

Dear WPS 2020 Spring Meeting Registrants:

Yesterday evening, the Wisconsin Perfusion Society's Board of Directors made the very difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Spring Meeting scheduled for next weekend with respect to the evolving COVID-19 viral pandemic. Up until yesterday, it was our intention to press forward with events as planned. However, the combination of governmental declarations, CDC and HHS recommendations, and corporate travel restrictions being placed on our presenters, vendors, and guests reached the point where holding a productive meeting was simply not feasible. Furthermore, we as health professionals want to do our part in slowing the potential spread of this disease and protect the health of our society as a whole.

Yesterday at noon, Governor Tony Evers placed Wisconsin in a state of public health emergency. This declaration, along with CDC and HHS guidelines, established limits on the size of all public gatherings. While our meeting population falls slightly below this threshold, the event was to be held on a common convention floor, with other meetings potentially being held concurrently with the WPS. Our Society has always and will always act in accordance with the laws and guidelines of our nation, state, and their respective agencies.

It is the annual goal of the WPS to bring together professionals, vendors, and students from all corners of the country and even globally if possible to share their knowledge and practices to better improve our patient care. Throughout the past few days, various medical facilities, corporations, and schools have imposed travel restrictions on many of those who were to be our presenters and guests. To move ahead with a conference with an incomplete faculty would not be fair to you who made the decision to place your trust in us to deliver a quality educational format.

Finally, while some believe all of these restrictions and cancellations may be overblown, as of this point we do not know just how severely this virus will affect the population and what treatments may be required to slow and ultimately alleviate this disease. The utmost concern of the WPS is the health and well-being of our members and guests. Considering the possibility that the Perfusion profession might become highly involved in the treatment of COVID-19, we simply cannot risk bringing a majority of us together in one place, opening up the potential for us to be placed in quarantine or even worse contract the virus right when our services could be needed the most. We also do not know how long this pandemic and its associated disruptions will last, which at this point makes potentially rescheduling the Meeting for later this year just as unreliable and problematic for everyone involved.

Please accept our sincerest apologies for this late cancellation notice. We know that much effort has been put into holding another successful Spring Meeting, from our Program Director, Board, Liaisons, and many volunteers. But more importantly, we recognize and salute those of you who generously offered your time and effort to prepare presentations, displays, and posters for this event. We regret that we will not be able to applaud you in person this year, but please know that you are the backbone of what we strive to accomplish by holding these meetings, and we hope you will save these presentations for our future benefit!

With regard to the registration fees you have paid, we have approved two options going forward. We understand that some might be trying to reach their recertification CEU threshold this year and may need their funds returned to register elsewhere. Others may simply elect to keep your funds in our account and be automatically registered for next year's Spring Meeting.

Please inform us of your preference by sending a quick message to wisperfusion@gmail.com so we can process your request as soon as possible and have a record for both options. For the Perfusion Students who have registered, we will automatically process refunds unless you notify us otherwise. Finally, as was the case with registration, please remember that hotel accommodation reservations and cancellations are handled separately. Please contact the Madison Concourse Hotel at (800) 356-8293 within 48 hours of your intended arrival to guarantee a full refund of your lodging fees.

As you all know well, many times in Perfusion we arrive for our day of work only to find that the day just doesn't quite turn out the way we planned. Such has been the past few days for our Society. But just as on the job, the WPS will adjust and regroup, and we will begin to make plans for Spring 2021. Until then, we sincerely thank you for your continued support. We wish you and all your loved ones the best of health, obviously with avoidance of COVID-19, and patience as we all navigate the challenges ahead. And finally, we anticipate reconvening in Madison next spring to see all of you once again!

Sincerely,

Your Wisconsin Perfusion Society Officers, Board of Directors, Committees, and Liaisons