



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility

Dear PSR Supporter,

With your trust and investment, SF Bay PSR has achieved significant progress in the last year. We have mobilized healthcare professionals, won protections for our communities, collaborated with environmental justice organizations, advocated for nuclear weapons abolition, and nurtured future health activists!

Some highlights and selected examples of our 2024 accomplishments include the following:

We mobilized health professionals!

- We have been hard at work influencing policy makers by hosting educational events, giving scores of talks and public comments/testimony; signing over **138** letters and writing **4** letters in support of or opposition to legislation or regulations; mobilizing hundreds of chapter members through our action alerts; meeting with policy makers and regulators; writing op-eds, contributing comments to major media articles, producing educational materials, and so much more.
- This year we were thrilled to welcome two new board members, Dr. Bret Andrews and Dr. Bonnie Hamilton. Also, we honored Dr. Mary Williams and Dr. Bret Andrews for their leadership of our Building Electrification Program at the National PSR Health Heroes Gala.
- We added two new team members: SF Bay PSR/Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment Nurse Fellow Crystal Loucel, who has translated many of our educational materials into Spanish and given numerous talks on health issues related to air quality; and Bailey Ward, MPH, who has helped at many community-education events. Both will be helping to develop our community-health workshop series with our Bayview Hunters Point collaborators, the Advocates.
- Environmental Health Committee members have made great progress on many fronts and continue to advocate for climate health and pollution prevention initiatives within their medical societies and institutions \ including University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Stanford, Kaiser, and more.

We Won Protections for our Communities!

- We scored a BIG WIN in California through strong coalitions that combined the power of community activism with the knowledge and credibility of health professionals—**Governor Newsom signed the Make Polluters Pay bills** which will help to protect communities from the health harms of oil production in California.
- Our white coats are on the frontlines of the **Bay Area building electrification movement** as we continue to work with our local coalition and support the timely implementation of the Bay Area Air District's *first-in-the-nation*, zero-emissions (ZE) home appliance standards.
- This year we expanded our advocacy to the **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** to encourage their implementation of similar ZE appliance rules, and to support the creation of indoor air pollution standards; our work includes **a new partnership with UCLA to study indoor air pollution in lower-income homes**. These new local and state rules would significantly improve air quality, prevent asthma cases, and save lives.
- In addition, our **Building Electrification program** created and distributed health- and equity-focused information to educate the public, policy makers, and health professionals about the benefits of electrification. We hosted an event

on “Building Electrification: New Studies, Advocacy, and How to Electrify Your Home,” and participated in events every month including electric fairs, cooking demonstrations, and community-center talks.

- We worked tirelessly to pass the **Gas Stove Health Warning Label bill**, which made it all the way to Governor Newsom’s desk via SF Bay PSR members and colleagues testimony to California legislators, and their work with CALPIRG to organize a health professional letter, op-eds, etc. We have already met with our colleagues at CALPIRG to begin to address the Governor’s veto message with a new bill to be introduced in 2025.
- We led a coalition opposed to the fossil fuel life-extension practice of blending hydrogen for use in buildings, that includes members from Sierra Club, Earthjustice, PSR-LA, UC San Diego, and UC Irvine.
- SF Bay PSR members continued to work with Fossil Free California to support legislation that would mandate the state retirement funds, CALPERS and CALSTERS, to divest from fossil fuel industries.
- Our members opposed coal transport through Oakland and expansion of its polluting port and airport.
- Through testimony and other advocacy, we supported solar rooftops for homes, schools, hospitals, and farms; the electrification of schools and school buses; and other pathways to create a just and equitable transition to all-electric renewable energy.

We Collaborated with Environmental Justice NGOS!

- We continued our decades long support of **Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates** to demand the clean-up of the radioactive contamination released by the sandblasting of Navy ships that had engaged in nuclear testing in the Pacific, and the remnants of a WWII radiation experimentation lab that was in the Bayview. To advance this work, we initiated a **two-year project with the Advocates, funded by the EPA**, to develop a series of workshops to educate the community about the health impacts of pollutants and radioactive contamination and how to advocate for policy change to protect community health.
- Also, in collaboration with the Advocates and the SF Environment Department, we are close to celebrating the **installation of a heat-cooling pump and induction cooktop at a community-childcare center**, where we will host events on the health harms of air pollution and benefits of electric appliances in 2025.
- We are also actively participating in the **SF Environment Climate Equity Hub Advisory committee** with a broad group of EJ nonprofits to build our city’s support program for residents, and ensure that our transition to healthier, electric buildings is just and equitable.
- Our fiscal sponsorship of **Richmond Shoreline Alliance** continues to support their work to mobilize and educate Richmond residents regarding the impacts of sea level rise, and the ongoing harms of the hazardous waste from the AstraZeneca Superfund site on Richmond’s southwest shoreline, including adding virtual tours to better educate the public.

We Advocated for Nuclear Weapons Abolition!

- SF Bay PSR continues to advance the **Back from the Brink campaign**, a coalition working together on a multi-year effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons -- while securing a set of U.S. nuclear weapons disarmament policies that will make the world safer, healthier, and more just.
- We co-organized **events on Hiroshima and Nagasaki days** to commemorate the victims of the US bombings of Japan—and engaged in non-violent protest of accelerated nuclear weapons work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.
- Our leaders and interns gave testimony to advocate for the expedited **closing of the aging Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant** that dangerously strides numerous fault lines and remains an expensive, false solution to our climate crisis, while extending the dangers of nuclear energy and starving out safer renewable sources of energy.
- We hosted a talk by **PSR Fellow Jack Kelly on the threats of AI to our safety and health**, highlighting the risks of AI being used for surveillance and human rights abuses, nuclear weapons command and control, and warfare in general. And **Dr. Robert Gould spoke at a press conference**—that was covered by major TV stations and news sources—calling on Governor Newsom to sign the bill that would have required some needed regulatory limits on AI. Unfortunately, Governor Newsom vetoed the bill.

- We featured New Mexico **activist Tina Cordova** at our gala who reminded us of the importance of our work with National PSR to advocate for the re-initiation and expansion of **The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act** that would provide long-overdue compensation to generations whose health has been negatively impacted by US nuclear weapons development and testing.
- SF Bay PSR leaders have for decades been leaders in the Peace Caucus in Affiliation with the American Public Health Association, bringing PSR's work on eliminating nuclear weapons and opposing militarism to the forefront of the public health community, most recently at the annual meeting in Minneapolis. SF Bay PSR continues to strengthen the capacity of the Peace Caucus by incorporating it into our fiscal sponsorship program.

We Nurtured Future Health Activists!

- Our **2024 interns** made important contributions toward our goals. Miguel Mercado, UC Berkeley graduate, staffed our vibrant Environmental Health Committee and created an infographic series to educate his community about the health harms of air pollution generated by increased trucking from Amazon distribution centers. Navreet Purewal, UC Berkeley graduate, and Kelly Lin, UCLA public health graduate student, supported our growing Nuclear Weapons Abolition Committee and produced a hugely successful film screening of *Silent Fallout*, which explores the environmental and health legacy of U.S. atmospheric nuclear testing, including a discussion with Film Director Hideaki Ito and scholar Mayela Gillan. Many of the 75 guests at the screening were from colleges across the state.
- At our Gala, we **honored and provided financial support for four young health professionals** for their outstanding work: Allan Ndovu, MD, and Aminta Kouyate, MD, both Highland residents and UCSF graduates; Kavya Nambiar, a UCSF/UCB Joint Medical Program student; and Katie Lichter, MD, MPH, a UCSF resident.
- And we continue our tradition of **partnering with educators and students at Stanford, UCSF, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Cruz** to support student efforts, present talks, and help to develop curriculum about climate health, advocacy, and the consequences of nuclear war.
- Past SF Bay PSR Interns and Emerging Health-Activist Awardees continue to contribute to our work through presentations and other engagement with ongoing PSR projects.

We know that we will be called upon in 2025 to continue building and protecting our accomplishments, we hope you will be with us!

Sincerely,

Robert M. Gould, MD
President

P.S. If every one of our 3,500 newsletter subscribers gave just \$86 a year (the cost of a TV streaming service) we would be able to raise the \$300,000 we need annually to continue our programs. Your gifts are truly investments because they also allow us to pursue more grant funding which currently makes up about half of our budget.

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Thank you!

