

# OREGON PSR

## PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Anna,

### **Letter from (former) Co-Interim Executive Directors Ann Turner, MD and Regna Merritt**

Greetings!

As you know, we've served together formally as Interim ED's since January 2025. It has been a stunning 7 months. With you at our side, we've worked to "Build the Good", underscoring the health benefits of strong climate justice plans and electrification. We've worked to "Stop the Bad", resisting broad and specific attacks on science, medical research, climate justice, racial justice, sister non-profits, nuclear safeguards, Medicaid, Medicare, the VA, Community Health Centers, immigrants, Tribal nations, and Palestinians. We thank you, as well as Oregon PSR's dedicated staff and Board!

In late June, members of our Hiring Committee began the search for a permanent ED and were gratified by a huge, positive response. We listened and learned. The Board's September decision to hire Dr. Vincent Intondi is all about organizing, educating and inspiring people to take action. It's about acknowledging the gravest threats we face today. It's about building relationships with young and diverse communities - and building power to shape the future of our state, nation and world. As we continue to "prevent what we cannot cure", Vin represents our tangible hope for the future.

[Here's Vincent's bio.](#)

Please join us in a heartfelt welcome to Vin!

Regna and Ann

P.S. We're not going away. We're very happy to continue serving you as Oregon PSR Board Co-Presidents:)

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**Letter from new Executive Director Vincent Intondi, PhD**

As I enter this new role as Oregon PSR's Executive Director, the world seems to be moving in the wrong direction on multiple fronts. The nuclear threat grows each day as we inch closer to losing the last arms control agreement (New START) with Russia. While the push for nuclear power plants, mining, drilling, and military spending all increase, environmental regulations erode, freedom of speech is under attack, as thousands are taking their last breath as victims of war crimes. It is understandable to be scared, want to disconnect, or feel helpless.

You are not alone. You have power. The choices you make in what you buy, who you follow, what you eat, and who you support are all small acts of resistance. You can - and you do - educate yourself and others on various issues. Every act you take is important because you never know which one will spark a bigger movement that results in change.

Remember the wins. There was a time when the world had over 70,000 nuclear weapons. Today that number is under 13,000. Do not take for granted all the victories from lobbying, tabling, testifying, and organizing throughout Oregon to resist nuclear power plants and making the state a healthier place to live for all our residents. Do not forget the progress you've made on a local level for a just transition to a healthy climate.



We at Oregon PSR will never give up fighting for a more just, healthier, and safer world. As the new Executive Director, I want to personally thank you for all your work, dedication, and support for our mission and I look forward to building with you all in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

Let's get to work!

Vincent

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[Now available:](#)

👤 Videos (in English and Spanish) of our bilingual webinar:

🌟 [Health Benefits of Electrification and Resources to Keep Your Home Climate Resilient](#)

You'll hear from:

- **Dr. Melanie Plaut (Oregon PSR)** on the health benefits of electrification.
- **Bryce McManus (Oregon Department of Energy)** on incentives and programs to make your home more energy-efficient and climate-ready.
- **Abraham Rodriguez Guillen, BS, C-CHW (Health Share of Oregon)** on resources for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members to stay safe and healthy during extreme weather.

📄 Slides from the presentations are also available.

🎵 Credit to mobygratis for music in the videos.

We're proud of the information that was shared in this webinar and would love for you to watch, learn, and share with friends and neighbors. Together, we can build homes and communities that are healthier, safer, and more resilient. ❤️



NUCLEAR ABOLITION DAY  
JOINT APPEAL



[Oregon PSR is endorsing the Joint Appeal for Nuclear Abolition Day.](#)

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility is proud to endorse the joint appeal for Nuclear Abolition Day. The joint appeal urges governments to mark September 26 — the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (also known as Nuclear Abolition Day) and the UN High-Level Meeting on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons — by announcing real plans to prevent nuclear war, move funds from weapons to peace, protect the climate, and meet human needs as promised under Article 26 of the UN Charter.

September 26 is also the 42nd anniversary of Stanislav Petrov's decision to treat as a false alarm early-warning satellite data which incorrectly indicated five incoming ICBMs. Despite having no evidence of the error at the time, Petrov's judgment prevented what likely would have been the launching of a nuclear counterattack. This is just one of many examples of false alarms and close calls that highlight why we must abolish nuclear weapons.

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### **Les AuCoin Lecture with Jeff Goodell** **— Advanced Registration Required**


Oregon PSR is pleased to share an essential upcoming event hosted by Pacific University. On Tuesday, Sept 30, at 7p.m. acclaimed author and investigative journalist **Jeff Goodell** will speak in Forest Grove as the inaugural guest of the **Les AuCoin Human Rights Lecture Series**. Drawing from his latest book, *The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet*, Goodell will discuss the urgent health and humanitarian impacts of rising global temperatures, while also offering hope for solutions.



This free event requires advance registration. For those who want to dive deeper, Pacific's **Boxer Book Club** will be reading and discussing the book in September, with both virtual (Sept. 27) and in-person (Sept. 30) gatherings.

**Reminder:** If you registered for the original date and can attend the rescheduled in-person event on September 30, your tickets are still valid. You don't need to do anything—just bring your tickets, and we'll see you on the 30th!

If you are no longer able to attend, we would greatly appreciate it if you would release your ticket for other guests. We expect seating to be limited. You can cancel your registration with a quick email to [alumni@pacificu.edu](mailto:alumni@pacificu.edu).

 Sept 30, 7 p.m.

 Forest Grove, Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center, McCready Hall

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## [OPHA Conference, October 14th and 15th](#)

Oregon PSR will co-sponsor and table at the Oregon Public Health Association's 81st Annual Conference and Meeting on October 14–15 at the Wingspan Event Center in Hillsboro. As Oregon's premier public health gathering, this conference brings together hundreds of professionals and advocates dedicated to creating healthier, more just communities across our state and region. We look forward to connecting with colleagues, learning from inspiring sessions, and sharing more about our work at the intersection of health, peace, and justice.

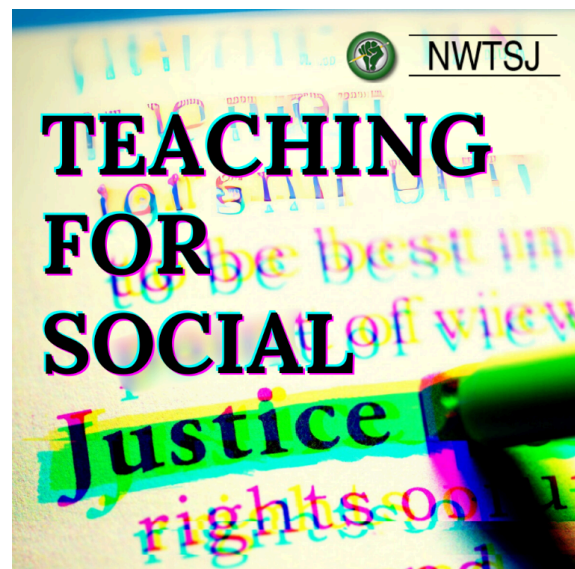
If you're attending, we hope you'll stop by our table—we'd love to see you there!

*On Wednesday, October 15, from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m., HCAT members **Melanie Plaut** and **Patricia Kullberg** will also present on a panel. Dr. Plaut will speak on "Oregon's Hidden Air Pollution Problem: Fossil Fuels in Buildings," and Dr. Kullberg will present "The Health Impacts of Industrial Air Pollution in Portland."*

## [Northwest Teaching for Social Justice Annual Conference: Rethinking Our Classrooms, Organizing for Better Schools](#)

 **October 18, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
 Parkrose High School, Portland, OR

Join educators, organizers, and community members for the 18th annual NWTJSJ Conference, featuring speakers, workshops, and a resource fair focused on hands-on, social justice-centered teaching.



### **Keynotes:**

- **Walidah Imarisha** – Director of the Center for Black Studies and Associate Professor in the Black Studies Department at PSU; author of *Angels with Dirty Faces*; co-editor of *Octavia's Brood* and *Another World Is Possible*; and award-winning public scholar and writer.



- **Jesse Hagopian** – Educator and longtime public school teacher; author of *Teach Truth*; co-editor of *Teaching for Black Lives*, *Teaching Palestine*, and other volumes; editor at *Rethinking Schools* and leader with Black Lives Matter at School.

 [Register here](#) (\$40)

 [For More Info on the Event](#)



### **POWERHOUSE: A Book and Film Forum about Our Nuclear Culture**

Join us for **POWERHOUSE: A Book and Film Forum about Our Nuclear Culture** on Sunday, October 19th, from 3:00–5:00 PM at the Bridgetown Conservatory of Musical Theatre in Portland. This unique event will bring together acclaimed authors and filmmakers to explore the often-hidden health consequences of the atomic and nuclear industries, and to highlight pathways toward a safer, more sustainable future.

Attendees will enjoy film screenings, a panel discussion (***to include our new ED, Dr. Intondi!***), book signings, and the opportunity to engage directly with creators, including Jill Murphy Long, Trisha T. Pritikin, Mark Shapiro, and William Nunez. With tickets priced at \$12—or pay what you can to ensure access for all—this promises to be an enlightening afternoon of learning, dialogue, and community.

[Check out our Events Calendar for Current Info on Upcoming Events](#)

It is a fast paced world and things can change on a dime. This includes dates, times, and locations for events. Be sure to check out our frequently updated events calendar for the most current information on upcoming events.

Is there a local event that aligns with our mission that you think should be included? Reach out to us and we will check it out!



**Speaking of Local Events - Come Say Hello!**

At local events, whenever we have tables up, we encourage you to stop by and say hello! Here's Board Co-President Regna Merritt greeting Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle at the Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair earlier this month. Come learn about the event topics, take a moment to connect with us, and let us get to know you. Change only happens with a community effort and we want to be part of yours.

## [Check Out Our Resources Page](#)

At Oregon PSR, we work to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival by striving to protect our climate, end the nuclear threat, promote peace, and advance justice. However, we don't do this work alone. It is a community effort, and we want you to have the resources and knowledge you need to push back against shared threats. Here you'll find flyers to print, videos to share, and more.

This page will be updated regularly, so be sure to check back often.



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