



Research and Innovation Program

The Research and Innovation (R&I) program seeks to catalyze research to advance the understanding of linkages between climate change, human health, and equity. The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) will develop a research agenda centered around research gaps at the intersection of climate change, health, and equity. The program will further catalyze regional research and innovation hubs with the aim to advance action-orientated research and transformative innovation and to reduce the risks from climate change, particularly for countries and communities that are most vulnerable – at the scale and urgency required.

Historically, research and evidence has remained siloed and fragmented which limits the global understanding of the impacts of climate change. The first initiative within the R&I program includes catalyzing regional hubs that will elevate, and support research and innovation led by local and global partners and facilitate uptake and translation to policy. The research hubs will also provide a foundation for capacity building and bidirectional knowledge exchange.

There is a need to correct the historic global imbalance in climate and health research and strengthen research capacity in low- and middle-income countries. The regional hubs would leverage a partnership approach that centers researchers and innovators in low-income countries and bring together diverse stakeholders across regions to share learnings, best practices, solutions, tools, and resources to address climate change impacts on health.

The hubs would serve as a strategic platform for collaborative action to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1. Strengthen regional scientific capacity:** workforce and training; surveillance and monitoring; community engagement; facilitate uptake to policy
- 2. Leverage regional leadership:** creating a shared regional research and innovation agenda that spans borders, disciplines, and sectors
- 3. Accelerate innovation:** identify promising innovations from local communities to maximize their impact across a region; network of researchers and innovators to facilitate collaboration and share lessons learned
- 4. Scale solutions:** share lessons and solutions across countries within a region and across regional hubs

The second initiative within the R&I program includes partnering with Kaiser Permanente to implement a five-phase approach to build a climate and health research agenda and supporting web portal that will be accessible to a wide range of audiences. The research agenda will identify and fill critical evidence gaps in climate and health research by mapping existing research efforts, identifying opportunities and evidence gaps in climate change and health research, facilitating dialogue among experts from a range of disciplines including community representatives, researchers, and policy makers, and catalyzing additional research funding.

The aggregated information from this initiative will serve as a foundation for stronger climate and health communications and informed decision-making.

About the Grand Challenge on Climate Change and Human Health

The R&I program is one pillar of the NAM's Grand Challenge on Human Health and Climate Change - a multi-year global initiative to improve and protect human health, well-being, and equity by working to transform systems that both contribute to and are impacted by climate change. Learn more at nam.edu/ClimateChange.

