

Report on the Activities of the ISEE European Chapter

Period June 2020 – November 2020

Organization

The European chapter, including elected and associated members, has continued its work with monthly conference calls and committee interactions.

We have changed some roles and people on our Chapter as we continue to bring a fresh perspective to our Chapter. We held our latest election in September with four candidates running for three positions. This year 66% of ISEE Europe members voted in the ISEE Europe elections, which is a record-breaking turnout. We are pleased to announce that Petter Ljungman (Karolinska Institutet), Kurt Straif (ISGlobal) and Elaine Fuertes (Imperial College) were elected. We are also happy to welcome Artur Badyda (Warsaw University of Technology) as an associate member to our chapter. We thank our outgoing councilors Danielle Vienneau, Ulrike Gehring and Mireille Toledano for their contributions to the European Chapter, and we look forward to their continuation as associate members.

Furthermore, Aina Roca Barcelo (Imperial College) joined as associate member and SNRN representative, as well as Temitope Adebayo (University of Basel). We thank Charlie Roscoe for all her contributions to the chapter.

ISEE Young Conference

The virtual **ISEE Young** conference will be held in Basel on February 17-19, 2021. It is aimed at early career researchers, and promotes scientific communication and discussion, fosters networking and collaborations, and is an opportunity to exchange experiences and new ideas in the field of environmental epidemiology. The call for abstracts has closed and 134 abstracts were received. The local and scientific organising committees are now working hard to put together an exciting programme and interactive online experience.

Keynote speakers include Maria Foraster (IS Global, Barcelona), Melissa Penny (Swiss TPH, Basel), Nina Iszatt (NIPH, Oslo) and Virissa Lenters (UMC, Utrecht). Additionally, the special plenary features world leading ISEE scientists discussing climate change, health and sustainability in a changing world. In the main programme, ISEE Young will include three parallel sessions for the regular orals and speed talks. Student awards will include best abstract selected by the scientific organising committee, and real-time voting used to select the best speed talks. Social and networking opportunities include the pre-conference kick-off event, early morning fitness, and facilitated networking in the online café.

<https://www.swisstph.ch/en/about/events/isee-young-2021/>

Education and communication

ISEE Europe, The Health Effects Institute, and the European Respiratory Society, are organizing a webinar to discuss environmental health research needs and policies to inform the European Green Deal in these challenging times. This virtual meeting, titled “**Air Pollution and COVID-19: Clearing the Air and Charting a Post-Pandemic Course,**” will be held on December 2 from 4–5:30 p.m. CET. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has

profoundly impacted the world. Disruptions to and closures of businesses, schools, and industrial activities, along with unprecedented restrictions on travel, have led to reductions in emissions and improvements in air quality in some locations. Webinar participants will discuss air pollution and health in the context of the pandemic.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bkWQWmSvQu2yMiH22Qz0Eg

ISEE Europe, the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine and Oeschger Center for Climate Change Research, are organizing a webinar to discuss current developments in climate change attribution, in particular with regards to health impacts, and the potential implications of attribution and detection studies for defining the 'cause' in law. This virtual meeting, titled "**Attributing health impacts to climate change**," will be held on December 3 from 5-6.30 p.m. CET. Climate change is already impacting human health, and it is expected that climate-sensitive health risks will amplify over the coming decades as global warming progresses. Webinar participants will discuss the attribution of health impacts to climate change.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/webinar-attributing-health-impacts-to-climate-change-tickets-128845874479>

We are planning two additional webinars on different topics related to climate change and health in early 2021. In addition, we have preliminary plans for a follow-up meeting on air pollution and health in 2021, after the successful January 2020 joint meeting, together with WHO and others. The workshop report has recently been published in the European Respiratory journal

<https://erj.ersjournals.com/content/erj/56/5/2002575.full.pdf?ijkey=iExzp3aF8DivT>

We have issued two newsletters in the current reporting period – in June and in November 2020. Those newsletters are sent to all ISEE Europe members to keep them abreast of the latest activities. We continuously revamp our website to keep it up to date with courses and news. <http://www.isee-europe.com/>

Other activities

We were informed by the main council recently that the Europe membership is declining, and we will actively work to strengthen and promote the chapter membership. We hope ISEE Young will contribute, as registrations for Students and Early Career Researchers include a 1-year discounted ISEE membership.

We are working actively together with members of the HERA project to get actively involved in the HORIZON Europe program.

We have started thinking about future chapter activities in Central-Eastern European countries, a region with some of the most polluted countries in Europe, especially with Arthur joining our chapter. We hope to increase our membership in this region as well.