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CHANGING PLANET, CHANGING HEALTH **How the Climate Crisis Threatens Our Health and What We Can Do about It** By Paul R. Epstein, MD, and Dan Ferber Foreword by Jeffrey Sachs

If ever there was a book that ought to be on everybody's reading bucket list this is it. But read it now rather than later since health and global environment expert Epstein and award-winning science journalist Ferber believe there is still, albeit limited, time to begin mitigating the effects of human actions on the changing climate.

—Booklist (starred review)

"*Changing Planet, Changing Health* is a landmark book that will raise our consciousness about how we should respond to a growing emergency and save lives.

—Al Gore

"You'll never find a clearer or smarter explanation of one of the toughest problems the world faces as the Holocene ebbs and the warming era begins."

—Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature* and *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*

"*Changing Planet, Changing Health* is an illuminating, important, and deeply sobering book."

—Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*

"As compelling as a detective novel, *Changing Planet, Changing Health* reveals the important—and often unnerving—links between climate and survival in a world in which we are watching our known environment slip away. This is a vital story, and authors Paul Epstein and Dan Ferber have told it beautifully"

—Deborah Blum, author of *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*

On April 4, 2011, the University of California Press will publish **CHANGING PLANET, CHANGING HEALTH: How the Climate Crisis Threatens Our Health and What We Can Do about It** (University of California Press, April 2011). Proclaimed "a landmark" by Al Gore, this eye-opening book reveals the complex links between global warming and cholera, malaria, Lyme disease, asthma, and other health threats.

A brilliant collaboration between health and disease expert Paul R. Epstein, MD and award-winning science journalist Dan Ferber, *Changing Planet, Changing Health* is much more than a primer on climate change. Connecting stories of real people with cutting-edge scientific and medical information, this book presents the first in-depth, on-the-ground investigation of the health risks posed by climate change. In concise yet accessible language, these experts describe the web of connections that link global warming to declining human and environmental health. Along the way, they offer insight and inspiration for shaping a healthy global future.

Changing Planet, Changing Health takes us to a host of places where the effects of climate change can already be observed—not only through now-familiar indicators such as extreme weather events, drought, flooding, and species decline, but also by the resulting impacts on human health. Epstein describes his personal experience of treating patients with cholera in Mozambique, almost a century after that disease was considered eradicated. He details research into the history and ecology of cholera, revealing that this bacterium thrives in warming ocean waters.

In the wake of 1988's devastating Hurricane Mitch, Honduran citizens were overwhelmed by a myriad of diseases associated with contaminated water and the pathogens that proliferate therein—from common diarrhea and respiratory infections to comparatively rare leptospirosis and dengue fever. Residents of the East African highlands, a region settled as a refuge from disease-carrying mosquitoes, now face a rising tide of malaria.

Reports of Lyme disease are increasing in the United States and Canada as warmer winter temperatures allow its host insect, the black-legged tick, to expand its range steadily northward. And in urban areas, including New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, millions of people—especially children—suffer from allergies, asthma, and other chronic lung conditions aggravated by elevated greenhouse gas levels. Meanwhile, research indicates that crop pests are also likely to thrive in the higher-carbon dioxide environment of the future, cutting into food supplies and further stressing the health of large portions of the human population.

Applying the principles of ecology, economics, and systems theory, Epstein reveals why climate change and its impacts are inseparable from the other challenges currently facing governments around the world, including fuel shortages, rising food costs, and financial instability. He advocates sustainable solutions that encompass all of these concerns, encouraging and emphasizing humanity's own capacity for change and the multitude of options already within our grasp. Witness the work of researchers in Africa and North America who have developed prediction systems providing advance notice of risky environmental conditions. Learn of green initiatives instituted by businesses and innovative solutions implemented by communities and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint. From ground source heat pumps and small wind turbines that help citizens ease off the coal-burning electrical grid to corporate and governmental policies, it's clear that the capacity for change is within us.

"If we are to find real solutions, it will be by deploying the scientific talents and humanistic efforts so richly on display in this book, serious inquiry in full rigor; the capacity to work across disciplinary lines; a perseverance in the face of enormous obstacles and uncertainties; the highest of intellectual integrity; and a breathtaking love of humanity and nature, knowing that it is our responsibility to be stewards of this glorious planet and the generations to come."

— **Jeffrey D. Sachs, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, from the book's Foreword**

About the Authors:

In the dozen years since award-winning journalist **Dan Ferber** launched his career, he has specialized in putting a human face on groundbreaking stories on science, technology, health and the environment. As a contributing correspondent for *Science* and a contributor to national magazines such as *Reader's Digest*, *Popular Science* and *Audubon*, he's covered topics from malaria to cancer, from air-pollution to coral reefs, from fire modeling to wetland conservation. His work on *Changing Planet*, *Changing Health* helped him tie such threads together and grasp the fundamental interconnections human health, healthy ecosystems, and a livable climate. Ferber holds a bachelor's degree in zoology from Duke, a Ph.D. in biology from Johns Hopkins University and a masters in journalism from the University of Illinois.

Paul R. Epstein, M.D., M.P.H. is Associate Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School (<http://chge.med.harvard.edu>) and is a medical doctor trained in tropical public health. Paul has worked in medical, teaching and research capacities in Africa, Asia and Latin America and in 1993, coordinated an eight-part series on Health and Climate Change for the British medical journal, *Lancet*. He has worked with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to assess the health impacts of climate change and develop health applications of climate forecasting and remote sensing.

Book Specifications:

CHANGING PLANET, CHANGING HEALTH
How the Climate Crisis Threatens Our Health and What We Can Do about It
By Paul R. Epstein, MD, and Dan Ferber

Foreword by Jeffrey Sachs

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Advance Praise for CHANGING PLANET, CHANGING HEALTH:

"*Changing Planet, Changing Health* is a landmark book that will raise our consciousness about how we should respond to a growing emergency and save lives. Dr. Paul Epstein and journalist Dan Ferber offer stunning revelations about the ways that the climate crisis is jeopardizing food security and accessibility to drinking water while propelling disease vectors that are threatening public health worldwide. This book, the first to solely focus on the connection between the climate crisis and its damaging health effects, sounds a clarion call that shows how we can heal the earth, and ourselves."

—**Al Gore**

"Climate change has brought a new imperative to global health efforts worldwide as the 'changing planet' both contributes to the spread of disease and worsens existing inequities. We must be ambitious in our response and heed the personal, political, economic, and institutional advice so keenly prescribed here by Paul Epstein and Dan Ferber. Our collective failure to intervene, or even to understand, portends disaster. But this volume also shows us just how much we can do to slow or arrest these adverse trends."

—**Paul Farmer, MD, author of *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor* and Co-founder, Partners in Health**

"You'll never find a clearer or smarter explanation of one of the toughest problems the world faces as the Holocene ebbs and the warming era begins."

—**Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature* and *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet***

"Paul Epstein has long been at the forefront in alerting the public and our leaders on the many ways our lives and health are threatened by climate change. Together with journalist Dan Ferber, they have now written the book on the health effects of global warming. From malaria-carrying mosquitoes entering new regions now warm enough to support their life cycle to asthma triggered by higher carbon dioxide concentrations, to lives lost by extreme weather, *Changing Planet, Changing Health* is a vivid reminder of the urgency of the need for action. It can only be hoped that this sweeping and articulate book will trigger a renewed focus on this crucial challenge at a time when so many are distracted by other events."

—**Paul Volberding, MD, University of California, San Francisco**

"This valuable and insightful book provides, in highly readable form, the most basic reason for concern over human source change in the climate system—the impact this change has on our health."

—**Paul Andrew Mayewski, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine**

"Climate change isn't just 'inconvenient' — it *kills*. Bravo to Paul Epstein and Dan Ferber for laying out a clear explication. Deny the heat wave around you? OK, but brace yourself for the hospital bills."

—**Laurie Garrett, Pulitzer Prize winning writer and author of *The Coming Plague***

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—**Deborah Blum, author of *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York***

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