



Dear Colleagues,

I am aware that many of you are experiencing uncertainty related to the COVID19 virus and your daily personal and professional lives. One area of uncertainty that may be on your list is the status of ISPN's Annual Conference. The ISPN Board and I have carefully considered the safety and fiscal aspects of this issue and have come to agreement on what we consider the best course of action.

I am writing to update you on the status of the 2020 Annual Conference, following an emergency Board meeting this morning.

At this meeting, a majority of Board members voted to cancel the Annual Conference scheduled for March 25-28, 2020 ... BUT there is good news.

The ISPN 2020 Annual Conference will take place early this summer in San Antonio!

We are working with the Marriott Plaza San Antonio to secure dates with an emphasis on a smooth transition to the new dates for those who are currently registered. As soon as we have all details finalized, we will announce that information.

Some of you may be asking questions regarding our decision. We also had questions that had to be addressed to come to agreement. Here are some of those along with answers that we hope will make our decision making process more transparent.

Why didn't ISPN cancel the meeting all together? The outright cancelation of the meeting would result in a significant financial deficit for ISPN. According to our contracts, ISPN would be responsible for covering the conference hotel room block, food and A/V contracts, and other costs without the revenue (registration fees, sponsors, and exhibitors) that usually accompanies our largest fundraising event. The Board's fiduciary responsibility must focus on the organization's sustainability.

Doesn't insurance cover this? Although ISPN does carry conference insurance, it does not include coverage for infectious or communicable diseases, such as COVID-19.

What took you so long? We hear you. The fact is that circumstances have evolved so quickly and are still changing. The incidence of spread of the virus across the country and the responses of universities from which many of our attendees come have resulted in increasing travel bans that have impacted speakers and those able to attend. These changes have increased during this past week. Therefore we responded as rapidly as we could as we worked behind the scenes to identify the best response to these changes.

What do I do now? Nothing. Please do not email to cancel your conference registration or room reservation. We will be in touch next week with the exact process for addressing these issues.

If you were scheduled to present at the 2020 Annual Conference, we will be in touch next week with more information.

The Board and I have made what we believe is the most viable decision for ISPN as an organizations and for its membership, from the challenging alternatives we had available to us.

Thank you all for your support of ISPN in the past and during this difficult time. ISPN's strength is your ongoing support.

Most Sincerely,

Vicki Hines-Martin, PhD, PMHCNS, RN, FAAN

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