

## Complutense Declaration on Climate Change and Health

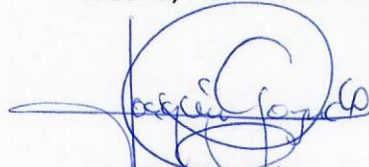
As a follow-up of the fruitful discussions held in the Faculty of Medicine during the Global Climate and Health Summit - 2019, the Complutense University is proud to move a step forward in its engagement against the climate emergency and its harmful consequences for human health.

Thus, Complutense University declare the following principles:

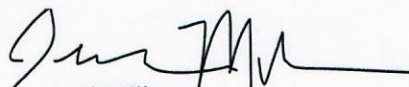
1. We acknowledge the ecological emergency our time is facing, as well as its deleterious consequences on health. We are committed to educating students and the public in such matters by producing quality interdisciplinary scientific research that will help shed light in the subject, specifically tackling local challenges and solutions.
2. We have clear evidence about the middle and long-term economic, social, and health benefits from reducing pollution and promoting healthier environments. Relevant measures must be implemented to improve the infrastructure and energy usage and transition away from fossil fuels to minimize our carbon footprint.
3. More sustainable food systems are possible and, at this point, necessary. Reducing meat consumption and transitioning to plant-based diets will not only benefit the environment but also positively influence our health. Promoting both ideas as a single message is central to the public's understanding of the great benefits this would offer. Measures need to be implemented so that this is achievable for everybody, not just the privileged few.
4. Future healthcare professionals must be prepared to care for their patients and manage their institutions with an understanding of the impacts that climate change will have on health and on the healthcare sector. We are committed to incorporating climate change into the training provided to healthcare students.

Universities are the engine of society, and as such, the responsibility to fuel change must come from within. It is indeed time for action, which cannot be left solely to activists. Building trust and public confidence is essential for effective implementation of principles. Solid scientific knowledge, supported by academics and science, must underlie the messages for both politicians and the people.

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