

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 11.2018-09
(A-19)**

Introduced by: Holly Rosencranz, M.D., ISMS Member

Subject: Including Climate Change Education in Medical School and
Residency Curricula

Referred to: Council on Education & Health Workforce

1 Whereas, the ISMS House of Delegates adopted a resolution in 2006 directing
2 that the ISMS request the AMA to urge all physicians to learn more about the changes
3 due to global warming; and
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5 Whereas, the AMA House of Delegates adopted a directive in 2008, which was
6 reaffirmed in 2014, to: “Support educating the medical community on the potential
7 adverse public health effects of global climate change and incorporating the health
8 implications of climate change into the spectrum of medical education, including topics
9 such as population displacement, heat waves and drought, flooding, infectious and
10 vector-borne diseases, and potable water supplies;” and
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12 Whereas, ISMS encourages Illinois governmental officials to prepare now and
13 lead the development of plans to address the anticipated health challenges that will result
14 as weather grows more extreme and our environment is challenged as a result of climate
15 change. (HOD 2015); and
16

17 Whereas, the American Public Health Association recognizes climate change as
18 “public health’s greatest challenge” and “calls upon all training programs for health
19 professionals, including public health, medical, and nursing programs, to include
20 climate change in their curricula;” and
21

22 Whereas, medical school and residency training programs in Illinois could
23 improve their training of students on the health effects of climate change, both current
24 and future; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, that ISMS adopt a policy for including climate change education
2 in medical school and residency curricula which should include didactics and/or clinical
3 simulation exercises reflecting patient scenarios demonstrating effects of climate change
4 as well as offering opportunities for student engagement in advocacy and mitigation
5 efforts; and be it further

6
7 RESOLVED, to instruct our ISMS delegation to the American Medical
8 Association to bring forth to the next annual house of delegates of the AMA this or an
9 equivalent resolution.

Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:

ISMS encourages Illinois governmental officials to prepare now and lead the development of plans to address the anticipated health challenges that will result as weather grows more extreme and our environment is challenged as a result of climate change. (HOD 2015)

House of Delegates adopted Substitute Resolution 34 (A-06), which directed that the ISMS request the AMA to 1) urge all physicians to learn more about the changes due to global warming; 2) urge both public and private sectors in the United States to advance policies that reduce reliance on fossil fuels and promote alternative clean and safe energy technologies; 3) urge the President of the United States to take steps to curb greenhouse emissions and work with other nations to address the dangers of global climate change through binding reduction targets for emissions; and 4) organize a task force representative of its membership to investigate global warming issues and propose programs and policies for action. (HOD 2006)

House of Delegates adopted Resolution C308 (A-15), which calls for ISMS to encourage Illinois governmental officials to prepare now and lead the development of plans to address the anticipated health challenges that will result as weather grows more extreme and our environment is challenged as a result of climate change. (HOD 2015)