

Dear colleague,

Might you be willing together with 18 other journals from every continent and from several disciplines (full list below) to **publish an editorial on the climate and nature crisis just before the meeting of the UN General Assembly in September?**

You will know that this year's COP26 climate conference, which is being held in Glasgow in November, has been described as the critical moment for the world to come together to avoid global temperatures rising 1.5C above pre-industrial levels with catastrophic effects on health. Despite the efforts of many, health professionals have not been a leading voice in the debate on climate change and environmental destruction.

We hope that an unprecedented event - like perhaps 150-200 journals publishing the same editorial at the same time - will help contribute to the twin aims of world leaders agreeing to the changes necessary to stay below 1.5C and health professionals becoming more prominent in the debate on the climate crisis and nature loss.

The editorial makes two main points: that we must stay below 1.5C and that this can be achieved only by high-income countries making bigger cuts in carbon and transferring funds to low- and middle-income countries. The publication of the editorial will be accompanied by a major communications exercise, which we hope you would join.

We have adopted a strategy of having 18 journals broadly representative of world regions and health disciplines draft the editorial and to technically be its authors. We are now contacting hundreds more journal editors to ask if you would agree to publish the editorial and contribute your name to a list of signatories supporting it. We have chosen to do this to avoid the impossibility of 150-200 individuals editing a piece. The conditions for doing so can be found at the end of this email.

We hope very much that you will agree to sign and to publish the editorial. **If you are willing to consider doing so, please contact Laurie Laybourn-Langton at laurie.laybourn@gmail.com.** Laurie is former director of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change and is leading the project along with Richard Smith, Alliance chair and former editor of the BMJ. In response, we will provide you with the editorial and answer any questions you have.

Best wishes,

Laurie Laybourn-Langton and Richard Smith
UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Initial journals

- East African Medical Journal
- BMJ
- The Lancet
- PLOS Medicine
- The National Medical Journal of India
- Chinese Science Bulletin
- Medical Journal of Australia
- Dutch Journal of Medicine
- Danish Medical Journal
- The Pharmaceutical Journal
- British Dental Journal
- International Journal of Nursing Studies
- Revista de Saúde Pública (Brasil)

- Canadian Medical Association Journal
- International Nursing Review
- Pan American Journal of Public Health
- Journal of Population, Health, and Nutrition
- The New England Journal of Medicine

CONDITIONS FOR SIGNING UP

- Our strategy is to have three types of involvement from journals:
 - **Authoring and publishing:** 18 journals broadly representative of world regions and health disciplines have developed the editorial and their editors will technically be the authors. These 18 journals will publish. These authors and the editorial have now been finalised.
 - **Publishing only:** we are now seeking a far larger group of journals to publish the piece. The list of those publishing will be found on a webpage, the URL of which will be included in a note at the bottom of the piece stating that it was simultaneously published in many journals, to ensure we are clear that this is not a duplicate publication.
 - **Not publishing but signalling support:** for those who cannot or are unwilling to publish, we ask you to put your name on an overall list, alongside all those publishing, and to support our media push (you will be provided with materials). This is to maximise the number of journals involved and therefore how impressive the intervention is. It is our strong desire, though, that you publish.
- The strategy of having a set of authors and then a longer list of non-authoring but publishing journals was decided on to avoid the impossibility of having potentially hundreds of people editing a piece.
- The publication date is Monday 6th September 2021, in advance of the UN General Assembly in mid-September. You would be asked to publish online on this day (if possible). Publication must not happen before this, or it will break the embargo for news coverage. Please keep the editorial to yourself until publication. Publication can occur beyond this date, though this **must be done within a month**, to minimise the risks of being seen as a duplicate publication.
- You are free to make changes based on your format and style, and through translation, but not to the substance of the editorial, to ensure it is a true joint publication. The final editorial will have the following elements: text with title and references; authors and affiliations, conflicts of interest; and a disclaimer giving notice of the joint publication. The editorial has a standfirst, which is BMJ style (who are kindly offering to copy edit), and you have a choice whether to publish this or not.
- We are aiming to have the final version, with all included elements and copy-edited, by week commencing Monday 26th July.
- We are happy for you to clear your own proofs, though of course we have a corresponding author to attend to these if required.
- We will provide more details on the media strategy around the editorial and how you can best participate. Broadly, if you are publishing, we will ask if you can issue a press release, provide you with the PR text and guidance on where it can be changed, and a social media pack.

- We will also be contacting delegates at the UN General Assembly to raise the profile of the editorial, with a view to influencing deliberations there and in advance of the crucial UN biodiversity and climate conferences in the final quarter of the year.