

COMMENT



International Society Exposure Science Annual Meeting 2022— from exposure to human health: new developments and challenges in a changing environment

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The annual meeting of the International Society of Exposure Science took place from 25 to 29 September 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. The meeting was developed in the scope of a central title: “From Exposure to Human Health: New Developments and Challenges in a Changing Environment”. The aim of the meeting was to promote information sharing and facilitate discussion on exposure sciences and related fields in the context of the changing environment, especially how we—as exposure scientists – can better understand and respond to the complex and multidisciplinary issues in exposure and environmental health through sciences and policies. This was the first opportunity that we were together in-person again after the COVID-19 pandemic’ lockdowns. Thus, the meeting was able to attract researchers from the beginning of the preparation. This resulted in many abstracts being submitted (more than 450 submissions) describing the findings of new research on exposure science. The final participation numbers were 421 in-person attendees and 35 virtual attendees. From these, 93 (20%) were students or new researchers. The main geographical origins of our attendees were North America (42%) followed by Europe (39%).

Four of the pre-conference workshops were organised as virtual meetings instead of the in-person conference. In Lisbon, we had a full agenda with six pre-conference workshops on the 25th September dedicated to techniques for sampling and analysis of biological aerosols, different modelling approaches and strategies for enhancing peer review from an editor’s perspective. In the same day, we had an opening plenary focused on microbiologic exposure assessment in different occupational and indoor settings. This was a great start of the meeting with a special welcome reception for the attendees where they took the opportunity to meet and discuss their ongoing scientific work.

The next days were also fully packed and very challenging with a full agenda, including five more plenary sessions and nine amazing keynote speakers, 47 sessions for oral presentations and 24 symposiums dedicated to multiple topics with relevant and emerging issues on exposure science. In eight poster-viewing

sessions, young researchers could meet with more experienced researchers and share their work and ideas.

Some of the topics discussed during the meeting were related with specific chemicals or other risk factors and/or activities (e.g., PFAS, microbiological agents, firefighting and cooking) covering different areas where exposure science is of relevance such as Occupational Health and Safety, Indoor Air Quality, Air Pollution and many others. Further details about the scientific contribution are available in the abstract book of the ISES2022 conference in the supplementary material to this paper.

The meeting in Lisbon was also an opportunity to dedicated groups to have their meetings in the framework of the ISES2022 conference to discuss some of their ongoing activities, such as the ISES Europe chapter, the ART-Consortium and others. In addition, the meeting was also very relevant from the social and engagement perspective since it allowed old colleagues to meet again and to engage new colleagues in their research. Activities such as the student poster competition, pre-conference meetings, lunch box socials, informal mixers and many more were the perfect context to promote this type of interactions.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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