

## CLIMATE ACTIVIST RAINN WILSON JOINS FORCES WITH ARCTIC BASECAMP TO HOST VIRTUAL PANEL ON ACCELERATING CLIMATE EMERGENCY

*World-Class Scientists Will Join Together to Discuss Bold Climate Action*

**NEW YORK – September 16, 2020** – [Arctic Basecamp](#), a global nonprofit organization whose mission is to shed light on the unprecedented rate of Arctic change and its global implications on the environment, economies and societies, has announced a free virtual panel to sound the alarm on the growing climate emergency. The virtual panel will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 9am PST / 12pm EST. Hosted by **Emmy-nominated actor and climate activist Rainn Wilson**, the panel will include:

- Arctic Basecamp founder **Professor Gail Whiteman** – scientific expert on global risk
- **Dr. Jennifer Francis**, Woodwell Climate Research Center – scientific expert on the link between Arctic change and extreme weather in the mid-latitudes including the California wildfires
- **Professor Julienne Stroeve**, University of Manitoba & University College London – scientific expert on Arctic sea ice
- **Julia Jackson**, founder of Grounded, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify and advance scalable climate crisis solutions to ensure a thriving planet

This year, wildfires have burned more than 3.2 million acres across California. At the same time, September also marks only the second time that the Arctic sea ice extent has fallen below 4 million square kilometers. The Arctic has also experienced the hottest temperatures ever recorded and has had unprecedented wildfires.

These extremes of fire and ice are intimately connected. The effects of climate change in the world's northernmost point have a direct impact on extreme weather around the globe, including the wildfires happening right now.

“The warming Arctic is a stark reminder of the climate emergency,” said Professor Whiteman. “If the world’s COVID-19 economic recovery plans are not low-carbon compliant, then the world will be in more trouble than ever before. This is a warning cry, and world leaders must act now.”

“As the Arctic sea ice nears a new record minimum, the Western U.S. burns and the Atlantic records the 14th earliest-ever storm in the alphabet – all of these are connected fingerprints of climate change,” said Dr. Francis. “While the threat of climate change is hitting home for many, it’s not too late to take action.”

In September 2019, the Arctic ice was close to an all-time low as Greenland melted significantly and Arctic peatland fires were raging. During that time, Wilson had traveled to Greenland with Arctic Basecamp to raise awareness of the effects of warming Arctic temperatures. He documented his journey for a new six-episode YouTube series called “An Idiot’s Guide to Climate Change.”

“While in Greenland with Arctic Basecamp’s talented team of scientists, my mind was blown by the data about climate change and the Arctic,” said Wilson. “As they say, ‘What happens in the Arctic doesn’t stay in the Arctic,’ and I’m doing my utmost to get this crucial information out there to protect our beautiful planet.”

To register for free access to the virtual panel and submit questions in advance, please email [media@arcticbasecamp.org](mailto:media@arcticbasecamp.org).

For more information about Arctic Basecamp, please visit <https://arcticbasecamp.org>.

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### **About Arctic Basecamp**

Founded by Professor Gail Whiteman, Arctic Basecamp is a unique high-profile science solutions communication platform with a mission to 'speak science to power' in order to encourage bold climate action. For the past four consecutive years, Arctic Basecamp has successfully hosted high-level events at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. Arctic Basecamp works with global scientists, world-class organizations and individuals to raise awareness of the global risks from Arctic change and highlight the urgent need for scalable solutions to climate change. Arctic Basecamp's partners and speakers have included UN Global Goals, WWF, Al Gore, Christiana Figueres, former and current heads of state, student activist Greta Thunberg and youth climate delegates from around the world, actor Rainn Wilson, music star Ellie Goulding, artist Banksy, model and author Lily Cole, global business leaders and networks such as The World Business Council for Sustainable Development, The B-team, We Mean Business and civil society organizations including Mission2020, The Club of Rome, HubCulture and Extinction Rebellion.

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