
Letter from the ISRP President and Vice-President

Dear Members,

We are immensely proud of the efforts all of you are making in directly driving effective respiratory protection controls to aid the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our global ISRP members are each playing a key role in the response: government policy and infection control consultation, rapid regulatory framework evolution, respiratory protection education and outreach, respiratory protection supply surge, and respiratory protection program effectiveness. Meanwhile our core society activities continue. Our Journal Editor, Ziqing Zhuang, has done an immense amount of work to ensure a timely release of articles relevant to those responding to COVID-19 in this issue.



As of the time of this writing, the response to COVID-19 continues. Respiratory protection experts are playing a key role in guiding government policy by educating policy makers on the role of respiratory protection in infection control for: healthcare workers, professionals involved in caretaking, and the general public. Significant work is taking place between regulators and manufacturers to rapidly enable product to get to the market while maintaining and ensuring the safety and effectiveness of respirators to protect the wearer.



The core mission and activities of ISRP are even more relevant during this time. The Journal serves as a scientific forum for respiratory protection research with multiple articles relevant to COVID-19 being released this issue and the back archives of the Journal being used by researchers to drive key research initiatives such as decontamination methods. Articles on respirator cleaning and decontamination have been downloaded thousands of times over the last month.

Given the historic social distancing measures it should come as no surprise that many of our technical meetings have been cancelled or postponed. This is done for the safety of our members and our communities and for now we do not yet have visibility to when this will change. At the same time, we recognize the importance of pulling together the community to exchange information on respiratory protection. More to come on this topic.

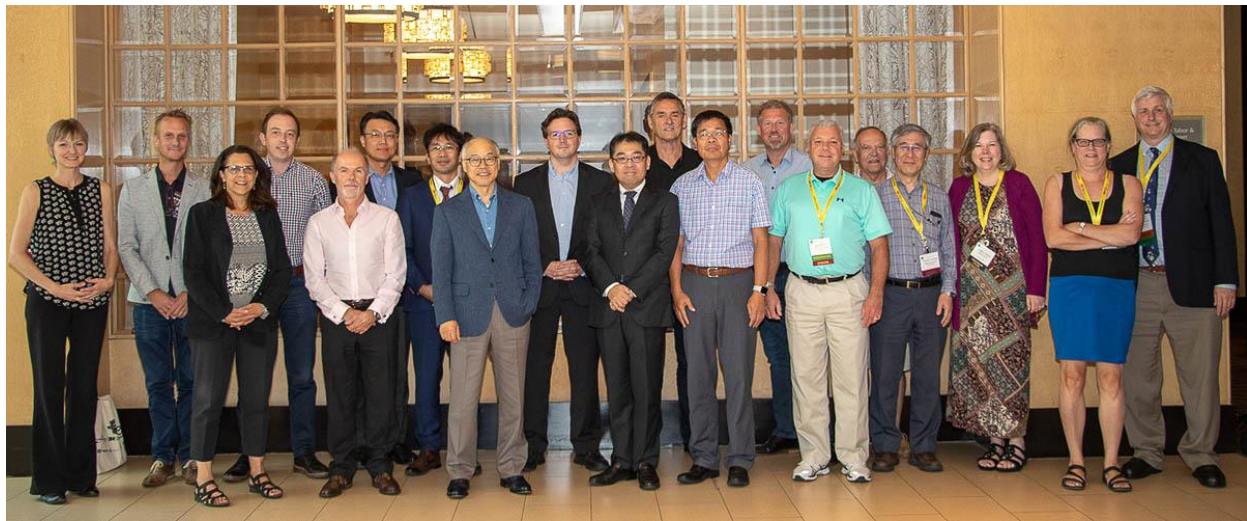
Moving to the future, we plan on completing our biennial change of leadership in October. We thank Lars Ronner for six years of service to the society, leaving the Past-President post, as we welcome Gabriele Troescher as our next Vice-President. The executive committee will work to help direct the society to reflect on the learnings of the pandemic and how we can best respond to aid the international community in preparedness. We all recognize the newfound global awakening on the importance of masks and respirators for infection control. There remains a

significant gap in public knowledge and perception that must be addressed. As experts in respiratory protection we must be sure we have a seat at the table in helping to shape policy and communication strategies to educate the general public and occupational users of respiratory protection on the safe effective use of respirators. Finally, pandemics are but one of our 21st century challenges where respiratory protection has a role. We must not lose sight of the role respirators have as controls related to air pollution, wildfire smoke, and respiratory protection in the developing world and the gig economy, and the ISRP plans to be an active participant in this area.

Sincerely,

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Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, Colorado USA (2018)