



## Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin [June 15, 2020]

### NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES

*New York Times:* [A war against climate science, waged by Washington's rank and file](#)

*Efforts to block research on climate change don't just come from the Trump political appointees on top. Lower managers in government are taking their cues and running with them.*

*Science:* [Fifty-four scientists have lost their jobs as a result of NIH probe into foreign ties](#)

*An investigation by the National Institute of Health has resulted in the resignation or termination of 54 scientists due to the failure of NIH grant recipients to disclose financial ties to foreign governments.*

*The Guardian:* [Coronavirus crisis could cause \\$25tn fossil fuel industry collapse](#)

*The coronavirus outbreak could trigger a \$25tn (£20tn) collapse in the fossil fuel industry by accelerating a terminal decline for the world's most polluting companies.*

*The Washington Post:* [FDA revokes emergency authorization for antimalarial drugs touted by Trump as covid-19 treatment](#)

*The FDA said it had concluded that it "is no longer reasonable to believe" that hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine are effective in treating the disease. "Nor is it reasonable to believe," the agency said, "that the known and potential benefits of these products outweigh their known and potential risks."*

*Grist:* [A bill in Congress could get to the bottom of how coronavirus links air pollution and racism](#)

*The Environmental Justice COVID-19 Act, which would allocate an additional \$50 million to existing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant programs and prioritize that funding for projects that "investigate or address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in environmental justice communities."*

*The New York Times:* [Trump Rally Is the 'Perfect Storm Setup,' for Viral Spread, Disease Expert Says](#)

*Indoor rallies with no mask requirements threaten to drastically increase the spread of the virus. The Southern and Western United States have recently seen dramatic increases in cases, and public health experts expect a jump in corona-related deaths by July 4<sup>th</sup>.*

*Newsweek:* [It will be several years before COVID-19 vaccine is available to everyone, doctor leading global efforts says](#)

*Richard Hatchett, the CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), explained that there is "no scenario" where there will be an excess of vaccine supplies in 2021, and it is anticipated that some vaccines may need to be administered twice to be protective.*

*Reuters:* [Thailand ends curfew, marks 21 days with no local coronavirus cases](#)

Officials have credited Thais' early adoption of wearing masks - ubiquitous in public since January - as well as its border closure, shuttering of many business and the curfew for the retreat of the new virus that has infected 7.9 million worldwide and killed more than 430,000.

Reuters: [U.S. Democratic Party irked by council's 'insurgent' climate plan](#)

*The Democratic National Committee's council on climate change irked party leadership when it published policy recommendations this month that ventured beyond presidential candidate Joe Biden's plan. Biden is being advised by a panel led by U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has called for a vast government-run effort to move away from fossil fuels, and John Kerry, who helped negotiate the Paris climate agreement as President Barack Obama's Secretary of State.*

NPR: [As EPA steps back, states face wave of requests for environmental leniency](#)

*Some of the country's most polluting industries have flooded state regulators with requests to ease environmental regulations, according to an NPR review of hundreds of state environmental records. Companies across the country say the pandemic is interfering with their ability to comply with laws that protect the public from pollution.*

The Guardian: ['Their greed is gonna kill us': Indian Country fights against more fracking](#)

*The US Bureau of Land Management is considering expanding drilling into some of the last public lands in New Mexico, threatening historic archaeological sites that hold UNESCO world heritage status and posing additional health concerns to indigenous communities in the area.*

Science: [Coronavirus forces United States, United Kingdom to cancel Antarctic field research](#)

*The National Science Foundation and the British Antarctic Survey have cancelled most of their planned summer Antarctic research, including work on the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration which studies the ice sheet most at risk for near-term melting.*

The New York Times: [Where's Airborne Plastic? Everywhere, Scientists Find](#)

*Microplastics are carried by air currents to remote places across the globe. Areas of wilderness in the Western United States receive 123 million-300 million plastic bottles worth of particulates each year.*

Nature: [Good news: US classrooms are warming to evolution, thanks in part to scientist outreach](#)

*Class time devoted to teaching evolution increased by almost 90% from 2007 to 2019, with the presentation of creationism as a scientifically valid alternative decreasing from 32% to 18%. This change is partially due to scientists partnering with teacher groups to create learning resources and testifying and writing opinion pieces for schoolboards across the country.*

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

IDS: [Federal, local government clash in legal battle over Hoosier National Forest project](#)

*The Monroe County government, The Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA), the Hoosier Environmental Council, and plant biochemist David Simcox filed a lawsuit against the United States Forest Service concerning the Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project, which is intended to "promote tree growth, reduce insect and disease levels and move the landscape toward desired conditions." The plan could take up to 20 years and involves burning, clear cutting, and harvesting that could pollute Lake Monroe with soil and nutrient runoff.*

WFYI: [Indiana Negotiates Deal With Worst Utility Permit Violator](#)

*An Indiana utility that committed the most permit violations in the state in the last three years is negotiating a deal with state environmental regulators to keep one of its power plants open.*

IDS: [Increase in household waste, disposable container use in Bloomington during coronavirus](#)

*The unforeseen increase has resulted in cuts to supplies and the cancellation of capital improvement projects. Policy changes at local grocery stores and an increase in take-out food consumption have also contributed to the uptick in trash, as everything from reusable cups at coffee shops to the dishes people eat with at restaurants were replaced with plastic and Styrofoam versions.*

## **OPINION AND ANALYSIS**

*New York Times: [The Scientist, the Air, and the Virus](#)*

*Virginia Tech's Linsey Marr unlocks the invisible world of airborne particles.*

*Scientific American: [Keeping schools closed next fall could worsen science's diversity problem](#)*

*While the ultimate decision will likely be contingent upon health and safety of children and their families, prolonged virtual learning may worsen educational inequalities. Therefore, it is imperative for government, policy, and community leaders to invest in creative, sustainable, and collaborative solutions.*

*Inside Higher Ed: [Half the sample: Study says biological research still treats female subjects as an afterthought](#)*

*Some 49 percent of studies across nine biological fields included both male and female research subjects in 2019, up significantly from the data from 2009. Yet there was no increase over time in the share of studies to analyze the data concerning female subjects. Most studies just lumped in the males with the females.*

*Scientific American: [For scientific institutions, racial reconciliation requires reparations](#)*

*C. Brandon Ogbunu argues for a "destroy and rebuild" approach to fundamental pillars of the profession: a complete rethinking of the institution of prestige, norms of collaboration, authorship, publishing, the process of promotion, the very idea of meritorious contribution, and informal notions what an intelligent idea actually is.*

*Live Science: [Amazing Black scientists](#)*

*Black scientists have launched us into space, discovered new disease treatments and developed world-changing technologies, yet the achievements and contributions of Black people in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields are too-often forgotten or unrecognized as a result of systemic racism.*

*E & E News: [Resignation cites science group's 'traumatic' culture on race](#)*

*A Black staff member of the Union of Concerned Scientists has penned a resignation letter that sharply criticizes the nonprofit's culture. Ruth Tyson painted a picture of an office culture dominated by white men, and she sought to warn other people of color.*

## **TAKE ACTION**

*UCS: [10 Things that the scholarly community can do to stand in solidarity](#)*

*UCS's Fernando Tormos-Aponte offers an action plan to address the scientific community's problematic relationship with race.*

*Our CSIU news bulletin is intended to provide a brief update on recent news, editorials, as well as action items related to science integrity and science policy. Note that editorial pieces and action items are assembled from a variety of sources and organizations; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy priorities of Concerned Scientists @ IU. This week's news bulletin was compiled by ASIU and IU biology major Emma Hand and CSIU member Christoph Irmscher of IU's Department of English. We're*

looking for volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer—or if you have additional links you'd like to share for future bulletins, send them to Christoph at [cirmsche@indiana.edu](mailto:cirmsche@indiana.edu).

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