



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ready or Hot? Climate Smart Southwest Conference

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With the Southwest sizzling and record-breaking temperatures expected to climb ever higher, Physicians for Social Responsibility and 40 other local and national businesses, organizations and local government are convening the region's first community-based conference to develop strategies to build resilience to the health impacts of climate change.

Dr. Eric Klinenberg, author of the best-selling book *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago* will kick off this event with a free public talk from 7 to 8 pm on Friday, September 20 at the TEP Unisource Building Conference Room, 88 E. Broadway in Tucson.

A full-day conference follows on Saturday, September 21 from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm at the Tucson Convention Center. During the morning segment of the conference, nationally and internationally known experts will speak about climate change impacts specific to the Desert Southwest Region, human health risks of climate change, and climate adaptation guidelines. A panel of experts will discuss cross-border issues related to climate change.

Guest speakers include keynoter Dr. Kristi Ebi, Dept. of Medicine, Stanford University; Dr. Gregg Garfin, UA School of Natural Resources and the Environment; Dr. Heidi Brown, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, UA College of Public Health; and Dr. George Luber, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Margaret Wilder will lead a discussion panel on cross-cultural, cross-border issues that includes Dr. Irasema, Coronado of the (North American) Commission for Environmental Cooperation; Dr. Francisco Lara-Valencia, ASU; and Dr. Rolando Diaz, Colegio de Sonora in Mexico.

Rose Braz from the Center for Biological Diversity and Will Gartshore from the World Wildlife Fund will give a special lunch workshop on political action for climate change. U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva and Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias will also discuss effective political strategies.

The afternoon session, "From Knowledge to Action," will include resource and adaptation strategy-building workshops on health services preparedness, mental and spiritual health, food security, climate change education for children and teachers, cross border and cross cultural concerns, and engaging vulnerable communities and neighborhoods. A final special discussion will be held on Native American engagement for action on climate change.

Registration is \$35 (\$15 for current students) and includes a free buffet lunch and free on-site parking at the TCC. Space is limited and advance RSVP (for Friday) and registration for the conference on Saturday is highly recommended.

To register and for more information visit the event website at: www.psr.org/azclimate.

Interviews with keynote speakers can be conducted in the conference pressroom on 9/21.