

Action Plan ISEE North America

Approved by the Executive Council

According to the bylaws, the mission of the North American Chapter (NAC) within ISEE is to promote action by North American members of ISEE on matters related to mentoring, engagement in public policymaking, environmental health research, and education in environmental epidemiology.

To support this mission, the aims of the North American Chapter include promoting:

- mentoring of early-career environmental health scientists;
- the translation of research findings into timely and effective policy;
- scientific research on environmental health;
- the funding of education and training in environmental health and environmental epidemiology in North America.

The Executive Council of the North American Chapter will engage and develop specific actions in the following areas:

1. Mentoring and career development

1.1 Significance of promoting mentoring and career development opportunities

Mentoring is a key factor for an innovative and successful and environmental health community. Both mentors and mentees benefit from these relationships that improve the enjoyment and quality of scientific endeavors. Access to engaged mentors plays a critical role in career advancement. The North American Chapter is committed to excellence in mentoring.

The North American Chapter aims to provide mentoring to early career researchers to enhance their career development, scientific research, and sense of community. In particular, we will focus on creating cross-institutional career mentoring opportunities. This will indirectly promote inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional research in North America.

1.2 Mentoring actions

- Networking events at annual ISEE and regional ISEE meetings
- Creating a program to match early-career to senior researchers across institutions

1.3 Career development actions

- Planning regional ISEE meetings that provide additional opportunities for early-career investigators to share their research and receive feedback
- Networking events at annual ISEE and regional ISEE meetings
- Webinars related new investigator skill sets, e.g., negotiating, time management
- Re-tweeting career opportunities

- Highlighting junior researchers' work on our website, in semi-annual newsletters, and on Twitter
- Facilitate job talk practice runs via web conferencing

2. Engagement in Policymaking

2.1. Significance of engaging

The aims of the North American Chapter include promoting the translation of research findings into timely and effective policy.

The Executive Council of North America recognizes that policy should be based on the best available science and, therefore, the necessity of (1) active engagement of the environmental health community in policy decision making; and (2) dissemination and translation of scientific research to the public, decision-makers, and other stakeholders.

2.2. NAC actions

- Relevant webinars semi-annually, e.g., how to talk to the press, how to make public comments, NAC member presentations on policy-relevant research
- Information on our website on how NAC members can engage with relevant stakeholders
- Publicly-available list on our website of NAC members that highlights their policy-relevant expertise and contact information
- Highlighting of policy-relevant research by NAC members
- Policy statements by the NAC Executive Council
- Timely communication with NAC members on upcoming commenting opportunities including key dates and contact information
- Policy-related symposiums at annual meetings
- Twitter presence, including highlighting NA-relevant environmental policy

3. Education

While an important piece of the NAC mission, the newly formed (in 2019) Chapter will focus initially on 1. Mentoring and career development and 2. Engagement in policy. In the future, the NAC will expand efforts in education.

4. Research in environmental health

While an important piece of the NAC mission, the newly formed (in 2019) Chapter will focus initially on 1. Mentoring and career development and 2. Engagement in policy. In the future, the NAC will expand efforts in research. Initial research-related actions include the following:

4.1 Research actions

- Planning regional ISEE meetings that provide additional opportunities for early-career investigators to share their research and receive feedback
- Including funding opportunities from a range of funders on our NAC website. NAC members will be encouraged to email us (isee.northamerica@gmail.com) these opportunities.
- Cross-institutional mentoring efforts will promote interdisciplinary research
- Highlighting researcher's work on our website, in semi-annual newsletters, and on Twitter

5. Organizational issues

5.1 Contact information

- ISEE North America Chapter website: isee-nac.org and iseepi.org
- ISEE North America Chapter email: isee.northamerica@gmail.com
- ISEE North America Chapter Twitter handle: @isee_nac and @ISEE_global
- At present, contact with all ISEE members in North America is done via the ISEE secretariat

5.2 Membership

At present all ISEE global members that were born in a North American country or work for a North American Institution are automatically North American Chapter members. The current (2019) North American Chapter countries include: Bermuda, Canada, Greenland, and the United States of America.

The executive council is comprised of 7 members. At least one member must represent Canada. North American Chapter members can be elected every-other-year to the Executive Council via electronic elections.

North American Chapter members can self-elect to become Associate Chapter members. Associate members will be more actively engaged in the action items listed above than regular NAC members.