

## Letter from the Chair: Acknowledging Indigenous People's Day

Dear Friend of GBPSR,

First, I would like to acknowledge Indigenous People's Day, celebrated for the first time in many states across the country yesterday. Greater Boston PSR works on environmental and nuclear issues that affect indigenous communities disproportionately since a significant percentage of nuclear weapons development, disposal and mining, as well as fossil fuel development, happens on indigenous land and the climate crisis affects these communities profoundly.



I believe that looking at land and appreciating it geographically rather than through an extractive lens is very important. The questions that were never asked of indigenous peoples historically are the same questions that concern us here today in Massachusetts regarding the extractive industries. On whose land? By whose consent? For whose benefit? Under whose control? Just as indigenous land has historically been deemed disposable, barren, dead — so it is with land here in Massachusetts that is being claimed for oil and gas development. But taking the geographical viewpoint, one can ask instead: What is this land? What life does it sustain (including human life)? Were those living on and near that land asked about its use? The extractive economy on which nuclear and fossil fuel development depends, relies on a world view of that geographic space as disposable. We at Greater Boston PSR, by contrast, view these lands as ecosystems of actual importance to the people, flora and fauna living there. We are all about lifting up and affirming local voices in our work.

So today — I would like to put indigenous rights in the foreground by continuing to ask these important questions, since the injustices of the past are still omnipresent.

### Fall Events: Yo Yo Ma, Dr. Bernard Lown, Nuclear Webinar

Fall is off to a brisk start for us at Greater Boston PSR. We ended September with our annual event, a spectacular [concert](#) and program co-hosted with IPPNW, featuring Yo-Yo Ma and members of the Longwood Symphony in honor of polymath Dr. Bernard Lown, who throughout his life was steadfast in drawing attention to the myriad public health threats posed by nuclear weapons.

Fast on the heels of that successful evening, Greater Boston PSR and the Massachusetts Medical Society last week co-hosted a webinar, "Nuclear Weapons: A Public Health Issue," focusing on the public health implications of US nuclear weapons policy. The webinar will soon be available to those who missed it on our website.

We are so very grateful to the Lown family, to Yo-Yo Ma, to the many health professionals who volunteer their time to play for the Longwood symphony, and most especially to our excellent speakers at both our annual event and the webinar who volunteered their time and shared their expertise.

## What's up next:

Greater Boston PSR is planning a Climate webinar for the spring — looking at solutions and non-solutions; climate case studies; and specific interventions that clinicians can suggest to patients to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Also in process: we have successfully won the sign-on of almost half of the Boston City Council to a letter to President Biden and Congress calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other important recommendations that aim to make U.S. nuclear weapons policy less dangerous.

Finally, we are starting to think about our next webinar on Nuclear Weapons and Public Health, which will focus on the effects of nuclear weapons development on climate, such as the [warming of the oceans](#) and excessive [rainfall](#), as well as the health effects experienced now by environmental justice and indigenous communities.

## Please Join Us!

We welcome all GBPSR members to join our monthly meetings. We generally start with a 10-minute presentation on a current issue in the climate or nuclear realm. Please join our efforts and lend your skills and interests to our work. If you would like to volunteer your time, [sign up here](#) and send us a message at [info@gbpsr.org](mailto:info@gbpsr.org); if you prefer, you can [donate here](#), online or by check. We have big ideas and big goals — but we need your help. With your donation, we can continue to tackle these critical issues.

Writing from my home in Newton, the ancestral and unceded land of the Massachusetts people, I will close by again acknowledging Indigenous People's Day.

Yours in the common pursuit,



Brita E. Lundberg, M.D.

Chair of the Board

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