

Eric Chivian M.D.

Director, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School
Shared 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

Dr. Eric Chivian holds an A.B. degree cum Laude in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard College, and a M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He is Founder and Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment, and an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, at Harvard Medical School. In 1980, he co-founded (with Professors Bernard Lown, Herbert Abrams, and James Muller) International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

During the past 14 years, Dr. Chivian has worked to involve physicians in the United States and abroad in efforts to protect the environment, and to increase public understanding of the potential human health consequences of global environmental change. As part of these activities, he designed and organized the 1992 MIT/Harvard School of Public Health symposium "Human Health and the Environment: the Medical Consequences of Environmental Degradation", and was senior editor and author of MIT Press' *Critical Condition: Human Health and the Environment*. The book, published in 1993, the first on the subject for a general audience, has been used as a text at several medical schools, schools of public health, and universities in the United States and abroad. Editions have been published in German, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, and Persian.

In 1996, Dr. Chivian founded and became director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, the first center at a medical school in the United States focusing on the human health dimensions of global environmental change. The Center (designated an official "Collaborating Center" of the United Nations Environment Programme) has developed and directed the Harvard Medical School course "*Human Health and Global Environmental Change*" (which has been disseminated to 62 other medical schools, colleges, and universities in the U.S. and abroad); has held briefings and courses for the U.S. Congress; has been a consultant to the U.S. State Department, the Department of Defense, NOAA, NASA, and the EPA; and has advised the Environmental Ministers of the G8 nations on the health impacts of global climate change

Currently, he directs a project under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Conservation Union that is preparing the most comprehensive report yet available on the subject "Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity," which will be published as a book in the Fall of 2006 by Oxford University Press, and presented to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the U.S. Congress, the European Union, and other policy-maker bodies.

Dr. Chivian has lectured widely in the U.S. and abroad, and has appeared on national television and radio and in the print media in several countries. He has over 40 publications. His area of interest is the human health consequences of habitat degradation, species loss, and ecosystem disruption.