

The health, safety, and security of all Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD) members and Annual Meeting attendees and the patients and communities we serve are the APPD's highest priorities. The APPD Board of Directors, Management, Program Chairs, and leaders of LEAD, LEAPES and AIMS have unanimously made the difficult decision, after careful consideration and comprehensive evaluation of currently available information related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, to cancel the 2020 APPD Annual Spring Meeting, originally scheduled for March 30-April 2, 2020 in San Diego, California. There are no plans to reschedule the 2020 Spring Meeting.

The APPD has been closely monitoring the rapidly increasing domestic and worldwide developments during the last several weeks related to COVID-19. This evidence-based decision was made after a thorough review and discussion of all factors impacting the Annual Meeting, including the WHO declaring this is a pandemic, the restriction on gatherings of more than 250 people in the State of California, the imposition of travel restrictions issued by U.S. government agencies, academic institutions, and hospitals, and the counsel of infectious disease experts. It is clear that all of these elements significantly affect the ability of delegates and speakers to participate fully in the Annual Meeting.

While we believe that the decision to cancel the meeting is absolutely the correct one to safeguard our meeting participants from further potential exposure to the coronavirus, we also understand that this is a disappointing one for our stakeholders. There was a great deal of excitement about the meeting with more than 1,100 early registrants.

We recognize that the APPD meetings are a place for our pediatric education community to come together and get re-energized, network, exchange new ideas, present and hear of new research, and exchange information. We are so sad to cancel.

The Program Planning Committee, Executive Committees, Learning Communities, Regions, Mentoring Group, and so many others have worked hard to plan a great meeting and we are so thankful. Knowing that so many of you were excited to present your workshops, posters, and presentations, we are working through how best to ensure appropriate credit is given to those that were scheduled to present their scholarly activity.

We will be in touch shortly about all of the logistics (including registration refunds), but wanted to let you know of the cancellation as soon as the decision was made. Please be patient and limit emails to our offices as we work through things.

TRAVEL INFORMATION: If you booked within the APPD room block at the Sheraton or Hilton, we have cancelled your room reservation for you. You are encouraged to cancel your flights if you have not already done so.

Please be safe. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted by this global health crisis.

