As leaders of hospitals and health systems from all around the world, we are deeply concerned by the threat that climate change poses to the health of our patients, their communities and the planet we inhabit.

We know that the solution to climate change, transitioning to a low-carbon economy, will generate substantial health benefits by significantly reducing the burden of disease caused by the combustion of fossil-fuels. Climate-smart, low-carbon solutions, can also power health facilities in areas that have traditionally lacked access to health services, adding health equity gains to climate action.

We have found through our experience over the past decade that these changes often provide economic benefit as well by reducing cost and waste.

We are also clear that health care must build resilience into our systems and facilities so as to best prepare for expected serious climate-change induced extreme weather impacts. Many of us have already made significant commitments to this type of climate-smart health care, both through our own institutions’ actions, and through participation in collective activities such as Health Care Without Harm’s 2020 Health Care Climate Challenge.

As health care providers, we recognize that many of our institutions have a major carbon footprint and that all of us must do our part to address climate change by implementing renewable energy, clean transportation, green building and sustainable procurement strategies.
In December 2015, nations signed the Paris Agreement. Less than a year later, the treaty entered into force with 169 countries now ratifying it. The Agreement commits nations to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions with the ambition of collectively limiting global warming to an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Governments have also agreed to support the most vulnerable countries, which will suffer the worst impacts of climate change. As health care providers we have the opportunity and responsibility to align our actions with the Paris Agreement and support its implementation.

As the world’s governments meet in Bonn, Germany this November to continue to build on the Paris Agreement, we call on our colleagues in hospitals, health systems and ministries of health, as well as manufacturers of medications, medical devices and supplies around the world, to join us in embracing climate-smart health care¹ by taking action to reduce our carbon footprint, build greater health system resiliency, and generate leadership from our sector in protecting public and planetary health from climate change.

www.noharm.org
www.greenhospitals.net

• Hackensack University Medical Center (United States)
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• HC FMB (Brazil)
• HC/UFPR (Brazil)
• HealthPartners (United States)
• Hospital Adventista de Manaus - HAM (Brazil)
• Hospital Albert Einstein (Brazil)
• Hospital Clínica Bíblica (Costa Rica)
• Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina de Botucatu (Brazil)
• Hospital das Clínicas de Botucatu (Brazil)
• Hospital das Clínicas de Ribeirão Preto (Brazil)
• Hospital de Clínicas Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Brazil)
• Hospital Dr. G. Rawson (Argentina)
• Hospital e Maternidade Brasil S/A (Brazil)
• Hospital Estadual Américo Brasiliense (Brazil)
• Hospital Geral Dr Waldemar Alcantara (Brazil)
• Hospital Infantil Los Ángeles (Colombia)
• Hospital Infantil Pequeno Príncipe (Brazil)
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• Hospital León Becerra (Ecuador)
• Hospital Materno Infantil DR. Hector Quintana (Argentina)
• Hospital Nacional de Niños (Costa Rica)
• Hospital Público Estadual Galileu (Brazil)
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• Hospital San Rafael de Pasto (Colombia)
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• Hospital Santa Teresa (Brazil)
• Hospital São Luiz - Unidade Anália Franco (Brazil)
• Hospital Sírio Libanés (Brazil)
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