



International Society of Electrochemistry

associated organization of IUPAC

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Dear friends and colleagues, dear ISE community,

One year has passed since I took over as a president, and it is my pleasure to follow the tradition of ISE presidents and send you a summary on the activities and innovations during the first year of my term of office.

2023 was an eventful year, in which some of our hopes became true. So we could gradually return to normal operations after the pandemic, with all meetings being held in presence again. I personally could not attend the two Topical Meetings, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and in Gold Coast, Australia, but I enjoyed the very lively Annual Meeting in Lyon, France, and could finally held the so long awaited scientific discussions face to face again. I hope that many of you had the same positive experience in one of the ISE meetings. But 2023 had also dark sides which have not completely bypassed the ISE. We witnessed still increasing international tensions; hopes for peace in the Ukraine were dashed, and the EC has been forced to continue to withdraw the ISE from any activities involving organizations or institutions connected with governments acting in violation of the UN charter. Against this background of ongoing tension in diverse regions, the EC still maintains a database providing information on specific help available to academics who have been forced to leave their permanent posts because of natural disasters or wars.

In our work within the Executive Committee (EC), we placed much emphasis on changes necessary to keep ISE a modern and attractive society in the future. Some of you might have realized that our social media presence has been reinforced, and this on the platform LinkedIn which we judged to be globally best accessible. I would like to encourage all of you to actively use this channel of communication.

Another important item, still triggered during the Pandemic, that was heavily discussed within the EC, was how conferences would develop in the future and how much online or hybrid components should be kept in the post-pandemic period. Clearly, all of us recognize the importance of meetings being held in presence. Yet, in general, the number of meetings we attend in average might become lower in the future, for various reasons, such as limited funds, attempts to decrease the own CO₂ footprint, or the insight that a mixture of presence and online meetings is most effective for the own needs. We therefore strike to create special incentives that bring the little bit extra to ISE meetings that might then be decisive in choosing ISE meetings as the ones that the electrochemical community will attend in presence. During the forthcoming Annual Meeting in Montreal, we thus start with an experiment on different symposium formats. More precisely, each division has the opportunity to freely shape one session slot in an entirely new way, be it a podium discussion, or, as a member proposed to me a 'speed dating event between theoreticians and experimentalists'. Starting from this experiment, we will then work on finding the road to go in future meetings. Everybody of you is invited to bring in their ideas. These innovations should not be imposed top to bottom but grow bottom to top, and the formats are not yet fixed. So, if you have an idea for such a session format, contact the division officers and discuss it with them!

Other activities of the EC I would like to mention here were the reconstitution of the Publication Committee, and the installation of an Inclusive Excellence Committee as well as the adaptation of a Code of Conduct. All of you are invited to vote for or against the draft of the latter, which can be found on the ISE webpage, during the second half of 2024.

There are numerous further activities that I have not yet mentioned, starting with the work of the Divisions, the Regional Sections, and other committees, such as the many award committees, to other facts of interest, such as membership development, awards, ISE fellows or any quantitative details of last year's meetings. All this information is compiled below in an Annex.

At this point I would like to end my presidential letter with a big thank you. My thank goes to everybody who contributed to the activities of the society, in particular to all conference organizers, division officers, symposium organizers, regional representatives, members of the various committees, members of the executive committee, the executive secretary, and to FontisMedia, our association and conference service provider. I look forward to a continued good collaboration in 2024!

Finally, I would like to wish you a healthy, peaceful and happy New Year and hope to meet many of you at an ISE meeting.

Sincerely yours,
Katharina Krischer
ISE president 2023-2024

Annex: Detailed ISE report 2023

Scientific Meetings

The ISE has organized three meetings on three continents. With the Annual Meeting taking place in Europe (74th Annual Meeting in Lyon, France), the Topical Meetings were held in South America (Mar del Plata, Argentina) and in Australia (Gold Coast, Australia).

Topical Meetings

Pleasingly, the attendance at both topical meetings met the numbers of the pre-pandemic era, leading to fruitful scientific discussions.

The 34th Topical Meeting of ISE took place in Mar del Plata, Argentina, between the 20th and 23th of March. Its Topic focused on three main themes: Electrochemistry and Health, Clean Energy and Materials Degradation. The meeting attracted an attendance of 152 participants, a number not achieved on a Topical Meeting in South America in a long time. The conference featured three Keynote Speakers (Ingrid Milošev, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana; Svitlana Lamaka, Helmholtz Zentrum Hereon; Khalil Amin, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne) and twelve Invited speakers. The keynote and invited lectures provided the framework for oral and poster presentations which outlined the recent progress in the field.

The 35th Topical Meeting was organized in Gold Coast, Australia between the 19th and 22nd of May. The meeting's main themes concentrated on Fundamental Electrochemistry, Energy, Environment and Health and attracted 298 participants from several fields of electrochemistry, both theoreticians and experimentalists. The scientific program consisted of three parallel sessions. The meeting featured five keynote lectures and 17 invited talks introducing contributed oral and poster presentations. The keynote lectures were delivered by David Williams (University of Auckland), Jill Venton (University of Virginia), Justin Gooding (University of New South Wales), Shigang Sun (Xiamen University) and Zaiping Guo (University Adelaide).

Special thanks go to Silvia Cere, Monica Vazquez, Debbie Silvester-Dean, Huijun Zhao and Chuan Zhao, respectively, and their organizing teams, for all the efforts that they put into organizing these two very successful Topical Meetings.

Annual Meeting

The 74th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry took place in Lyon, France, between September 4th and 8th. The main theme of the Meeting was "Bridging Scientific

Disciplines to Address World's Challenges". The scientific program comprised six Plenary Lectures delivered by Alexei Kornyshev (Imperial College, UK, Electrochimica Acta Gold Medal awardee), Susana Cordoba de Torresi (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil), Elzbieta Frackowiak (Poznan University of Technology, Poland), Mark Orazem (University of Florida, USA), Hiroyuki Uchida (Yamanashi University, Japan) and Alain Walcarius (Lorraine University & CNRS, Nancy, France)). The contributed papers were presented in 16 individual Symposia and encompassed 70 Keynote, 107 invited, more than 700 oral presentations and more 800 poster presentations.

Two Tutorial lectures were held during the Annual Meeting. These workshops dealt with "Cyclic Voltammetry" given by Cyrille Constantin (Université Grenoble Alpes, France) and Alexander Oleinick (Ecole Normale Supérieure, France), and with "Fundamentals of Electrochemical Engineering" delivered by Theo Tzedakis (Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France), Karel Bouzek (University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, Czech Republic) and Carlos Ponce De Leon Albarran (University of Southampton, UK).

The 74th Annual Meeting was attended by more than 1880 registered participants, making it the second most attended Annual Meeting in the history of the ISE. The success of the 74th Annual Meeting was mainly possible thanks to the extraordinary effort of the co-chairs of the Organizing Committee, Vincent Vivier (CNRS - Sorbonne Université Paris) and Nadine Pebère (Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse) in collaboration with all the Symposia organizers and of course all the participants, and thanks to the efforts of Raphael Berger and Gill Bourgeois from our conference organization provider, FontisMedia.

The ISE plans to organize three Topical meetings in 2024: 36th Topical Meetings in Šibenik, Croatia (26th -29th May 2024), 37th Topical Meeting in Stresa, Italy (9th-12th June 2024) and 38th Topical Meeting in Manchester, UK (8th – 11th September 2024). The 75th Annual Meeting will take place in Montreal, Canada between the 18th and 23th August 2024. Detailed information on all ISE meetings is available on the websites of each meeting, accessible from the ISE homepage.

Sponsored Meetings

In 2023, ISE also returned to full strength in its sponsoring activities. The ISE has supported in total 29 meetings, a number which is comparable to the one of the pre-pandemic era. To take account of inflation, the EC decided to increase the amount that can be used to support the sponsorship application from 600 to 1000 €. Relevant rules, as well as an exhaustive list of sponsored events may be found on the website of the Society (<https://www.ise-online.org/ise-sponsoring/sponsored.php>).

ISE Fellows

As a new ISE Fellow, the EC appointed Yan-Kook Sun of the Hanyang University, South Korea; congratulations to him for this achievement. The ISE Fellowship is perceived as one of the most prestigious recognitions of scientific excellence in the field. Although the ISE receives numerous nominations every year, we would like to encourage all ISE members to nominate excellent scientists for this recognition, with particular attention to so far underrepresented groups, notably

excellent female electrochemists. Details for preparing your nomination can be found here: <https://www.ise-online.org/fellows.php>.

Awards

Eleven ISE Prizes were awarded in 2023 and the winners along with their citations were announced on the ISE webpage.

- The ISE-Elsevier Prize for Experimental Electrochemistry was awarded to Ian Burgess, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.
- The Kasumi Niki Prize in Bioelectrochemistry was awarded to Ana Maria Oliveira-Brett, University of Coimbra, Portugal.
- The Alexander Kuznetsov Prize for Theoretical Electrochemistry was awarded to Mira Todorova, Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung, Germany.
- The Jaroslav Heyrovsky Prize for Molecular Electrochemistry was awarded to Simone Ciampi, Curtin University, Australia.
- The Tajima Prize was awarded to Federico Bella, Politecnico di Torino, Italy.
- The ISE Prize for General Electrochemical Materials Science was awarded to Raphaële J. Clément for innovative work in the field of advanced batteries, University of California Santa Barbara, USA.
- The Zhaowu Tian Prize for Energy Electrochemistry was awarded to Carlo Santoro, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy.
- The ISE-Elsevier Prize for Green Electrochemistry was awarded to Juliana Brito, Sao Paulo State University.
- The ISE-Elsevier Prize for Applied Electrochemistry was awarded to Dulce Maria Morales Hernandez, University of Groningen, The Netherlands.
- The Early Career Analytical Electrochemistry Prize of ISE Division 1 was awarded to Paolo Bollella, University of Bari, Italy.
- The Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Young Author Prize 2023 was awarded to Mohsin Muhyuddin, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy.

Nominations and applications for the 2024 ISE Prizes will be invited and must be submitted to the ISE Office between March 1st and May 1st, 2024.

Three *Electrochimica Acta* Travel Awards for Young Electrochemists, sponsored by Elsevier, and six ISE Travel Awards, aimed at encouraging the participation of young scientists in the 74th ISE Annual Meeting, were awarded to Thaisa Baldo, Yan B. Vogel, Alessandro Piovano, Luisa Zudina, Yaolin Xu, Georgios Bampos, Fengxia Deng, Caroline Sanz, Sheena Louisia, Tianye Zheng and Juliana Brito. The same number of Travel Awards will be awarded in 2024.

Society Journal

The Board of Editors of *Electrochimica Acta* during the past 12 months consisted of Robert Hillman (Editor-in-Chief), Sotiris Sotiropoulos (Special Issues Editor), Philippe Allongue, Gary Attard, Nick Birbilis, Aicheng Chen, Elena Ferapontova, Laurence Hardwick, Deborah Jones, Robert Kostecki, Rüdiger Kötz, Pawel Kulesza, Tomokazu Matsue, Angela Molina, Shi-Gang Sun and Jiang-Ping Tu.

The Impact Factor of the Society journal slightly dropped to 6.95 from 7.34 last year, which had been a record. This minor decrease, however, has to be experience across all journals due to a change in the methodology implemented in 2023 by Clarivate. Our journal firmly retains its position in the first quartile being an authoritative source of publication in all fields of electrochemistry. The strong position of the journal in the electrochemical community is also attested by the large number of colleagues accepting reviewer assignments. The usage of the journal as projected from the number of downloads remains similar to that experienced in previous years. Although the situation with organization of the scientific meetings improved in 2023, *Electrochimica Acta* still plans to continue publishing topically oriented Special Issues. It is important to note, however, that despite retaining the quality of the published papers the volume of the work submitted to the journal decreased with respect to pre-pandemic era. As in the previous year, *Electrochimica Acta* is included in a new initiative of the Publisher Elsevier: the so-called Cassyni project, in which selected papers published in the journal gain further visibility through online video seminars where the audience can meet the authors and discuss the research summarized in the paper. These seminars are becoming popular, strengthening the position of *Electrochimica Acta* among leading electrochemical journals, and are organized on a monthly basis.

Executive Committee

Elections were held in spring 2023, to refill three positions on the Executive Committee in accordance with the ISE Constitution and Bylaws. Francesca Soavi was elected as a new ISE Secretary General. Francesca replaces on the Executive Committee Tim Albrecht, who served as Secretary General for the past six years.

Wataru Sugimoto and Take Dong Chung were elected as Vice Presidents for the term 2024-2026. They replace on the Executive Committee Andrea Russell and Takayuki Homma.

The elections of President Elect (2025-2026) and one Vice-Presidents (2025-2027) will take place during the spring of 2024. The Nominating Committee (NC) will select the candidates. The NC is chaired by the ISE president Katharina Krischer); the other members are Bingwei Mao, Krzysztof Fic, Andrea Balducci and Marc Koper (as the Immediate Past President).

The Executive Committee also concentrated its efforts on modernizing the Society for the coming years. To strengthen the benefits of our members and to make our Society more attractive for the young generation of electrochemists the EC decided to increase the ISE presence on social media, mainly focusing on LinkedIn as the main communication platform accessible across the globe. The Executive Committee decided to appoint Social Media Officers who will be responsible for approaching the membership and our community via social media platforms. These efforts will be coordinated by Justyna Piwek and Matt Lancey. The ISE appearance on social media will be closely coordinated with the reconstituted Publication Committee which will be chaired by Vito DiNoto.

The EC also introduced an instrument to increase the representation of groups that have been underrepresented for a long time. It established an Inclusive Excellence Committee. The activities of this Committee which will advise the EC on improvement of inclusiveness in ISE will be coordinated by Shelley Minter with help of Katrin Domke, Patrick Unwin and Yungchia Chen. The aim to improve the inclusiveness of our Society is further strengthened by the decision of the EC to introduce a Code of Conduct for participants at ISE Meetings and events. A draft of the

Code of Conduct was consulted with ISE Council and will be subject to Membership voting in 2024.

Divisions

The Division Officers, supported by Division members, play a central role in the life of the Society, by promoting scientific activities in their respective fields, preparing and implementing the scientific programs of the symposia of meetings of the Society, and organising divisional activities at Annual Meetings. In accordance with the two-year cycle, there were no changes to the composition of the Division Officers in 2023 and I would like to thank all Division Officers for their service to the Society.

Regional Sections

In the calendar year 2022, the ISE had 43 recognized Regional Sections. The reports on the activities of most Regional Sections are available on the website of the Society (https://www.ise-online.org/ise-committees/RRreports/RR_Reports_2023.pdf).

Elections of Regional Representatives for the term 2024-2026 were held in various regions. Tanja Vidakovic Koch (Germany), Lucia Mascaro (Brazil), Silvia Cere (Argentina), Alexandre Bastos (Portugal), Danica Ivošević DeNardis (Croatia), Margarita Miranda Hernandez (Mexico), Cecilia Cristea (Romania), Xinxin Xiao (Denmark) and Ruth Knibbe (Australia/New Zealand) will serve as Regional Representatives in 2024-2026. Their active participation of the Regional Representatives in the life of the Society, especially in recruiting new members and in maintaining and strengthening the links between the ISE and the local electrochemical communities, is of primary importance.

Committees

The term of Enrique Herrero as member of the Scientific Meetings Committee (SMC) ended on 31st December 2023. Silvia Cere will replace her and will serve on the SMC for 3 years (2024-2026). Jaeyoung Lee will chair the SMC in 2024, the final year of his term.

In the Fellows Nominating Committee (FNC), Mark Orazem was appointed to replace Wolfgang Schuman, whose regular five-year term ended on 31st December 2023. Philippe Hapiot will chair the committee in 2024.

Membership

This year ISE recorded 3683 active members (including 15% students and 4% retired members). The membership remained stable compared to 2022 and we expect that it remains stable also in 2024. The ISE membership includes members from 80 countries and regions, which is the highest number of regions in the ISE history. The membership fees for 2024 have been maintained at the 2023 level, i.e. 50 € for ordinary members and 15 € for young and emeritus members. ISE will continue to improve service to its members through various online and on-site activities going beyond traditional meetings.