Abu Dhabi University and POP Movement Conclude Landmark Symposium Linking Climate Change, Cancer, and Youth Innovation



ABU DHABI, UAE, 16th October, 2026: Climate change is no longer just an environmental crisis; it has officially become a major driver of the global disease burden. Rising temperatures, ecological disruption, and toxic environmental exposures are actively altering human biology, accelerating chronic illnesses, and shifting cancer patterns worldwide. Because the next generation inherits both a warming planet and these escalating public health threats, young researchers must lead the search for solutions.

To confront this urgent reality, Abu Dhabi University (ADU), in partnership with the POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement, concluded the Hybrid Student Symposium on Climate, Cancer, and Youth Futures. The two-day event, which

ran on October 10 and 16, 2026, served as a powerful interdisciplinary platform where undergraduate students, early-career researchers, and global faculty united to bridge the gap between environmental degradation and human health.

The symposium challenged young minds to move past passive climate anxiety and step into active scientific inquiry. Participants presented groundbreaking original research across specialized tracks, exploring topics ranging from environmental carcinogenesis and host-microbiome interactions to sustainable precision strategies for cancer prevention.



"*We cannot solve tomorrow's health crises with yesterday's isolated approaches*," said Dr. Ash Pachauri, Co-Founder and Senior Mentor, POP Movement who was facilitated at the event in recognition of the organization's vital partnership. "*Young people possess the clarity and urgency needed to break down academic silos. By giving them a platform to lead these complex scientific dialogues, we didn't just prepare them for the future- we empowered them to actively build a healthier, more sustainable world right now*."

The event structure emphasized both rigorous academic exchange and actionable community outcomes. Day 1 featured intense student oral presentations and digital poster showcases, where peers reviewed submissions to maintain high scientific standards. The symposium wrapped up on Day 2 with a high-profile recognition ceremony featuring expert-led panels, youth-faculty dialogues, and encore presentations from the top selected winners. Outstanding papers submitted during the event will now gain global visibility through publication opportunities in respected journals, including a topical collection in Discover Molecules by Springer Nature.



“The intersection of climate change and oncological risk is one of the most pressing, yet under-explored frontiers in medicine,” noted Dr. Saroj Pachauri, Director and Climate-Health Mentor, POP Movement. “We must understand exactly how environmental stressors alter our immunity and molecular pathways. This symposium gave early-career scientists the tools to translate raw data into real-world prevention strategies and community advocacy.”

Through this successful collaboration, Abu Dhabi University and the POP Movement have established a lasting framework where youth-driven research directly informs public health policies and local community action.

See the Video

About POP Movement

POP Movement is a global youth-led initiative committed to advancing climate action and sustainability through education, innovation and empowerment. Founded by Late Dr. R.K. Pachauri (Nobel Prize Laureate on behalf of IPCC), POP Movement works with young people around the world to foster leadership for a sustainable future. Through its flagship initiatives POP Academy, YouthCAN which are designed for youth and aspiring climate leaders, POP provides education, mentorship and opportunities to lead real-world projects aimed at achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Check out POPPIX, your pocket-sized planet mentor.

For More Information
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