How does Planetary Health relate to One Health, EcoHealth, and Conservation Medicine?

The proposition that human disruption of Earth’s natural systems represents a threat to human health is not a new idea. Pioneers in the fields of Conservation Medicine, One Health, EcoHealth, Climate Change and Health, and others have articulated versions of this concept.

What is Planetary Health?

Planetary Health has been defined as “the health of human civilization and the natural systems on which it depends”. More specifically, it is an emerging interdisciplinary field focused on characterizing and quantifying the human health impacts of human-caused disruptions of Earth’s natural systems.

Why the Emergence of Planetary Health?

The planetary health concept has been fueled in part by its orientation around three core characteristics:

- a sharp focus on the human health impacts of accelerating environmental change
- an emphasis on the scale of humanity’s ecological footprint and the extent to which these global changes are likely to drive a majority of humanity’s global burden of disease in coming years
- 3) a sense of urgency to create a new trajectory for human stewardship of Earth’s natural systems driven by these threats
Topics under the Planetary Health umbrella

- Environmental change:
  - Water scarcity, biodiversity shifts, changing land use and land change (incl. changing food systems), urbanization, natural disasters, climate change, global pollution, and changing biogeochemical flows

- Human health impacts:
  - Infectious disease, non-communicable diseases, mental health, nutrition, civil strife and displacement

Mission of the Planetary Health Alliance

- Create a community of practice (annual meeting and virtual networks)
- Create journal outlets for research/literature (Lancet Planetary Health, GeoHealth, EcoHealth, etc.)
- Support universities in the creation of planetary health course work or programs
- Create educational resources re: planetary health
  - Out of Eden Learn/Project Zero
  - Textbook
  - Case study anthology
Planetary Health Program-
Building Webinar November 13,
4:00-5:30pm EST

- Designing a stakeholder process in establishing wide planetary health efforts featuring speakers from University of New England, Barcelona Institute for Global Fabra University, University of Minnesota School of Nursing

- Developing planetary health degree programs featuring speakers from Cornell University, Brunel University London, University of Toronto

- Building a university-wide planetary health featuring speakers from University of Sydney Health Platform, University of California Planetary Center of Expertise, Doane University Institute for and Planetary Health