Media Advisory
 WNC Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility to
 Celebrate Win of 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

 December 10, in Oslo Norway, the Nobel Committee will present the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The prize is an acknowledgement of the work of the Campaign in helping to bring the world a new treaty that, as of December 20th, will prohibit nuclear weapons.

 ICAN is composed of partner organizations worldwide, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) is one organization from the United States that is part of the Campaign. PSR was founded during the Cold War by physicians who stepped forward to declare that it was their social responsibility to work for nuclear disarmament because nuclear war is a disease that has no cure—only prevention. The Western North Carolina Chapter of PSR is one of the oldest, and most active chapters. In a very real sense, we are part of the Nobel Peace Prize this year.

 Since 2014 the Chapter’s activity has included engagement directly with the United Nations and the work towards the new treaty. WNC PSR member Mary Olson was invited to speak at the December 2014 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons on medical consequences of using nuclear weapons, including her work on the disproportionate impact of radiation on women and girls, compared to Reference Man, used for establishing radiation regulations (video). Olson’s work is in addition to groundbreaking contributions from PSR Board Member, Dr Ira Helfand, on dramatic damage to Earth’s climate from even a limited nuclear exchange (video).

 The Vienna Conference was a watershed moment in the resolve of the United Nations to move ahead to ban nuclear weapons under Humanitarian Law. WNC PSR hosted Olson’s report-back from that event, and subsequent UN events associated with the new nuclear Treaty. In 2017 WNC PSR was the fiscal sponsor for three days of educational events inside the UN where experts and witnesses from various allied organizations presented evidence on the need for and value of a treaty to ban nuclear like all other WMDs have been to date. Olson coordinated ten speakers in four events, supported by WNC PSR members and friends, some of who traveled to New York to participate. (video)

 November 9th, the Home Office of PSR, in Washington DC held a gala event to celebrate leaders, including Helfand who helped to bring this new treaty into being. WCN PSR member Brita Clark traveled to the Capitol to attend the event.

 **The WNC PSR has decided to CELEBRATE these events by inviting our community to a party. We invite members of the media to attend.

 You Are Invited to a Celebration of the Season of Peace & A New Hope for World Peace
 Thursday, December 14 5 – 8 PM

 Friendship Hall of the First Congregational United Church of Christ
 20 Oak Street, Asheville NC 28801—enter at South end of bldg at ground-level, set back from street down sidewalk-way
 Map

 We will serve a light meal at 6pm. Social time, short program and music at Friendship Hall.**