

Dear Colleagues,

The retreat committee is developing the agenda for the ISCHE Retreat, to be held in the remarkable surroundings of **Arantzazu in the Basque Country, Spain**, from **August 25–29, 2026**. We are pleased to invite **session proposals and abstracts for individual presentations**.

ISCHE retreats are unique in that they rely on interactive formats (ignite talks, discussions, and workshops) to build connections, foster thoughtful engagement, and drive action around environmental health issues that affect children's health.

We welcome proposals and presentations that address the theme of the retreat, **Place Matters: Spatial and Social Determinants of Child Health Globally** and align with the mission of the society to reduce the impact of adverse chemical, physical, biological, and social influences on children's health through research, policy, training, and education. To help guide the development of submissions, the committee has identified several related thematic areas.

#### Thematic areas

- Mapping Exposure – Geospatial Approaches and Barriers to Children's Health
- Early Life Environments – Linking Prenatal Exposures to Place
- Natural Disasters, Stress, and Child Development Across Geographies
- The Built Environment – Children in Changing Cities
- Collaborative Leadership – Working with Community Partners for Lasting Impact
- From Research to Policy – Building Healthier Places for Children
- Integrating Environmental Resilience into Child Health Policies
- Innovations in Exposure Assessment Across Place and Time
- “Stories of Place”: Community, Environment, and Child Health
- Children's Environmental Health in the Basque Country and Spain
- Causes of Effects and Effects of Causes: Strengthening Causal Reasoning in Observational Studies of Children's Environmental Health
- Place and Exposomic Approaches to Children's Health
- AI Data Centers & their Impacts on Children's Health

We welcome **proposals for symposia consisting of ignite talks\* and other session formats** (workshops, discussions, other interactive sessions), as well as **abstracts for individual ignite talks** on related or complementary topics. A total of seven sessions will be programmed, and each session should not exceed **75 minutes** in length.

*\*Ignite talks are fast, focused 5-minute presentations designed to ignite curiosity with a single powerful idea delivered in a clear, dynamic, and engaging way. They can be presented with or without slides.*

### Important dates

- Submit your proposals and abstracts [here](#) by **March 20, 2026**
- Notifications of selections will be sent by **April 15, 2026**

### Guidelines for preparing session proposals

Please include the following information:

- Session title
- Names of session organizers
- Email of session organizers
- Session format (e.g., brief presentations, panel discussion, workshop, hands-on training)
- Brief overview (maximum 250 words)
- Main objectives of the session (2–3 objectives)
- Potential speakers/participants, their topics, and email

List potential speakers and indicate whether they have agreed to participate if the session is selected. We highly encourage session organizers to include speakers from **low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)** and to represent **diverse career stages**. Please contact the planning committee if you need suggestions on speakers.

### Guidelines for preparing ignite talk submissions:

When preparing your abstract, keep in mind that the ISCHE Retreats are not traditional scientific meetings. Abstracts may include scientific content, but they will be evaluated based on their relevance and applicability to children's environmental health, not from a scientific or methodological perspective. **Submissions should clearly align with the mission of the society to reduce the impact of adverse chemical, physical, biological, and social influences on children's health through research, policy, training, and education.**

Please include the following information:

- Presentation title
- Presenter name and email
- Objective of the presentation
- Abstract, not to exceed 250 words
- Up to 5 keywords

### Submissions not selected for the program

Proposals or abstracts not selected for the program will be referred for poster presentations.

For more information, please contact **Ane Arregi** ([ane.arregi@ehu.eus](mailto:ane.arregi@ehu.eus)).