

## ISWE Annual Report 2020

### Andre Ganswindt, Chair, University of Pretoria, South Africa

- Two new members were elected to the ISWE board– Ratna Ghosal (Ahmedabad University, India) as Vice Chair of Membership and Fundraising in November 2020 and Beth Roberts (Memphis Zoo, Memphis, TN, USA) as Secretary of the Board starting January 1, 2021. We thank our outgoing board members, Jocelyn Bryant and Katie Edwards, for their service to the ISWE board and general membership. Our seven person board currently operates from four countries/continents which provides an excellent base to continue to strengthen the international profile of the Society.
- Due to the world-wide COVID pandemic, our biannual in-person ISWE conference has been postponed to 2022. Therefore, ISWE will hold a 2021 Virtual Event August 16-17, 2021. The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of ISWE will be held November 2022 at Jim Corbett National Park, in India and will be hosted by Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. ISWE Conference Chair, Diana Koester, has provided details on these events below.
- ISWE hosted its first virtual annual board meeting November 9-13, 2020. The Society's By-laws and 2021 budget were approved. Changes to the Society's website design and maintenance in 2020 and the ongoing upgrade to abstract submission, membership signup, and conference registration were reviewed. Several special initiatives were discussed including the development of an ISWE Best Practice Guidelines and the development of new glucocorticoid specific ISWE assay kits. Ideas regarding collaboration with other similar societies to grow ISWE membership were discussed.

### Sue Walker, Vice Chair Ethics and Special Initiatives, Chester Zoo

- The new *By-Laws of ISWE* were written and approved. These amendments included a clause under the *ISWE Code of Ethics and Professionalism* and *Standard of Professional Conduct* that addresses intolerance of bullying and harassment of and by members.
- We completed development and testing of two new ISWE mini kits, Estradiol and Corticosterone, which are now available from Arbor Assays (ISWE007 & ISWE008) [https://www.arborassays.com/product\\_type/iswe-mini-kits/](https://www.arborassays.com/product_type/iswe-mini-kits/) In 2021, we will focus on development of new glucocorticoid group specific antibodies for the ISWE membership.
- We have begun the process to produce a 'Best Practice Guidelines' on key endocrine research topics and techniques to support the ISWE community. We aim to have the resource available online to the ISWE membership by early 2022.
- As access to WEIN (Wildlife Endocrinology Information Network) is currently unavailable, we explored new ways to host the database which would enable entry and search functions. A new WEIN subcommittee is being established to further this initiative in 2021.
- We began to explore a special journal issue focused on the capability of non-invasive endocrinology to understand mechanisms behind wildlife responses to their environment. This initiative is on hold and will be revisited in 2022.

**Ratna Ghosal, Vice Chair Membership and Fundraising, Ahmedabad University, India**

- The proposal to host the 8<sup>th</sup> ISWE conference in Jim Corbett National Park, India was approved by the board. As I am also one of the host organizations for the conference, I will work with the Conference Chair and my co-organizers to make 8<sup>th</sup> ISWE a successful event.
- In 2021, I will initiate improved strategies to boost fundraising programs for ISWE, including but not limited to: peer-to-peer fundraising/member recruitment program with other international societies through collaborative events.

**Diana Koester, Conference Chair, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, USA**

- We improved the abstract review process to render it more objective and standardized across reviewers of different areas of expertise as well as to improve abstract review efficiency.
- ISWE website development continued in 2020. ISWE is now able to manage conference and event registration for members and non-members directly through our secure website.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> ISWE Conference was pushed back one year to November 2022 and will be held at the Jim Corbett National Park, India, at the Riverview Retreat hotel and conference center.
- The first ISWE Virtual Event will be held August 16-17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with abstract submission opening February 1<sup>st</sup>. This Virtual Event will be hosted through our website. *All student member presentations* will be judged by a panel of experts and the student presentation winner will receive an ISWE Travel Grant to the 8th ISWE conference in India.

**Grace Fuller, Communications Chair, Detroit Zoological Society, USA**

- The communications committee spent much of 2020 assisting with ISWE website revisions, including the forthcoming revised abstract submission process. Additional resources, such as a list of relevant methodological papers, were added to the website to aid members while WEIN is still in re-development.
- A member survey was completed to assess content needs for the ISWE Best Practice Guidelines. The survey is still available to complete at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RTHYCDG>
- We published a winter and summer edition of the ISWE newsletter. We greatly appreciate member content submissions to [ISWE.socialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:ISWE.socialmedia@gmail.com)
- We continued to expand the ISWE social media presence. ISWE has 1094 followers on Facebook; 119 followers on Twitter; and 67 followers on Instagram.

**Katie Edwards, Secretary, Chester Zoo, UK**

- We received an approval voting from two thirds of the membership in favor of the revised By-Laws. The By-Laws can be found on the membership page of the Society's web page.
- Due to postponement of the 8<sup>th</sup> ISWE conference, board-member timelines were adjusted to make sure meeting arrangements move smoothly.
- We held elections for Vice Chair of Memberships & Fundraising, and Secretary.

**Annie Newell-Fugate, Treasurer, Texas A&M University, USA**

- Our main expenditures this year were: 1) continued update of the ISWE website and conference abstract submission system; 2) investment in the purchase of antibody anti-sera and the development of additional ISWE mini-kits.
- The majority of our 2020 income came from ISWE membership fees.

**ISWE 2020 Financial Summary:**

Starting balance (January 1, 2020): \$ 60,368.62

- Income: \$ 9,737.00

- Expenses: \$ 11,082.22

Ending Balance (December 31, 2020): \$ 59,023.40

**ISWE Membership December 2020: 179**