



Dear ISEE colleagues,

First, I would like to wish you a wonderful 2020 and hope you started the year well. It is great honour for me to serve as your president in the coming years and follow in the footsteps of many illustrious predecessors. In particular, I would like to thank Beate Ritz who led us over the last two years and who will stay on the council for another year as past president. I look forward to working with the council, the chapters, the committees,

Doreen, our administrator at Infinity Conference Group, and all of you to make the next step with the ISEE.

We are all aware of the large impact of our environment on health, and the potential gains we could make if we could improve our environment and health. But there is still a lot to be done, not only in terms of research but also translation and advocacy, and the ISEE has an important role in this as the premier society in environmental epidemiology in the world. But it is not an easy task as we appear to live in an era where opinions appear to count more than facts.

As I am writing this the climate crisis is very much for us to see through the tragic bushfires in Australia, while there are still voices out there denying any link. Air pollution still kills millions of people each year around the world, but measures to reduce the pollution are slow to come forward. We are exposed to more chemicals than ever, and microplastics are now ubiquitous without us knowing exactly the health effects.

Now more than ever, the ISEE and you, the members, are needed to address these issues and leave a better world for our children. Fortunately, “our” children (think Greta) appear to be more aware than ever what is happening in this world and are out on the street. Also ISEE is strengthening in parts of the world where we have some of largest environmental challenges, such as Asia and Africa.

I hope that during my presidency term we could increase our membership and make you, the membership more active. Please do not hesitate to contact me with new ideas on this. Also that we could raise our voice more, for example through our policy committee and social media, and that we could increase our capacity building and training programmes. And of course, strengthen our chapters and other committees, and their activities.

I think that if we all put in a bit more effort we actually can make a difference. Be good, be active!

I look forward to talking, seeing, being in contact with you during the year, and hope you will all attend our annual conference in August in Washington DC. And please bring friends, colleagues and family.

Best wishes,

Mark Nieuwenhuijsen  
ISEE President