



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Website: www.iseepi.org

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Tony Fletcher, *President-elect*
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Dean B. Baker, MD, MPH, *Secretary-Treasurer*

December 1, 2002

To: ISEE members

From: Dean Baker, MD, MPH
Secretary-Treasurer

Re: Fall 2002 Newsletter

Highlights in this Newsletter

- ❖ *Annual ISEE Election*
- ❖ *Call for Goldsmith and Research Integrity Awards nominations*
- ❖ *2002 Annual Conference in Vancouver, Canada*
- ❖ *Update on Future Annual Conferences*
- ❖ *Committee and Chapter Reports*

I am pleased to send you the Fall ISEE Newsletter. This Newsletter is being distributed primarily by e-mail. The Society will provide printed editions to any member who does not have access to e-mail and to those who would prefer to receive a printed version. Please contact the Secretariat if you have received this newsletter by e-mail and would prefer to be mailed a printed version of this and future newsletters.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UPDATE AND ANNUAL ELECTION

During this past Summer, Victor Borja-Aburto resigned as Councilor due to increased time constraints. The Executive Council appointed Lizbeth Lopez-Carillo of the National Institute of Public Health, Cuernavaca, Mexico, to serve as an interim Councilor. Lizbeth was subsequently elected by the ISEE membership during the general membership meeting in Vancouver to complete the term of office through 2003. We welcome Lizbeth to the Executive Council. The other Councilors are: Richard Clapp, Boston, USA; Gwen Collman, Research Triangle Park, USA; Klea Katsouyanni, Athens, Greece; Stephanie London, North Carolina, USA; and Francesco Forastiere, Rome, Italy.

Gwen Coleman and Klea Katsouyanni will complete their terms of office at the end of December. Klea was also the conference organizer for the 1999 annual conference in Athens, Greece, and serves as co-chair of the Eastern Mediterranean Chapter. In addition, Bert Brunekreef will complete his one year term as Past President. Bert was the conference organizer for the 1995 Annual Conference in The Netherlands and has served as President-elect, President, and now Past President. He will continue as the chair of the Awards Committee. Gwen, Klea, and Bert have provided outstanding service to the Society, for which we thank them.

The ballot for this year's election has been mailed to current members. Please vote for Secretary-Treasurer and two Councilors, and return your ballots as soon as possible. They are due by January 3, 2003

CALL FOR GOLDSMITH AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The ISEE Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for Society awards. The John Goldsmith award is presented annually, while the Research Integrity award is presented periodically. The awardees will be honored at the annual conference in Perth, Western Australia. Please read the following announcements for instructions.

John Goldsmith Award for Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Epidemiology

The ISEE Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2003 John Goldsmith Award for "sustained and outstanding contributions to the knowledge and practice of environmental epidemiology." The award will be presented at the 2003 annual meeting in Perth, Western Australia, in September 2003. The recipient will present the John Goldsmith lecture at the meeting.

This annual award has been named to honor John Goldsmith, one of the organizers, early leaders, and supporters of the ISEE, who passed away in 1999. This award recognizes environmental epidemiologists who, like John Goldsmith, serve as models of excellence in research, unwavering promotion of environmental health, and integrity.

Any member of the ISEE (except members of the Awards Committee) may make nominations. A letter of nomination should include a description of the major contributions of the nominee to the science of environmental epidemiology, her/his impact on the field and on public health policy. A brief curriculum vitae or biographical sketch of the nominee should be included as well as some key publications. Supporting letters from others familiar with the contributions of the nominee are welcome. Nominations and supporting letters should be sent to the Chair of the Awards Committee and must be postmarked no later than **March 15, 2003**.

ISEE Research Integrity Award Nominations Welcome for 2003

The ISEE Council has established a Research Integrity Award to recognize those who have remained true to the core values of the profession by maintaining objectivity in protecting the public health interest above any other interest. This Award will be made periodically at the discretion of the ISEE Council and with acceptance of the awardee. A letter of nomination should include contact information for the nominee and a detailed (1-2 page) description of the reasons why the nominee should receive the Research Integrity Award. For 2003, nominations should reach the Chair of the Awards Committee no later than **March 15, 2003**.

PURPOSE: The field of environmental epidemiology often touches on issues that have policy implications. Thus, our research may affect or be perceived to affect parties with vested interests, either social or financial. For these reasons, epidemiologists may be subjected to pressures that run counter to the goals of scientific endeavors designed to provide understanding of the environmental influences on human health. In this context, The ISEE Research Integrity Award has been established to honor environmental epidemiologists who protect public health above any other interest. Researchers who have demonstrated exceptional integrity in withstanding pressures contrary to the profession's core value of protecting public health are eligible. The Award recognizes a researcher who withstands unusual pressure to distort, suppress or modify her/his line of inquiry, findings and/or their interpretation.

Nominations should be sent to: Bert Brunekreef, PhD
Chair, ISEE Awards Committee
Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences, Utrecht University
PO Box 80176
3508 TD Utrecht, The Netherlands
Email: b.brunekreef@iras.uu.nl
Fax: 31 30 2535077

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN VANCOUVER, CANADA

The 14th ISEE Annual Conference was held jointly with the International Society of Exposure Analysis (ISEA) in Vancouver, Canada on the campus of The University of British Columbia, August 11- 15, 2002. The theme was “*Linking Exposures and Health: Innovations and Interactions.*” The Conference Co-Chairs were Michael Brauer and Susan Kennedy of the School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene. The conference was marked by beautiful summer weather which highlighted the natural surroundings and relaxed atmosphere of the campus and provided participants with an informal setting to discuss the latest research developments. The conference attracted 893 registrants from 44 countries, including 134 students. Grants and other forms of sponsorship supported 62 travel awards, 52 of which were for the attendance of students and scientists from developing countries.



The conference program began with an opening plenary session on Sunday evening that included a welcome message from Harriet Cook, representing the Musqueam First Nation, upon whose traditional lands the conference was held, as well as from University and Government representatives. Dr. Mark Winston of Simon Fraser University gave a keynote address on “*Nature Wars: People versus Pests*” which used the issues of pesticides and genetically modified organisms to discuss the role of science in public policy debates.

The meeting included three and a half days of technical sessions including 32 symposia, 4 oral sessions, 18 poster-discussion sessions, and 7 thematic poster sessions. Almost 1,000 abstracts were published in the July 2001 issue of *Epidemiology* and updated abstracts were printed in a Conference Book of Abstracts. The conference introduced a new session format for ISEE conferences – the poster-discussion session. The purpose of these sessions was to maximize the time available for interactive discussion. Session chairs organized the discussion to encourage the input of the poster presenters. The use of the poster-discussion format was a result of a goal to improve opportunities for discussion during the technical sessions.

A plenary session on Monday included a keynote lecture by Dr. Clyde Hertzman of The University of British Columbia entitled “*Miasmas Past and Present: How our Understanding of the Mechanisms of Environmental Causation has Expanded over Time*” which discussed how the current societal context of genomic and psychosocial causation will affect notions of environmental health research in the future.

Wednesday began with a plenary awards sessions. The John Goldsmith Award was presented to Raymond Neutra of the California Department of Health Services who presented the Goldsmith lecture: “*What the Public Taught Me about Applying Environmental Epidemiology to Public Health Policy.*” The ISEA Wesolowski Award was presented to Demetrios Moschandreas who presented a lecture entitled “*The Whence, Wherefore and Whither of Exposure: The New Scientific Discipline of Environmental Inquiry.*”

Wednesday’s technical sessions were followed by the highlight of the conference’s social program, the Salmon Barbeque at the Museum of Anthropology. Amidst spectacular scenery and gorgeous weather, participants were treated to an interactive performance by the Tsinshian First Nations drummers and dancers and guided tours of the museum’s exhibits.

Thursday’s plenary session focused on the 50th anniversary of the London Fog of 1952. The session began with a video presentation of excerpts from a UK television documentary, “*Killer Fog,*” including witness accounts and archival footage of the air pollution episode. David Bates, Professor Emeritus at The University of British Columbia, then provided a stirring account of his personal experiences during the 1952 episode and discussed the implications of the event for air quality regulations and management, and air pollution epidemiology. Following Dr. Bates’ presentation, Doug Dockery described the contributions of David Bates to our understanding of the health impacts of air pollution. The session ended with a standing ovation for Dr. Bates.

The scientific program provided an exceptionally wide view of environmental health topics. As in previous meetings, the health effects of outdoor air pollution provided the largest contribution to the meeting program (14 sessions). In several sessions, papers on the effects of particulates or gaseous pollution on mortality, chronic respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, hospital admissions, birth outcomes, and other health effects were presented. Methodologies were also an important component of the program (12 sessions). Other major areas of emphasis included children's environmental health, exposure modeling, pesticides and dermal exposures, chlorination disinfection byproducts, global environmental change, incorporation of toxicology in environmental epidemiology, interactions between occupational and environmental exposure assessment/epidemiology, the World Trade Center disaster, and risk communication.

Major conference sponsors were the Health Canada, Environment Canada, the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additional conference sponsors included the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, the National Cancer Institute, the Health Effects Institute; the American Chemistry Council; EPRI, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the British Columbia Worker's Compensation Board, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, the UBC School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene and Westport Innovations, Inc.

FUTURE ANNUAL ISEE CONFERENCES

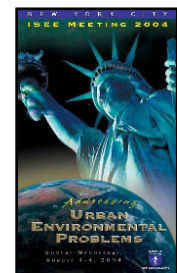
2003. The University of Western Australia will host the 2003 ISEE conference September 24-26, 2003, in Perth, Western Australia. The conference organizers are Andrea Hinwood, Edith Cowan University in Joondalup, and Jane Heyworth, University of Western Australia. The conference venue will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Perth. The conference title is "*Traversing Boundaries*" and the main themes will be: *Modified Environments, Practical Applications in Policy Development, and Communities, Health and Advocacy*. Keynote speakers will include: Tony McMichael, Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the ANU, Canberra; Jonathon Patz, Assistant Professor and Director, Program on Health Effects of Global Environmental Change, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA; and Professor Kirk Smith, Professor and Division Chair, Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, USA.



Topics will include Applications of Epidemiology in Policy Development, Modified Environments and Environmental Health, Emerging Diseases, Air Quality, Water Quality/Scarcity, Pediatric Environmental Health, Indigenous Health, Ethics, Risk Assessment, Novel Analysis Methods, and Ecosystem Health. A number of satellite meetings will be offered. Abstracts are to be submitted by **January 31, 2003**.

For more information, please visit the conference Website at www.eventedge.com.au/isee/index.html or contact Andrea Hinwood [a.hinwood@ecu.edu.au] or Jane Heyworth [heyworth@dph.uwa.edu.au].

2004. The 16th Annual ISEE Conference will be held in New York City, New York, USA during August 1 to 4, 2004. The conference organizer is George Thurston of New York University. The theme will be "*Addressing Urban Environmental Problems*." The conference venue will be a new conference center located at New York University overlooking Washington Square in Greenwich Village of New York. Lodging will be available in the University dormitories, as well as nearby conference hotels in New York City. For more information or to participate in the conference organizing committee, please contact George Thurston [thurston@env.med.nyu.edu].



2005. The 17th Annual ISEE Conference will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, during September 25-29, 2005. Drs. Kuku Voyi and Carel IJsselmuiden of the University of Pretoria will lead the conference organizing committee. Colin Soskolne will serve as a liaison for the conference organizers. The proposed theme is “*Sustaining World Health through Environmental Epidemiology: Setting a New Global Research Agenda.*” Plenary themes will include Inequity and Health, Health Emergencies in Large Populations, Sustainable Development and Health, Health Implications of Consumption and Waste, Health Implications of Technology, Traditional Medicine and Health, Indigenous Knowledge, Urban Renewal Environment and Health, Ecosystem Health, Reproductive Health, Emerging Concerns in Environment and Health, and Ethics.

The conference venue will be the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Conference Centre in Pretoria. The CSIR campus is set on rolling hills, located in the suburbs of Pretoria in park-like surroundings, with remarkable bird and animal life roaming free. Sport facilities include swimming, tennis, squash, weights and a gymnasium. A number of hotels and guesthouses are located in close proximity to the conference venue. Accommodation rates will be quite reasonable by international standards.

For more information about the conference, please contact Kuku Voyi [kvoyi@med.up.ac.za] or Carel IJsselmuiden [carel@medic.up.ac.za].

2006 and 2007. The Executive Council recommended and it was approved at the general membership meeting during the annual conference that the 18th ISEE Annual Conference will be held in the European Region. The 19th Annual Conference will be held in the North America region in 2007. These decisions were to continue the geographical balance after meetings in Vancouver – 2002; Perth – 2003; New York – 2004; and Pretoria – 2005. The Executive Council decided that future bids to host the annual conference should be submitted four years in advance of the conference, and we aim to move towards that timetable over the coming two years. Hosts from North America interested in bidding for 2007 will be invited in 2003. **Proposals for the 2006 conference in the European region are invited now.** The Executive Council has established the following timeline for submission of proposals to host the 2006 conference:

- February 1, 2003 – initial outline bid must be submitted to the Secretariat.
- April 1, 2003 – full proposal must be submitted to the Secretariat.
- June 2003 – Executive Council will review and approve the final proposal.

The outline bid will be reviewed by the Conference committee, which will provide feedback and ask for clarification to be included in the full proposal. I encourage you to contact Carol Rougvie [crougvie@jsi.com] at the Secretariat as soon as possible to request bid guidelines if you are from the European region and may be interested in developing a proposal to host the ISEE annual conference in 2006. You should also contact Carol to request bid guidelines if you are from the North American region and may be interested in hosting the ISEE annual conference in 2007.

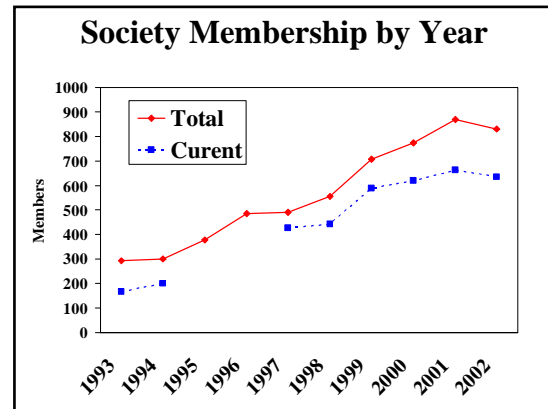
SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

The Secretary-Treasurer presents an annual report at the general membership meeting during the ISEE annual conference. This year at the Vancouver conference, I presented a summary of the Executive Council actions during the past year, a membership report, and a summary of the Society's finances. A copy of the report presentation is available on the ISEE Website. I will briefly summarize the report.

Executive Council actions. The Executive Council completed the following actions during the past year: conducted election for President-elect and Councilors; approved conference venues in New York, USA for 2004 and Pretoria, South Africa for 2005; renewed the affiliation with *Epidemiology* as the official Society journal; developed procedures to use the ISEE pages in *Epidemiology* for Chapter news and capacity building; prepared materials and submitted proposed affiliation with WHO as NGO in official relations; revised the ISEE Website; and converted to an electronic distribution of the ISEE newsletter while allowing the option for members to receive a printed version. Regarding Society finances, the Executive Council negotiated with the

journal publishers to minimize the journal cost increase to the Society; evaluated and approved the revised membership dues; reviewed Society finances to minimize expenses; renewed the contract with JSI Research and Training Institute to function as the Society Secretariat; and secured funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency for partial support of the 2002 and 2003 annual conferences.

Membership report. As of July 2002, the Society had 831 members, of whom 634 were current members (i.e., currently paid or less than 90 days past due). The membership has grown steadily for several years, although there was a slight decrease during the past year. This slight decrease may be an artifact due to a late membership mailing in the Spring. The distribution of members by membership category was: Full membership – 20%; Basic membership – 59%; Student membership – 8%, and Developing Country membership – 13%. The Society had members from 54 nations. Nations with at least 10 members include the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy, Australia, Korea, Japan, Slovak Republic, Germany, and France.



Financial report. As of June 30, 2002, the Society had a balance of USD 64,874. This amount was an increase over the previous year's balance. The main sources of revenues are the membership dues and funds provided by the organizers of the annual conference. The primary expenditures are members' subscriptions for *Epidemiology*, the contract for membership and business support services by the Secretariat, and the subsidized membership fees for members from developing countries. The Society expenses approximately equal the revenues. In order to achieve this balance while offering the reduced membership fee for persons from developing countries, the Society requires that the organizers of the annual conference pay a fee to the Society. It is also important that as many members as possible pay for the Full membership, rather than for the Basic membership. The additional fee is used to defray the cost of the Developing Country memberships.

The *Epidemiology* journal subscription costs will increase again in 2003. However, because the Society maintained a positive balance during the past year, the Executive Council recommended that the membership fees be kept the same for 2003. This recommendation was approved at the general membership meeting in Vancouver.

ISEE COMMITTEES

Communications Committee – Helena Mussalo-Rauhamaa, Chair

The committee prepared a summary of the 2002 annual conference which will be distributed to professional news sources such as the *Epidemiology Monitor* and posted on the ISEE Website. The Society's pages in the *Epidemiology* issues have been used primarily for meeting announcements and to publish information about the Society, such as reports of the Chapters and environmental epidemiology capacity building. Suggestions for using the ISEE pages in *Epidemiology* are welcome [mussalo@cc.helsinki.fi]. Abstracts of the ISEE meeting papers are also published in *Epidemiology*.

The Society's Website is www.iseepi.org. Please look at the site periodically for new information and breaking ISEE news. We welcome feedback, suggestions, and relevant contributions to the site. We also invite you to send the Committee relevant information and announcements.

Membership – Daniel Wartenberg, Chair

The purpose of the Membership committee is to identify strategies to maintain and increase the Society's membership. The committee has not been very active during the past few months. Please contact the chair, Daniel Wartenberg [dew@ehsi.rutgers.edu], if you would like to participate in this committee.

Committee on Ethics and Philosophy – Jouni Jaakkola, Chair

This committee continues to be active. A major focus of activities has been on issues related to environmental whistle blowers. The committee also has developed definitions of research repression bias and research suppression bias which will be included in a future edition of Last's *Dictionary of Epidemiology*. You can review the draft definitions on the ISEE website and send comments to the committee. Other issues being addressed by the committee include informed consent and environmental experiments, democide and environmental epidemiology, and the relationship between repression bias and publication bias. For more information or to participate in the committee, contact Jouni Jaakkola [jouni.jaakkola@helsinki.fi].

Policy and Planning Committee – Devra Davis, Chair

The Policy and Planning Committee focuses its activities on strengthening the links between environmental epidemiology and policy development/implementation. The emphasis is on broadening the scope of environmental epidemiology, moving beyond a focus on individual risk factors and agents to an approach which addresses the broader development context in which environmental health problems occur. During the year, Devra Davis replaced Yasmin von Schirnding as chair of this committee. We thank Yasmin for her service. Please contact Devra [devrich@bellatlantic.net] if you would like to participate in this committee.

Awards Committee - Bert Brunekreef, Chair

The Awards Committee solicits nominations of the Society's awards. The committee reviews the nominations and makes a recommendation to the Executive Council. During the past year, the committee revised the procedures for selecting the Research Integrity award. The committee chair this year is Bert Brunekreef. Please see call for awards nominations on page 2 of this newsletter.

Committee on Capacity Building in Developing Countries – Richard Clapp, Chair

The committee has been documenting capacity building that is occurring in various parts of the world, including exchanges in collaborative research, and some of these efforts have been reported in the "ISEE News" pages in *Epidemiology*. The committee is collecting evidence of other capacity building in parts of the world such as Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Far East, and wants to share these efforts in the pages of *Epidemiology* as well. Reports on activities should be sent to Richard Clapp [rclapp@bu.edu].

During recent months, the committee has supported on-going work in Southern Africa in anticipation of the 2005 meeting. In addition, the Committee has received requests for contacts and assistance from various people in developing countries and has made referrals as appropriate.

CHAPTERS UPDATE**Mediterranean Chapter – Klea Katsouyanni, Chair**

This Chapter has not been very active during the past six months. The co-chairs, Klea Katsouyanni, and Elihu Richter have been collecting names of interested individuals in the region to re-invigorate this chapter. Please contact Klea [kkatsouy@med.uoa.gr] if you are interested in becoming active in this chapter.

Central & Eastern Europe Chapter – Bogdan Wojtyniak, President

The Chapter has developed a website [www.pzh.gov.pl/isee/] that lists the Chapter members and describes its activities. The website currently lists poster presentations from the WHO sponsored Symposium "*Health and Environment in Central and Eastern Europe: problems and solutions*". The chapter collaborated in organizing a conference, "*Molecular Epidemiology in Preventive Medicine Achievements and New Challenges*" during June 20-22, 2002, in Krakow, Poland. The Chapter members also participated in the *Summer Institute for Rural and Environmental Health* held June 27-28, 2002, in Trnava, Slovak Republic. This Institute included workshops on ergonomics preventive programs, infectious diseases associated with agricultural activities, asbestos in the environment, and health impact assessment. For further information, please look at the Chapter's website or contact Bogdan Wojtyniak [bogdan@medstat.waw.pl].

Caucasus Chapter – Samaya Ismayilova, Chair

During this past year, the chapter established an agreement with WHO for translation and publication rights for Azeri translation of a textbook on epidemiology that will also be made available on the WHO Website. The Chapter held trainings in collaboration with WHO and participants received a copy of the epidemiology textbook. For further information or to participate in the Chapter, please communicate with Samaya Ismayilova [ismayilovasy@hotmail.com or phone: +99 450 321 5676].

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Chapter – Nelson Gouveia, Chair

The LAC Chapter was not very active during the past six months. The chair, Nelson Gouveia, is developing a list of people in the region to start a network of environmental epidemiologists. For further information about the LAC chapter, please contact Nelson Gouveia [ngouveia@usp.br].

DUES AND RENEWALS

If you are due to renew your ISEE membership for the January 2002–December 2002 cycle, or if your renewal is past due, you should have received a renewal notice during the past month. If you received a notice, please renew your membership soon to avoid gaps in your journal subscription. It may take several months to re-start a lapsed subscription. Membership fees are USD 50 for Student and Developing Country membership, USD 125 for Basic membership, and USD 200 for Full membership. We hope that members who are able will continue to support developing country memberships by paying the USD 200 Full membership rate.

Address Changes and Journal Delivery Problems

If you change your mailing address, please contact the ISEE Secretariat office, and also provide your new phone, fax, and e-mail.

FEEDBACK

If you have comments or contributions for the newsletter, please let me know. You can reach me at:

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