



Dear IZFS Members,

On June 30th, 2020, my one-year term as President of IZFS came to an end and I passed on the baton to Phil Ingham. It has been an eventful year for all of us, including our Society. I started my term shortly after our very successful international conference in China and was supported by an extraordinarily committed group of people on the board as well as a fantastic set of people in our executive office. The past Presidents of our Society, Brant Weinstein and Mary Mullins, had worked tirelessly to get IZFS off the ground, we had just started working with our new management company (EDI), and all appeared in order. The first half of the year was busy organizing the Principal Investigator (PI) meeting in Taiwan and setting up two new committees: one focused on environmental sustainability, prompted by discussions at the conference in China, and the other focused on nominating members of our community to various professional societies around the world. Our spirits were high, Jeff Lee and Bon-chu Chung were working very hard to organize an exciting PI meeting in their hometown of Taipei, and our main societal concern was global warming and how to increase our level of environmental responsibility. Unfortunately, the emerging COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel the PI meeting in late January, and since then 2020 has been a most challenging year worldwide with little relief in immediate sight and forcing us all to adapt the best we can.

Given these circumstances, IZFS decided to accelerate the launching of webinars, and under the leadership of Tatjana Piotrowski and Elisabeth Busch-Nentwich, we ran our first event in late April. Several webinars and a workshop have taken place since then, attracting many of our members as well as non-members. More webinars have been scheduled, including a workshop on genome editing on July 22nd, and thanks to the efforts of Nichole Nikolic and her team at EDI, we have also secured our first sponsors for these webinars. We also have to thank Nichole and her team for their outstanding work in handling the financial consequences of the Taiwan meeting cancellation via a very successful insurance claim. Special thanks also to Kate Lewis and all her work in the past 3 years as Treasurer of the Society as she helped adopt financial policies and procedures to safeguard against any potentially fraudulent activity. She also helped revise the financial statements and develop an operating budget, giving us a clearer view of the financial health of the Society.

The pandemic is affecting us in many unfortunate ways including in the closure of borders and the rise of nationalism. It is thus essential that we maintain contact and keep working with colleagues all over the world, and keep sharing reagents and ideas. Looking beyond the pandemic, and in the context of our Society and its goals, we most welcome your feedback, not only regarding topics for webinars, but also in other ways we could provide valuable support. For example, should the Society become more involved in helping its members with animal experimental protocols? While the rules certainly differ in details and enforcement, the spirit of the 3 Rs is universal. Please take a look at the Society's website (www.izfs.org) and do contact us at info@izfs.org with any feedback/ideas/comments.

Thank you and wishing you all the best in these very unusual times.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Didier Stainier', is located below the word 'Sincerely'.

Didier Stainier

the subject, unsubscribe.