



**Penn**  
Dental Medicine  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Center for Integrative  
Global Oral Health

## 3rd Global Oral Health and Climate Change Conference

*“Delivering Oral Health for People, Planet, Peace and Prosperity”*

University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine is hosting the 3rd Global Oral Health and Climate Change Conference during the COP 29 Climate Conference. It will be held online on November 18 the COP 29 [Thematic Days](#), for Human Capital / Children and Youth / Health / Education.

The event seeks to bring together diverse sectors and actors in oral health who are seeking to address the triple planetary crisis, [IPCC interlinked issues that humanity currently faces: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss](#). Each of these issues has its own causes and effects and each issue needs to be resolved if we are to have a viable future on this planet. This requires a collective response, one which creates opportunities and partnerships for action in a consistent, coherent and mutually reinforcing manner, and contributes to safeguarding Earth-system boundaries.

The conference seeks to promote resilient and sustainable oral health through partnerships that deliver services and provide care that meet the needs of today’s populations without compromising the ability of oral health professionals to meet the needs of future generations. The conference brings together a diverse and inclusive range of speakers drawn from across education, research, practice and industry. They will present and discuss innovations and new ways of thinking that enable people to maintain their oral health in daily life and in the face of adversity, trauma, threat or significant sources of stress throughout their lifespan.

The programme is framed two core organisational principles; i. oral health is grounded in the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (17 SDGS / [WHO Resolution on Oral Health 2021](#)), and ii. the six strategic objectives of the [WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan 2023 - 2023](#) and its 100 proposed actions.

The new [WHO](#) and [FDI](#) definitions of oral health provide an opportunity to [change mindsets and promote innovation](#) to tackle high levels of unmet needs, which will require transformation in practice. These definitions create a new narrative for oral health that takes our understanding of oral health beyond the confines of disease and positions it in terms of personal confidence, wellbeing, and arising from and contributing to healthy societies more broadly.

A key focus of this conference will be exploring how dental education can prepare students and practitioners for an increasingly unpredictable future. Addressing the triple planetary crisis will require a [transdisciplinary approach to dental education](#), which is grounded in an understanding of sustainable development to integrate oral health across all 17 SDGs. A special focus on education should include [SDG targets 4.7](#) (Education for sustainable development and global citizenship), [SDG target 12.8](#) (Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles), [SDG target 13.3](#) (Build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change).

The event will launch a series of workshops and webinars that will feed into a hybrid conference in Belém, host city of COP 30 Climate Conference (Brazil, 2025).

#### Key references for event

- WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan (2023–2030), [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/mnd/oral-health/eb152-draft-global-oral-health-action-plan-2023-2030-en.pdf?sfvrsn=2f348123\\_19&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/mnd/oral-health/eb152-draft-global-oral-health-action-plan-2023-2030-en.pdf?sfvrsn=2f348123_19&download=true)
- WHO Global oral health status report: towards universal health coverage for oral health by 2030, <https://www.who.int/team/noncommunicable-diseases/global-status-report-on-oral-health-2022>
- WHO Communicating on climate change and health: Toolkit for health professionals, <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240090224>
- WHO Integrating the social determinants of health into health workforce education and training and chapter on oral health, <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240064256>
- Advancing the concept of global oral health to strengthen actions for planetary health and One Health, <https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-024-02176-6>
- WHO 2024 Resolution Climate Change and Health ‘*training to health professionals on the interdependence between climate change and health, including, among others, bearing in mind a One Health approach as feasible;*’ [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA77/A77\\_ACONF7-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA77/A77_ACONF7-en.pdf)
- Lancet publication, *A just world on a safe planet: a Lancet Planetary Health–Earth Commission report on Earth-system boundaries, translations, and transformations* <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2824%2900042-1>
- United Nations Environment Programme ‘*Navigating New Horizons: A global foresight report on planetary health and human wellbeing*’ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/45890> noting how other sectors are increasingly working within traditional health domains