

## Candidate's statement

It is a great honor to be nominated as a candidate for President-Elect of the International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE). Since attending my first ISE Annual Meeting in 2001, I have deeply appreciated the diversity and scientific excellence of ISE as a truly global organization. Reflecting on the remarkable leadership and dedication of my predecessors, I feel both respect for their contributions and a strong sense of responsibility in taking on this role.

Rapid advances in AI and digital technologies, together with evolving societal needs, are reshaping the scientific landscape. These developments are transforming cross-disciplinary research, increasing demand for innovation in energy and environmental sectors, and intensifying pressure on research funding. While these changes pose challenges, they also offer important opportunities for ISE to grow and better serve its members. I see this as a pivotal moment to build on our strengths and further advance the Society, drawing on my experience within ISE and other professional organizations.

If elected, my goal is to sustain ISE's momentum by working in close collaboration with the Executive Committee, guided by a shared sense of purpose. My priorities will include enhancing global representation, strengthening Divisions and Regional activities, empowering early- and mid-career researchers, promoting scientific excellence through our publications and meetings, and expanding partnerships with related organizations.

Diversity and inclusion are among ISE's defining strengths. While historically centered in Europe, ISE is now a truly global Society, with increasing representation from Asia and the Americas. I will work to further strengthen engagement in rapidly growing regions, while ensuring balanced global representation. Expanding our international network will foster broader collaboration and enhance the exchange of knowledge across regions and disciplines.

A key priority will be strengthening membership by not only increasing numbers but also enhancing the overall member experience. This includes advancing digital communication strategies and providing services tailored to individual, divisional and regional needs by coordinating with our Divisions, Regional Representatives, and Social Media Officers. In particular, I will promote greater opportunities for students and early-career researchers, including international mobility and collaboration, to help cultivate the next generation of leaders in electrochemistry. Equally important is fostering an inclusive community that values diversity in gender, geography, culture, and career paths. Such inclusivity is essential for sustaining ISE's global competitiveness.

At the same time, we must continue to excel in our core activities. The Society journal, *Electrochimica Acta*, and our scientific meetings are central pillars of ISE and key drivers of member engagement. I will work closely with the Publication Committee and Scientific Meetings Committee to support these endeavors, ensuring that our editorial teams and meeting organizers receive the comprehensive support they deserve so as to ensure these activities remain of the highest quality and continue to attract outstanding contributions from across the globe.

I am committed to ensuring that ISE remains a vibrant, inclusive, and inspiring international hub for the electrochemical community. I sincerely ask for your support as we work together to shape the future of our Society.

Wataru Sugimoto (May 2026)