

**Hi, I'm Osvaldo Sala, Professor at Arizona State University and president of the Ecological Society of America talking to you from my home office. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives, especially our ability to meet with our friends and colleagues in large groups at one time.**

**The ESA Annual Meeting is the largest and most dynamic event in ecology. We look forward to having it every August as a way to advance the science of ecology and build professional relationships as our careers advance from students to senior scientists. We ESA leaders knew that even in the face of a pandemic, ESA still needed to have the meeting in one way or another. How could we do that in these times?**

**To protect the health and well-being of everyone participating, we will be holding the 2020 Annual Meeting entirely virtually. What else is changing? Not as much as you might think. We'll still have thousands of scientific presentations, chances to have live Q&A with inspiring plenary speakers, networking activities and professional development. We're actually very excited about the advances that we as a Society are making as we embrace new technologies to best communicate our science.**

**I invite you to learn more by visiting the Annual Meeting website. And, of course, I invite you to join us for the 2020 Annual Meeting, August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, available from wherever you have an internet connection.**

**Stay safe, be well, and I look forward to connecting with you in August!**