



CARE  
RESEARCH  
PREVENTION  
REHABILITATION  
TEACHING

Dear ABA members,

For the past month we have been actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation in regards to our upcoming annual meeting in Orlando. At this time, at least 8 states, including Florida, have declared a state of emergency and over a third of attendees have reported that their institutions have restricted travel. Considering these factors that are beyond our control, the board has decided that we will cancel our meeting. We are doing this in order to protect the North American burn workforce. Potential exposure resulting in a significant number of burn providers requiring two week quarantine would place our burn centers in jeopardy of fulfilling our patient care mission. In addition if one member contracted COVID-19 at our meeting that would be inexcusable.

You should immediately cancel your hotel reservations. In addition many airlines are offering reduced or waived fees for flight cancellations or changes. The central office is working on all other logistical issues regarding registration fees etc. You will receive emails from our staff regarding this. In addition we will post updates on the website. Please do not call the central office as our staff is working diligently on these issues.

The program committee is working on potential options for a reduced “virtual “meeting. You will have an opportunity to voice your opinion regarding these options.

Cancelling our meeting was not an easy decision given the value that we all place on this fantastic yearly educational event. In addition this will have significant financial impact on our association. We will do everything we can to mitigate the impact. Over the past five years we have successfully corrected our economic challenges and I am sure that we will do so again. This is the right decision for our patients, our burn centers and institutions and for you, our members.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W G Cioffi'.

William G Cioffi MD FACS  
ABA President