

ISCHE Q1 2026 Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE ISCHE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

Dear ISCHE colleagues and friends,

We are deeply honored and humbled to step into our new roles as President and Vice-President of ISCHE! This organization has been a professional home for both of us, shaping our careers, expanding our networks, and fueling our commitment to protecting children's environmental health around the world. To serve in these leadership roles alongside such an extraordinary community of scientists, advocates, clinicians, and policymakers is both a privilege and a responsibility we do not take lightly. We want to begin by thanking our predecessors, including Drs. Megan Horton and Mara Tellez-Rojo, and the entire ISCHE Council for their outstanding stewardship. Their vision and dedication have positioned ISCHE for a remarkable chapter ahead.

Between us, we bring perspectives rooted in exposure science, environmental epidemiology,



and community-engaged research spanning the United States, Latin America, and beyond. What unites us is a shared conviction that evidence must be coupled with action, and that the children and families most affected by environmental hazards deserve a seat at the table where decisions are made. As we look ahead, our priorities center on strengthening ISCHE's role as a trusted global resource for science, mentorship, and advocacy. We are committed to expanding the engagement of colleagues from low- and middle-

income countries, creating new pathways for mid-career researchers, and building strategic partnerships with agencies and foundations that can amplify our collective impact. We also plan to invest in professional development opportunities and multilingual outreach to ensure that the knowledge generated within our community reaches clinicians, families, and policymakers who need it most.

We are especially excited about our upcoming ISCHE Retreat, which promises to be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share new science, and chart the path forward together. We encourage all members to visit ischeretreat.com for details and registration information. The retreat is always a highlight of our year, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Above all, ISCHE's strength and resilience lies in its dedicated members. We are eager to listen, learn, and collaborate with each of you as we work to ensure that children's environmental health remains at the heart of policy and public health practice worldwide. Please do not hesitate to reach out with ideas, questions, or ways you would like to get more involved. Together, we will continue to build on the incredible foundation of this organization and continue our fight to protect children's health.

With gratitude and determination,

Lesliam Quirós-Alcalá, PhD, MSc – ISCHE President
Ana Maria Mora, MD, PhD – ISCHE Vice-President

ISCHE 2026 RETREAT

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2026 ISCHE Retreat! The retreat will take place on August 26–29, 2026 at the Sanctuary of Arantzazu in Oñate (Gipuzkoa), located in the Basque Country. Scientific sessions will take place at the Gandiaga Conference Venue. Retreat participants will be accommodated at the nearby Iraipe Hotel, with additional lodging available at the Sindika Hotel if needed. We look forward to seeing you in Arantzazu. Visit the 2026 ISCHE Retreat [webpage](#) for additional details, including venue details, travel tips, and the retreat agenda.



ISCHE R2A FELLOWSHIP

We have 18 R2A Fellows working in five different teams on science communication projects, such as conducting a literature review on how science has been translated to influence children's



environmental health policymaking and learning how to use social media for CEH communication. You can read more about the fellows on our [webpage](#)! We recently hosted a webinar specifically for ISCHE fellows on how to talk with policymakers with Max Aung and Rashmi Joglekar. We also hosted webinars in collaboration with USC's [BeHeard!](#) group on working with communities (speakers: Misti Allison and Erin Haynes on their work following the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio) and how to communicate environmental health science through social media with Little Things Matter and Rafa Buralli, Bruce Lanphear, and Marcela Tamayo-Ortiz. We hope you

are able to attend the retreat this August and meet our fantastic Fellows in person!

FELLOW UPDATES

Congratulations Dr. Sripada!

Kam Sripada, PhD starts a new position as Associate Professor at the Department of Mental Health, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. She will focus on environmental risk factors related to neurodevelopmental disorders.



Great work Morgan!

Morgan Crotta recently attended the first plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution (ISP-CWP) in Geneva as part of the UN Chemicals and

Waste Youth Platform's Youth Major Group to UNEP, alongside fellow ISCHE Research-to-Action Fellow Dr. Timnit Kefela. During the session, they contributed to a unified statement calling for stronger integration of children's environmental health, age-disaggregated data into global chemicals governance, as well as greater prioritization of future generations in decisions related to chemical exposures. It was wonderful to connect with Dr. Kefela in person while continuing our collaboration on the chemical policy project with Mundo Químico and discussing the progress of our ISCHE fellowship work.



She also recently joined the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) at the University of the District of Columbia as an Environmental Analysis and Laboratory Specialist. Morgan works within the Environmental Quality Testing Laboratory (EQTL), a NELAP-accredited laboratory, and the DC Water Resources Research Institute (DC WRRRI), where the team conducts applied research and water quality monitoring that supports regional environmental health and water safety. In this role, she is leading a new project focused on PFAS in partnership with the United States Department of Energy and Environment. Her work includes analytical

method implementation, PFAS monitoring in water systems, and laboratory analysis of emerging contaminants to strengthen the evidence base for protecting community water resources in Washington, DC.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Environmental Epidemiologist at the Maine CDC](#)

Application deadline: April 15, 2026

Serve as an environmental epidemiologist monitoring health impacts from chemical exposures and environmental conditions, including PFAS, carbon monoxide, extreme temperatures, and wildfire smoke. Work within a multidisciplinary team at the Maine CDC to conduct surveillance, investigations, and case reviews, while developing and managing statewide environmental health tracking systems. Provide expert guidance on reportable environmental illnesses to help protect public health.

NEW PUBLICATION

By Dr. Ferran Campillo I Lopez and colleagues: "[Lead exposure in children around a lead battery recycling plant: an environmental health approach for clinical and community management](#)," published in the *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We know that these are challenging times, and we deeply appreciate the support of our members. We kindly ask you to consider paying your membership dues, as these contributions help sustain our programs and community efforts.

If you're unable to do so now, submit a letter explaining your circumstances for board review. For inquiries, email info.ische@gmail.com.

FOLLOW ISCHE ON LINKEDIN

We are excited to announce the launch of the official ISCHE LinkedIn Page! This platform will help us strengthen our global community by sharing society updates, member achievements, upcoming events, and opportunities in children's environmental health.

We invite all ISCHE members to follow the page and help us grow our presence by sharing it within your networks.

 Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

ISCHE COMMITTEE

Retreat Planning Committee

Committee Co-Chair: Kasia Kordas, kkordas@buffalo.edu; Mikel Subiza Perez, mikel.sibiza@ehu.eus; Jesus Maria Ibarluza, jesusmaria.ibarluzea@ehu.eus

Mission of the Committee: The goal of this committee is to plan the semi-annual retreats. The tasks include identifying a date and location for the retreat, setting the agenda for the retreat (including scientific sessions, meals, local activities, etc.), coordinating local logistics (e.g., transportation), assisting in the development of a registration website, and updating the membership and Board about the retreat.

Communications Committee

Committee Chair: Cecilia Alcala, cecilia.alcala@mssm.edu

Mission of the Committee: The objective of this committee is to translate the Society's activities to our ISCHE members through the website, email, and other social media platforms. We will develop ISCHE newsletters highlighting the Society's activities and committees'.

R2A Fellowship Committee

Committee Chair: Carly Hyland, chyland@berkeley.edu; Rob McConnell, rmcconne@usc.edu

Mission of the Committee: The mission of the Fellowship committee is to sustain and foster ISCHE's Research to Action Fellowship, mentor the next generation of children's environmental health leaders, and provide training on translating research into policy and action. Activities include planning science communication webinars, supporting Fellows' project teams, and providing networking and growth opportunities for Fellows (e.g., writing sessions, assistance in attending retreats, opportunities to present research).

Early Career Investigators Committee

Committee Chair: Unknown

Mission of the Committee: The mission of the Early Career Investigators committee is to maintain relationships with ISCHE's Research to Action Fellows who have graduated from the fellowship, as well as those early career investigators who are new to ISCHE and not previously involved in R2A, to ensure that networking, communication, and mentorship continues into the next stages of training, teaching, and research.

This committee is currently in the process of being formed. If you are interested in joining or supporting its activities, please contact Savannah Sturla: [ssturla@umich.edu](mailto:ssurla@umich.edu)

Fundraising Committee

Committee Chair: Unknown

Mission of the Committee: The mission of the Fundraising Committee is to collaborate with external stakeholders and ISCHE membership to increase the available funds for ISCHE Retreat attendance; webinars; R2A Fellow projects; pilot funds; advocacy and legislative work; and other initiatives.

Needleman Medal Committee

Committee Chair: Ruth Etzel, retzel@earthlink.net

Mission of the Committee: The committee reviews nominations and selects the recipient of the Needleman Medal.

Membership Committee

Committee Chair(s): Frank Lippert, flippert@iu.edu

Mission of the Committee: The mission of this committee is to encourage the active participation of members in ISCHE's existing programs, and in proposing and participating in new programs.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH THE ISCHE COMMUNITY!

Help us stay connected! Whether you are celebrating a recent professional milestone, recruiting for an open position, or hosting an upcoming event, we would love to hear from you.

Submit your updates via our [Google Form](#) to be featured in our next member round-up. We look forward to hearing from you!