

Dear NCME Member:

Thank you for your patience during this turbulent time. Although our plans are not final, I want to provide you with an update regarding the NCME 2020 Annual Meeting.

Here are some facts we can share at the present time:

The originally scheduled NCME Annual Meeting in San Francisco from April 16-20 is cancelled. ***We are vigorously pursuing rescheduling the 2020 Annual meeting for September 2020.***

All registration fees that were paid for the 2020 NCME and AERA conferences will be refunded through AERA's registration system. If you registered for the NCME conference, you should have already received an email from AERA or Expologic providing instructions on how to acquire your refund. NCME did not collect any funds and so all refunds are issued via AERA. Note that any donation of registration fees goes to AERA and not to NCME.

We have made great progress on our efforts to reschedule the conference for September 2020. We have not yet signed a contract with a hotel, and so we cannot announce date or location yet. We hope to have that information out soon—within a week or two. I am sorry we do not have a final decision to report at this time, but we must carefully review all details before signing the contract.

If we are successful in rescheduling the conference for September, our plan is to essentially move the entire program to that date and location. Therefore, ***there will be no new call for papers.***

We understand many people who committed to the 2020 conference in San Francisco may not be able to attend the rescheduled conference. We expect the conference program will be “shuffled” a bit, and slightly reduced, to account for this problem. ***Therefore, the rescheduled conference will be four days, rather than five.*** Our original schedule in San Francisco had two pre-conference training workshop days and three conference program days. The rescheduled conference will likely have one single workshop day, and three program days.

The **2021** NCME Annual Meeting will go on as planned, with the call for proposals coming out in June. More information on that is forthcoming.

***NCME will have two VIRTUAL sessions that will occur on the original conference dates in April 2020.***

- The first will be the session coordinated by Edmund Gordon entitled, “Using Educational Assessments to Educate: A Conversation with Edmund Gordon.” ***This virtual NCME session will be held on***

***Saturday, April 18, 2:00-3:30 eastern daylight time (11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. pacific daylight time).***

- The second NCME virtual session will be the **NCME Business Meeting**. In this virtual session, we will present all of the business information that was to be presented at the Breakfast Meeting in San Francisco, including update on the status of NCME, business and finance update, award winners, and rotation of new and old NCME Board members. **This virtual business meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m. eastern daylight time (9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. pacific daylight time).**

We will send out links to these two virtual sessions, and post them to our web site, soon. At the conclusion of that meeting, I will transition to Past-President and Ye Tong will begin her term as NCME President. Rose McCallin and Michael Rodriguez will rotate off the Board, as will Past-President Rebecca Zwick. President-elect Derek Briggs, and new Board members Ellen Forte and Sharyn Rosenberg, will rotate onto the Board. This meeting, and the Gordon session, will also be recorded and a link to them will be posted on the NCME web site.

I realize this is a lot of information to absorb. We plan to develop a set of answers to frequently asked questions related to the 2020 Annual Meeting, which we will post as soon as our plans are finalized. In the meantime, please reserve ***Saturday, April 18, 2:00-3:30 eastern daylight time (11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. pacific daylight time)*** for the online Gordon session, and ***Monday, April 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m. eastern daylight time (9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. pacific daylight time)*** for the NCME Business meeting.

To summarize this long email: The NCME Board is working hard to provide NCME members with a brief virtual conference experience during the originally scheduled conference days, including the business meeting, and hopes to successfully reschedule the conference program, as intact as possible, in September. Stay tuned for more information on that.

And bear in mind, as Retired General Robert Milstead recently reminded me, “calm, like panic, is contagious.”

Looking forward to seeing you all online soon, and hopefully in person in September.

Your President,

Stephen G. Sireci, Ph.D.