR is addressing economic inequity at the policy level, focusing on three root causes of the crisis:

- reforming Washington’s regressive tax code
- advocating for social spending that supports our working families and frontline communities
- support for equitable opportunities in education, employment, housing

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

WPSR’s Economic Inequity and Health program celebrated notable successes in 2019, and set the stage for critical policy work in 2020:

- The end of 2019 augured the implementation of the hard-fought Paid Family and Medical Leave benefit in WA. WPSR worked tirelessly to pass this legislation which is now providing critical support to thousands of working individuals and families throughout Washington State.
- WPSR joined two new coalitions to amplify our work towards a more progressive tax system in WA: Balance Our Tax Code, and the Working Family Tax Credit Coalition.
- New policy priorities for 2020 include supporting the Working Family Tax Credit, expansion of Medicaid benefits to new mothers and young adults, and repealing outdated restrictions on providing cash assistance to the state’s neediest families.
WPSR BY THE NUMBERS: 2019

2 Lawsuits filed to stop major fossil fuel projects in Washington state

10 Graduate intern & practicum students working on all three WPSR programs

35 WPSR active task force members driving our programmatic work

48 Members in the Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition

260 Health professionals attended WPSR advocacy and speaker trainings

345 Individual WPSR donors. Thank you to our wonderful supporters!

1500 Climate prescriptions distributed to concerned citizens

WPSR STAFF

MAX SAVISHINSKY, ED.D, MPA, MAIS | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CARLY BROOK | NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION MANAGER
SARAH CORNETT | CLIMATE PROGRAM & ADVOCACY MANAGER

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