



Annual ISEE 2016 Newsletter: Updates and Reminders!

The ISEE Executive Council and established committees has been very active in 2016. As many of you know from last year, the ISEE Council is also in the process of launching new committees and we appreciate the volunteers who signed up to participate. There will be more updates regarding these activities in the coming year. We would like to also share with you current efforts that have a direct impact on our field and all ISEE members. Your membership makes these activities possible. It is an exciting time to be involved with the ISEE and we continue to welcome your input and participation. We hope to see many of you at the annual conference in Rome, Italy (September 1–4). If you are attending the conference, we cordially invite you to attend the General Members Meeting on Friday, September 2 (17:40-19:00) where we will share more news about ISEE activities and upcoming events. As a volunteer run society, we would also welcome you to join one of ISEE's committees and help us achieve our mission of being the leading professional society for environmental epidemiology.

ISEE is currently developing a Strategic Plan for the period of 2016-2020

The Strategic Plan Committee, led by Ulrike Gehring, and the Executive Council, have been gathering information that will help direct ISEE's future activities. The development of the Strategic Plan involves three phases: an evaluation of the current situation, defining goals, and developing a road map to achieve those goals. We have begun this process by conducting a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats). The results from this analysis will be presented during the ISEE General Members Meeting in Rome on Friday evening, September 2, 2016. You can read a summary of the SWOT results and provide your comments at this blog spot: <http://www.isee-europe.com/isee-swot-survey>.

Additionally, we surveyed current and past members to gather information on their perceptions of being an ISEE member. We would like to thank everyone who completed these surveys. The descriptive statistics from these surveys can be found here: <http://www.iseepi.org/documents/SurveyReport.pdf>.

The information gathered in this survey will contribute to the development of the strategic plan.

ISEE makes recommendations to the WHO's report on ending childhood obesity

Members of the ISEE Policy Committee provided feedback and suggestions to the World Health Organization (WHO) report on Ending Childhood Obesity. ISEE commended WHO for the quality of their [report](#) and recommended that the role of chemical obesogens also be included in the discussion of the development of obesity in addition to the well-known role of physical activity and diet. Specifically, ISEE sought to draw the Commission's attention on the role of exposure to environmental contaminants during early life as a possible cause of childhood weight issues and obesity. The recommendations are based on research in the field of endocrine disruptors. See our full comments [here](#).

ISEE contributes to the WHO's road map for a global response to air pollution

Much of the current knowledge on health effects of air pollution is the result of intensive research

conducted by the members of ISEE. This expertise was shared with the WHO's 69th General Assembly in May 2016 in support of the road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution (presented in document A69/18). The ISEE Policy Committee stressed its commitment to expand the knowledge base for actions and the need for active involvement of health and environment specialists from all regions, especially those from low- and middle- income countries experiencing high pollution levels. ISEE also expressed its commitment to expanding current knowledge and data showing that reducing exposure leads to significant health benefits. For this reason, ISEE strongly supports measures to reduce exposure to air pollution from all major sources, including indoor burning of solid fuels, and the combustion of fossil fuels for power generation, industry and transportation, and supports the continued development of WHO's Air Quality Guidelines. See our full comments [here](#).

ISEE offers the WHO advice in the sound management of chemicals

The ISEE Policy Committee congratulated the WHO Secretariat for the excellent report on the sound management of chemicals. The committee pointed out the critical need for Ministries of Health and health leadership to better understand the risks of exposure to complex chemical mixtures throughout the life-course. Of special concern is the lack of progress in most of the countries on advancing their capacities for the implementation of the International Health Regulations in relation to chemicals as noted in the WHA69/20 report (paragraph 15). Several recommendations were suggested to the Assembly including analyzing the stewardship role of Ministries of Health in relation to the assessment of risks related to acute and chronic exposure to chemicals; improving surveillance through human biomonitoring studies; and further regulate the chemicals in the environment, the workplace, and the consumer products. See our full comments [here](#).

ISEE appeals to the Japanese government to monitor the health of residents of Fukushima

ISEE President Francine Laden and other members of the executive committee sent a letter to Japan in January 2016 to appeal to the government as a stakeholder serving the interest of the people, to develop a series of measures to scientifically document and follow up the health of residents of Fukushima. This plea was based on concerns about the recent scientific evidence suggesting an increase in the risk of thyroid cancer among residents of Fukushima that is much higher than previously anticipated ([read article here](#)). The letter concluded with ISEE offering scientific expertise and support to the government as an independent international professional organization. See our full comments [here](#).

ISEE's Asia Chapter co-hosts a conference with the International Society for Exposure Science's Asia Chapter

The Asia Chapter of ISEE sponsored a joint conference with ISES in Sapporo, Japan from June 26-29, 2016. About 400 people participated in the conference that was organized around the theme of "Environment, Health, and Sustainable Society." Dr Reiko Kishi from the Hokkaido University served as the conference chair. The program featured a wide variety of sessions highlighting multidisciplinary approaches to measuring and addressing environmental health impacts and how they can vary in different regions and races in Asian countries. Details of the program can be found [here](#). **Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Asia Chapter should contact Chang-Chuan Chan, Chapter Chair (ccchan@ntu.edu.tw) for details of how to join.**

A step towards lead-free paints everywhere

Last year several organizations, including ISEE, issued its Call for Action for Global Control of Lead Exposure (view [here](#)). Recently, a large chemical company has announced that it would phase out lead from all paints it produces by 2020. This step towards lead-free paint is a result of concerns about the well documented effects of lead on health. There is a concerted campaign to reach a global ban in lead-paint and you can find a petition to encourage other companies to remove lead from their paint [here](#).

The National Children's Study in the United States has expanded access to its data

As of March 1, 2016, the National Children's Study (NCS) in the United States has expanded access to its Vanguard Data and Sample Archive ([NCS Archive](#)). The NCS Vanguard was a pilot for a planned cohort study of environmental influences on child health and development. Starting in 2009, recruitment strategies were tested in 43 counties across 31 states throughout the U.S. The Vanguard study enrolled over 5,600 birth families and followed them through 2014. Qualified investigators can now petition to access the questionnaires and interviews; neuro-psychosocial and cognitive assessments; and physical examination data, along with nearly 25,000 biological and environmental primary samples. You can read more about this program [here](#).

ISEE-sponsored commentary in *Epidemiology*

Each year, ISEE sponsors timely and thoughtful commentaries which are published in *EPIDEMIOLOGY*. Recent commentaries from our members have called for [global action to eliminate lead poisoning](#), [explored the impacts of the diesel vehicle emissions scandal](#), and [considered the implications for further research](#) after discovering lead in the public water supply in Flint, Michigan. The citations are below. Keep an eye out for more member commentaries in upcoming issues of *EPIDEMIOLOGY*. If you have an idea for a commentary you would like to read or write, please contact Greg Wellenius (gregory_wellenius@brown.edu).

Rojas-Rueda D, Turner, MC. Commentary: Diesel, Cars, and Public Health. *Epidemiology*. 27(2):159-162, March 2016.

Rosenthal FS, Lanphear BP, Gottesfeld P, Krzyzanowski M. Commentary: ISEE Call for Action for Global Control of Lead Exposure to Eliminate Lead Poisoning. *Epidemiology*. 26(5):774-777, September 2015.

Savitz DA. Commentary: Response to Environmental Pollution: More Research May Not Be Needed. *Epidemiology*. June 2016.

REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS!

Please remember to access and update your membership information in the membership system. Click [here](#) to access the member login page.

Annual Conferences:

Rome, Italy: September 1–4, 2016

Sydney, Australia: September 24-28, 2017

Call for council nominations

ISEE is a volunteer run organization. We are always looking for people to join committees and will be requesting nominations for council members in the near future. Watch your e-mail for information about nominations.