

# Report on the Activities of ISEE European Chapter

Period June 2019 - November 2019

## *Organization*

The committees of the European Chapter, including elected and associated members, have continued their 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 two positions. We are pleased to announce that Benedicte Jacquemin was re-elected, and that Ana Vicedo-Cabrera from the University of Bern was newly elected. In addition, we are fortunate to add three new associate members: Elaine Fuertes, Marie Pedersen and Nina Torcelino-Iszatt to join our Chapter. We very much look forward working together. We have two new co-chairs with equal status that were voted in recently: Hanna Boogaard and Tamara Schikowski. We say a huge thank you to Mireille Toledano and Danielle Vienneau for their great work as chairs, and we are looking forward to continue working with them in their new roles.

The following elected and associate members have stepped down recently: We would like to express our gratitude to Martine Vrijheid, Evi Samoli, Simon Birkett and Shimi Chen for all their contributions.

## *Conferences*

Several people on our Committee served on the Scientific Committee of ISEE Utrecht, a conference which we all agree was a great success. Attendance at our European Chapter meeting in Utrecht was large. We gave an update on our activities and had time for member feedback and to discuss ideas for future directions. We are pleased to announce that we have recruited three enthusiastic associate members to help us continue and expand our activities.

We have started to prepare for the 4th ISEE Young Conference, which will be held in Basel on February 17-19, 2021. We follow the model of the Munich conference, with a separate local organizing (LOC) and scientific organizing committees (SOC). Danielle Vienneau is chair of the LOC. Benedicte Jacquemin and Massimo Stafoggia are the co-chairs of the SOC. More news will be shared in due course.

## *Main activities*

The main Europe Chapter priorities for 2019/2020 are:

- Ongoing involvement in EU policy issues
  - Joint ISEE/ERS/WHO/HEI meeting
- Further capacity building: i.e., Masterclasses
  - Reaching out to eastern European countries
- Communications and collaborations:
  - Strengthen website and other communications
  - European Respiratory Society, national epidemiology societies, WHO, HEI, EPA, and others

- 4th European Young and Early Career Conference
- Continued lobbying for an environment and health research agenda in the EU

### ***Education and communication***

The ISEE Europe Chapter, the European Respiratory Society, the Polish Respiratory Society and the National Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases are pleased to announce a November 25-26, 2019 meeting, which was held in Warsaw, Poland. The event is also supported by the European Commission in Poland.

The objective was to increase awareness, knowledge and capacity on current air pollution and health issues. Participating stakeholders included the WHO office in Poland, citizens, environmental epidemiologists, health professionals and (local) politicians. Day one will be a masterclass with the latest science on the adverse health effects of air pollution. Day two will be an advocacy best strategies workshop. The first day had presentations from Veronica Manfredi from the directorate general for the Environment from the European Commission, Prof. Michal Kryzanowski, from King's College London, Dr. Maciej Strak from the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in Utrecht as well as Prof. Zorana Anderson from the University of Copenhagen. The second day was a hands-on workshop on air pollution advocacy in Poland. The Masterclass was very well received and we thank all of those involved in making it happen, specifically Tamara Schikowski and Barbara Hoffman and colleagues from the ERS. We have advertised this meeting widely. Please find additional details here <http://www.isee-europe.com/blog/isee-europe-chapter-respiratory-society-meeting>

We will issue a new 2019 ISEE Europe newsletter early December and distributed it to all ISEE members based in Europe. In addition, we keep revamping our website and we see an uptick in visitors as we strive to keep it up to date and lively. For example, we regularly update the news and events page, and we have redesigned the blog to encourage wider engagement. Lastly, after a successful pilot using Basecamp for internal communications within the ISEE Europe chapter, we adopted this channel as the main form of communications going forward.

### ***Policy***

There are two major ongoing evaluations that will shape air quality policies in Europe and beyond in the near future. DG Environment has recently completed their evaluation of the Air Quality Directives [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/aqd\\_fitness\\_check\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/aqd_fitness_check_en.htm), and the WHO is updating the Global Air Quality Guidelines. To help inform upcoming air quality decisions in the European Union, ISEE-Europe, World Health Organization, the Health Effects Institute and the European Respiratory Society will hold a joint meeting on January 21–22, 2020 in Brussels, Belgium.

Participants in the meeting, titled “Air Pollution and Health: Recent Advances to Inform EU Policies,” will review the latest science on major pollutants such as PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> as a key step in evaluating whether to update Europe’s air quality policies. The meeting will present findings from recent research and key reviews by WHO, DG Environment, DG Research and Innovation, and others, on air pollution health effects from Europe and North America. The workshop will address several important questions, including whether there is a concentration below which no adverse health effects are observed for the major pollutants.

This high-level workshop targets European and national policy makers and regulators, as well as representatives from societal bodies that are engaged and active in the area of air pollution and health effects.

The agenda is almost final and most of the speakers are confirmed. We have begun advertising the meeting widely. Please find more information here: <http://www.isee-europe.com/blog/air-pollution-and-health-recent-advances-to-inform-eu-policies>  
There was an EU Clean Air forum meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia at the end of November 2019, which is organized by the European Commission. Several ISEE Europe members, including Hanna Boogaard and Barbara Hoffmann have attended this important meeting. The meeting brought together decision-makers, stakeholders and experts on the above topics in a two-day conference to reflect on the development and implementation of effective European, national and local air policies, projects and programmes.

### ***Other activities***

Depending on how the masterclass in Poland will be received, and the meeting in Bratislava, we may want to replicate a masterclass in other Eastern countries where this could be needed/of interest. Thus we will continue to collaborate with the ERS to evaluate feasibility of future Masterclasses on topics of mutual interest.

In addition, we are exploring ways to engage more with the Climate organizations such as EGU - European Geosciences Union - <https://www.egu.eu>. Ana Vicedo-Cabrera is spearheading this initiative.