



# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

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Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD, MPH, *President*  
Tony Fletcher, PhD, *President-elect*  
Dean B. Baker, MD, MPH, *Secretary-Treasurer*

July 20, 2003

To: ISEE members

From: Dean Baker, MD, MPH  
Secretary-Treasurer

Re: Summer 2003 Newsletter

## *Highlights in this Newsletter*

- ❖ *New Council members*
- ❖ *2003 Annual Conference in Perth, Australia*
- ❖ *Update on Annual Meetings for 2004 to 2006*
- ❖ *Committee and Chapter Reports*

I am pleased to send you the Summer ISEE Newsletter. The Newsletter will again be distributed primarily by e-mail. This approach reduces expenses for the Society so we can keep your membership rates as low as possible. The Society will continue to provide printed editions to any member who does not have access to e-mail and to those who prefer to receive a printed version. Please contact the Secretariat [ [iseepi@jsi.com](mailto:iseepi@jsi.com) ] if you have received this newsletter by e-mail and would prefer instead to be mailed a printed version. The newsletter will also be posted on the ISEE website.

## **ELECTIONS**

The annual election for ISEE Secretary-Treasurer and councilors was conducted last fall. I was asked to stand without opposition for another term as Secretary-Treasurer, while we had an outstanding group of candidates for two councilor positions. The election was completed in December 2002 and the new councilors assumed their positions in January 2003.

I am pleased to report that the new ISEE Councilors are Annette Peters and John Vena. Annette is an epidemiologist with the GSF-National Research Center for Health and Environment in Munich, Germany. Her major research interests are the health effects of ambient air pollution. She focuses on the importance of particle size distributions and the biological mechanisms responsible for effects on the cardiovascular system. John is Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine and Director of the Environment and Society Institute at the State University of New York at Buffalo, United States. He served as the host for the annual conference in Buffalo in 2000. His research is primarily focused on risk of cancer and adverse reproductive outcomes in relation to environmental pollutants and occupational health hazards. We welcome Annette and John to the Executive Council. The following councilors will continue during this coming year: Richard Clapp, Boston, USA; Francesco Forastiere, Rome, Italy; Stephanie London, Research Triangle Park, USA; and Lizbeth Lopez-Carillo, Cuernavaca, Mexico. A list of officers and councilors and their terms of service appears on the ISEE website.

We want to thank Gwen Collman and Klea Katsouyanni for their outstanding service as councilors for the past three years. Gwen and Klea have been active members of ISEE for several years and each has made major contributions to the Society. Klea served as the host of the annual conference in Athens in 1999.

At the end of this year, we will need to elect a President-elect and two new councilors. If you are interested in being a candidate for any of these positions, or would like to suggest candidates, please contact President Irva Hertz-Picciotto [ [ihp@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ihp@ucdavis.edu) ] or any of the officers or councilors.

## ANNUAL ISEE CONFERENCES

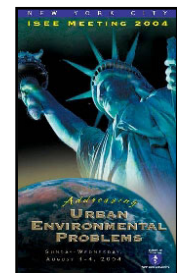
**2003.** The University of Western Australia will host the 2003 ISEE conference 24-26 September, 2003, in Perth, Western Australia. The conference organizers are Andrea Hinwood, Edith Cowan University, and Jane Heyworth, University of Western Australia. The conference venue will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Perth. The conference title is “*Traversing Boundaries.*” Keynote speakers will include Professor Tony McMichael, Dr. T. K. Joshi, Professor Jonathon Patz, Professor Kirk Smith, Cheryl Wragg, Professor Julian Peto, Dr. Yasmin von Schirmding, and Dr. A.W. (Bill) Musk. Plenary sessions will include Sustainability & Health; Environment & Asbestos; Climates Then, Now and Tomorrow: Approaches to Health Risk Assessment; and Indoor Air. The conference will offer Special Symposia on a number of topics, such as Arsenic, Water Quality, Noise and Health, Spatial Epidemiology, Health Effects of Heavy Metals, Environmental Epidemiology Evidence and Risk Communication, and POPs. More than 300 abstracts have been accepted for oral or poster presentations. The abstracts will be published in the September issue of *Epidemiology*.



An optional international workshop on socioeconomic factors and air pollution health effects will be held on 23 September in conjunction with the conference. The workshop will promote discussion of public policy motivations, current research results, data gaps and future research directions for studying the interaction of socioeconomic conditions and air pollution as determinants of population health.

For more information, please visit the conference website at [www.eventedge.com.au/isee](http://www.eventedge.com.au/isee) or contact Andrea Hinwood [ [a.hinwood@ecu.edu.au](mailto:a.hinwood@ecu.edu.au) ] or Jane Heyworth [ [heyworth@dph.uwa.edu.au](mailto:heyworth@dph.uwa.edu.au) ].

**2004.** The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual ISEE Conference will be held in New York City, New York, USA, during 1-4 August, 2004. The conference co-hosts are George Thurston of the New York University School of Medicine and Dan Wartenberg, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The theme will be “*Addressing Urban Environmental Problems.*” The conference venue will be the new Kimmel Center located at New York University overlooking Washington Square in Greenwich Village of New York City. 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](mailto:thurston@env.med.nyu.edu) ] or Dan Wartenberg [ [dan.wartenberg@umdnj.edu](mailto:dan.wartenberg@umdnj.edu) ].



**2005.** The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual ISEE Conference will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, during 25-29 September, 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 theme will be “*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. 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. For more information, please contact Kuku Voyi [ [kvoyi@med.up.ac.za](mailto:kvoyi@med.up.ac.za) ] or Carel IJsselmuiden [ [carel@medic.up.ac.za](mailto:carel@medic.up.ac.za) ].

**2006.** The Executive Council recently approved a proposal for the 18<sup>th</sup> ISEE Annual Conference to be held in Paris, France during the first week of September 2006. The conference is being planned as a joint meeting with the International Society for Exposure Assessment (ISEA). The theme will be “*Science, Population Diversity, Caution and Precaution.*” The host will be the French Environmental Health Agency (AFSSE: Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire Environnementale). Denis Zmirou, the Scientific Director of AFSSE and a member of both ISEE and ISEA, prepared the bid and will co-chair the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will include members of ISEE and ISEA together with scientists from associated international organizations and French scientists. Annie Sasco and Marcel Goldberg have been proposed as co-chairs of the Organizing Committee. Although the venue has not been finalized, the first option is the Cité des Sciences et de la Villette, which has excellent conference facilities with nearby activities and a selection of nice hotels.



### **REQUEST FOR BIDS TO HOST FUTURE ISEE ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

**2007.** The 2007 conference will be held in the North American Region. **The Executive Council is now requesting bids to host the 2007 annual conference.** The following timetable will be followed:

- Outline bids must be submitted to the ISEE Secretariat by 15 September, 2003.
- The outline bids will be reviewed by the Executive Council during the 2003 annual conference in Perth. The bidding groups will be invited to make a presentation to the Executive Council during the conference, but a presentation is not required.
- The Executive Council will provide comments to the Conference Planning committee, which will then provide feedback to the bidders about information to be included in a full proposal.
- The full proposals will be due by 1 December, 2003, although the date could change slightly.
- The Executive Council and Conference Planning committee will review the proposals and may ask for additional clarification. A final decision will be made by the Executive Council by early 2004.

If you are from the North American region and are interested in hosting the ISEE annual conference in 2007, please request bid guidelines from Carol Rougvie at the ISEE Secretariat [ [iseepi@jsi.com](mailto:iseepi@jsi.com) ].

**2008 and 2009.** Consistent with the Society’ goal to maintain regional balance, the annual conferences for 2008 and 2009 could be held in any regions of the world. The Society will solicit formal bids to host the 2008 annual conference during 2004 and bids to host the 2009 annual conference during 2005.

To help plan for the future annual conferences, the Executive Council requests any groups that may be interested in hosting the ISEE annual conferences in 2008 or 2009 to provide an indication of their interest in organizing a conference by 15 September, 2003, describing briefly the country and anticipated venue (e.g., large city or resort town, hotel or university facility). This information will be presented to the ISEE membership during the General Business meeting at Perth to obtain comments about the options for future conference locations. The Executive Council will use this information to determine how to solicit formal bids for the future conferences. If you may be interested in hosting the ISEE annual conference in 2008 or 2009, please contact Carol Rougvie at the ISEE Secretariat [ [iseepi@jsi.com](mailto:iseepi@jsi.com) ] for more information.

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Executive Council holds monthly meetings throughout the year by conference calls. The following is a list of issues addressed by the Executive Council that may be of interest to the members. Please contact me [ [dbaker@uci.edu](mailto:dbaker@uci.edu) ] if you would like more information about the Executive Council actions.

- The Council revised the Awards Nomination policy to clarify the procedures to solicit and select awardees for the John Goldsmith and Research Integrity awards. For 2003, the Awards committee solicited nominations and the Executive Committee selected the awardees based on recommendations by the Awards Committee. The 2003 awards will be presented at the annual conference in Perth.
- The Council negotiated and then approved a contract for the JSI Research and Training Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, to continue functioning as the ISEE Secretariat for 2003.
- The Council discussed a proposal by representatives of the Society for Epidemiological Research (SER) because that Society would like to offer discounted subscriptions to *Epidemiology*. It was agreed that SER could offer discounted subscriptions, but *Epidemiology* would remain as the official journal only of ISEE.
- The Council also discussed a proposal for a potential affiliation with *Environmental Health Perspectives* that could result in a discounted subscription to that journal for ISEE members.
- With input by the Ethics and Philosophy Committee, the Executive Council evaluated a reported whistleblower case that involved a research scientist working for a US governmental agency. Following a substantial evaluation, President Irva Hertz-Picciotto prepared a letter to an Institute of Medicine committee to express the Society's concerns about the situation.
- The Executive Council reviewed and approved revisions to the ISEE website.

## **ISEE COMMITTEES**

ISEE members are encouraged to participate in the ongoing activities of the Society by participating in one or more committees. Some committees, such as the Nominations Committee, support the Society's ongoing functions. The chairs and members of these committees are appointed by the Officers. Other committees have been formed by Society members to provide a forum for their mutual interests. These committees are proposed by interested Society members and approved by the Executive Council. Some of these special interest committees, such as the Ethics and Philosophy Committee, are among the Society's most active committees. Information about the committees can be found on the Society's website [ [www.iseepi.org](http://www.iseepi.org) ]. Please contact the committees' chairs if you would like more information or would like to become active on a committee.

### **Conference Planning Committee (Aaron Cohen, Chair)**

The Conference Planning Committee includes Aaron Cohen of Boston, MA, USA (chair); Klea Katsouyanni, Athens, Greece; and John Vena, Buffalo, New York, USA. Klea and John have served as hosts of past ISEE annual conferences. During the past months, the Committee has reviewed proposals from groups for the 2006 ISEE conference and worked with them to refine the proposals for a final decision by the Executive Council; worked with the Secretariat to solicit proposals for the 2006 and 2007 conferences; and worked with the Executive Council to define the role and responsibilities of the Conference Planning Committee. Work over the next year will include: working with the Secretariat to solicit proposals for the 2007 and 2008 conferences; reviewing proposals for the 2007 conference; and working with the Executive Council and organizers of past ISEE conferences to develop more detailed guidelines and materials for prospective conference organizers.

**Awards Committee (Bert Brunekreef, Chair)**

The Awards committee solicited nominations for the ISEE awards. The committee reviewed the nominations and made recommendations to the Executive Council. The Executive Council endorsed the committee's recommendations. The awardees for this year are as follows:

- John Goldsmith award: Dr. Benedetto Terracini
- Research Integrity award: Dr. T.K. Joshi

**Membership Committee (Dan Wartenberg, Chair)**

Since last year's annual conference, Dan Wartenberg has been joined by Lucas Neas and Carel IJsselmuiden on this committee. Jane Heyworth has also worked with the committee. The committee has worked with the organizers of this year's annual conference to have registration fees set to encourage registrants for the conference to become ISEE members if they are not already members. The committee is also working on strategies to: (1) develop a follow-up plan to encourage those who let their ISEE memberships lapse to rejoin; (2) increase the number of Full members (from those who are Basic members); (3) update and reissue the ISEE brochure; and (4) increase membership recruitment efforts in regions less well represented in ISEE. Please contact Dan Wartenberg [ [dan.wartenberg@umdnj.edu](mailto:dan.wartenberg@umdnj.edu) ] if you are interested in becoming a member of this committee.

**Communications Committee (Annette Peters, Chair)**

Helena Mussalo-Rauhamaa served as the Interim Chair of this committee until this past month. We thank Helena for her excellent service. Annette Peters was appointed the new chair of this committee.

During the past six months, the committee chair has received messages from persons who have asked for help finding contacts or scientific reports on certain problems. The Committee works with the Executive Council and Secretariat to make ongoing improvements to the ISEE website. The Committee also reviews reports by the Chapters or about activities to build environmental epidemiology capacity, which appear in the ISEE pages in *Epidemiology*.

**Ethics and Philosophy Committee (Jouni Jaakkola, Chair)**

The mission of the Committee is to ensure that ethical issues that arise in environmental epidemiology receive the attention they deserve among ISEE members, to provide a collegial forum for interested epidemiologists and environmental philosophers to engage in ethical discussion, and to provide continuing education efforts on professional ethics for ISEE members. A focus of activities during the past six months has been on issues related to environmental whistle blowers, including evaluation of individual cases. The committee has also been involved in discussion regarding the public health and environmental epidemiological implications of regional wars, such as those that have occurred in the Middle East.

**CHAPTERS UPDATE****Central & Eastern Europe Chapter (Bogdan Wojtyniak, Chair)**

The Chapter's main activity has been organizing a regional scientific conference, "The Future of our Children," that will be held at Lake Balaton, Balatonföldvár, Hungary, on 4-6 September, 2003. Within the Conference a workshop will be organized by WHO - European Centre for Environment and Health Bonn Office on the topic of "Environment and Health Information System." The Chapter anticipates that this conference will contribute to the successful preparation for the 4th Ministerial Conference, as well as being a

nice opportunity to exchange scientific views. The conference is being organized under the auspices of Professor Dr. György Ungváry, Chief Medical Officer of the State. The local organizing committee includes Anna Páldy, Gyula Dura, Bernadette Schoket, Péter Rudnai, Mária Bényi, Péter Brunner, Zsolt Somogyvári, Anna Aszman, and Endre Morava. The International Scientific Board includes Bogdan Wojtyniak, Wieslaw Jedrychowski, Vladimir Bencko, Ivan Ciznar, Michal Krzyzanowski, Bettina Menne, and Dafina Dalbokova.

### **Latin America and Caribbean Chapter (Nelson Gouveia, Chair)**

During the past year, the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Chapter activities have been coordinated by Nelson Gouveia [ [ngouveia@usp.br](mailto:ngouveia@usp.br) ] and Mildred Maisonet [ [mmaisone@cepis.ops-oms.org](mailto:mmaisone@cepis.ops-oms.org) ]. The Chapter had a meeting with some members and interested people during the Brazilian Epidemiology Conference. The Chapter also circulated a note on CEPIS RedEpiAmbiente (a discussion e-mail list hosted by the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences), describing the Chapter, the ISEE, and its activities. This discussion list includes many researchers and academics within the LAC Region. The Chapter identified around 27 members of ISEE from the LAC region and e-mailed them to present the Chapter and to ask for suggestions and for their participation. The Chapter is also considering other activities to generate interest and participation among members. One possibility is to bring the annual ISEE annual conference to the region (perhaps in Brazil).

### **Caucasus Chapter (Samaya Ismayilov, Chair)**

The Chapter had collected books and journals on environmental health and epidemiology from various international conferences and put them in an educational center. Unfortunately, the center had a major fire which destroyed the library. The Chapter has undertaken efforts to re-establish the library. The Chapter contacted the British Medical Association/British Medical Journal (BMA/BMJ) Information Fund regarding support for the library. The Information Fund Steering Group considered the Chapter's application and agreed to make a grant to the Chapter. The Chapter has provided an initial list of titles that could be provided. The Chapter has also discussed a collaboration with the University of Khazar and OSI Assistance Foundation, Azerbaijan, and decided to give this library to the University of Khazar. The Chapter would like to invite ISEE members and others to send journals and books as gifts to the Caucasus chapter. If you have material you could provide, please contact Samaya Ismayilov [ [ismayilovasy@hotmail.com](mailto:ismayilovasy@hotmail.com) ].

## ***DUES AND RENEWALS***

If you are due to renew your ISEE membership for the July 2003–June 2004 cycle, or if your renewal is past due, you should have received a renewal notice in May or June. If you received a notice and have not already renewed your membership, please do it soon to avoid gaps in your journal 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.

An option for on-line payment of membership dues with MasterCard or VISA was recently added. ISEE has authorized PayPal, a secure on-line payment processor, to handle MasterCard and VISA payments via the ISEE website. If you have used PayPal in the past, you are familiar with the process; if not you may enroll with PayPal from the ISEE website and securely send payments online, including your ISEE dues.

### **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, suggestions or contributions for the newsletter, please let me know. You can reach me at:

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