

ISEE Commentaries – Process

ISEE active members (up to date on membership fees) who wish to contribute an ISEE-sponsored commentary to either *Epidemiology* or *Environmental Epidemiology* should follow the process outlined below. Generally, these commentaries are <2000 words. Commentaries can be on any topic of broad interest to ISEE members and the readership of the journals. These commentaries do not represent an endorsement from ISEE; rather, ISEE seeks to provide a public forum to generate scientific discourse. Note that while commentaries can be author-initiated or solicited, all commentaries undergo peer review and are subject to editorial decisions regarding acceptance. If commentaries are time sensitive, the process below can be expedited but will still be followed.

Examples of commentaries can be found at

<https://journals.lww.com/epidem/pages/collectiondetails.aspx?TopicalCollectionId=35>. If folks have questions about the appropriateness of a potential submission, they can reach out to the ISEE liaisons to *Epidemiology* (currently laura.corlin@tufts.edu and pkkinney@bu.edu).

1. If the commentary is author-initiated, an initial conversation with the ISEE liaisons is suggested prior to development of the commentary.
2. All commentaries under consideration for ISEE sponsorship in either *Epidemiology* or *Environmental Epidemiology* should be submitted using the solicited ISEE commentary category for *Epidemiology*.
3. Within 5-7 business days of receiving the submission from the *Epidemiology* Editor-in-Chief, the ISEE liaisons make an initial decision whether to reject or consider the submission. They also decide whether to refer the submission to *Epidemiology* or *Environmental Epidemiology*.
4. If sent out for review, two independent reviewers will be sought. Authors can recommend reviewers to the ISEE liaisons; however, final decisions regarding invited reviewers are up to the ISEE liaisons and the *Epidemiology* Editor-in-Chief. Reviewers will be asked to comment on whether the commentary makes substantiated, fact-based claims, whether the argument is clearly and fairly presented, and whether the topic is of broad interest to the ISEE membership.
5. Within 5-7 business days of receiving the reviews from the Editor-in-Chief, the ISEE liaisons make an initial decision to reject, recommend revisions, or accept the manuscript. The manuscript may also be recommended for consideration at *Environmental Epidemiology*.
6. If the ISEE liaisons recommend that the manuscript be considered for *Environmental Epidemiology*, the previously obtained reviews will be used and the ISEE liaisons will work with the *Environmental Epidemiology* Editor-in Chief to make decisions regarding revisions and acceptance.
7. If the ISEE liaisons recommend acceptance of the manuscript to *Epidemiology*, the manuscript is sent to the *Epidemiology* Editor-in-Chief for a final decision.
8. If the manuscript is accepted, the ISEE liaison and appropriate Editor-in-Chief may decide to solicit a response letter. These are generally <400 words. The ISEE liaisons review response letters and the appropriate Editor-in-Chief makes the final decision regarding acceptance.
9. When a manuscript is accepted, the ISEE liaisons communicate this to the ISEE Communications Committee within 3-5 business days so that the commentary can be publicized through ISEE channels.