

Letter to the ISPNE members – June 2021

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Dear friends and colleagues, dear members of the society

This is my second letter that I write to you, as Summer 2021 is approaching, and we all hope that the pandemic in its worse aspects is behind us. Different countries have different vaccination programmes at different stages, and there is of course a great concern for availability of vaccines in the developing world, but undoubtedly we are now in a place of hope that only six months ago, when I wrote my first letter as President, would have been unforeseeable.

This letter appears also at a time of great excitement and activity for our society.

We have a new management team, Society Offices AMC, and we are launching a new website. We have a very active social media activity, led by our Twitter accounts, [@ISPNE](#), [@PNECJournal](#) and [@CPNECJournal](#). Please click on the links and follow these accounts, if you are not already!

We are in the process of changing the Bylaws to expand the Executive Committee from the current 6 members (4 elected and two ex officio) to a total of 10 (6 elected and two ex officio), including one post for a representative of the early career scholars (students and postdocs), one post for an Education and Meeting Officer, one post for an Officer for Diversity and Inclusion, and two new elected members.

On the 18th of June, we will be opening the registration, and abstract and symposium submission, for the 2021 Virtual Conference, that will take place September 7th-9th. At the Executive we have decided that the conference will be free for all members, so to incentivise older friends to re-engage and newer friends to become members and start a new commitment to the society. Now is the time to visit our website www.ispne.net and become a member, or renew your existing membership – before the last-minute pre-conference rush!

For the Conference, we have lined up an outstanding plenary programme, with plenary lectures offered by the top scientists at the interface between psychoneuroendocrinology and psychoneuroimmunology – not only the theme of this year's conference but also the two souls of so many of the researchers and clinicians that regularly attend ISPNE or write and read the papers published in our two journals, *Psychoneuroendocrinology* and *Comprehensive Psychoneuroendocrinology*. The list of confirmed plenary speakers includes Staci Bilbo, Lucile Capuron, John Cryan, Christopher P. Fagundes, Jennifer Felger, Jennifer E. Graham-Engeland, Andreas Menke, Greg Miller, Keely A. Muscatell, Brenda Penninx, Marco Riva and Nicola Rohleder.

We are eagerly awaiting submissions for our annual Dirk Hellhammer Award (closing date, 30th of June) for applicants that are 45 years of age or younger by the closing date: the manuscript must be a report of original, never-published research, or an integrative comprehensive new discussion of the author's previously published findings. Again, information is available on www.ispne.net.

And we will also celebrate soon one of our exceptional colleagues through the Lifetime Achievement Award, to be announced during the Summer. Think about someone whom you consider to have had a great impact in our field of research and submit his/her name to me at: carmine.pariante@kcl.ac.uk – by June 30th at the latest, please!

In conclusion, I hope that this update conveys the energy and enthusiasm that all of us in the Executive feel for the rapidly approaching Virtual Conference, and I hope I will see all of you online in September.

With my best regards

Carmine M. Pariante