Are Physicians Ready to Take up Leadership Roles in Planetary Health?

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- Physicians’ role is primarily thought to provide patient care.
- They also contribute to improve healthcare systems & health indicators.
- However, their role in planetary health has not been established nor defined yet.
- Young Physician Leaders Programme (YPL) is a flagship training programme of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) – the parent academy of 149 national science academies worldwide.
- IAP has a mission to “foster the next generation of research and science policy leaders” by strengthening critical capacities for leadership.

Young Physician Leaders (YPL) at a glance

- YPL programme is running since 2011.
- It has 21 new members and 231 Alumni across 5 continents.
- Each year, national academies send their nominations to IAP and its expert medical panel selects the new cohort (~20 members).
- World Health Summit, MB Alliance and European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) are main programme partners, among others.

GLOBAL SURVEY

- Out of 235 physician leaders approached, 77 (33%) completed survey.
- 51% were female. Majority (73%) represented LMICs.
- 52% of the respondents were engaged in clinical practice, 60% in research, 29% in strategic and policymaking roles, 14% in bureaucracy.

Physician leaders’ communities represent highly educated and respected professionals and apt science communicators, so they could be the most suitable messengers, debaters, and negotiators for planetary health.

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