FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 6, 2020

URMIA Statement on COVID-19 and the Western Regional Conference

URMIA’s top priority is your health and safety. URMIA is actively monitoring developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The 2020 Western Regional Conference will be produced both in person and virtually. The URMIA event website will be updated with that information on Monday, March 9. There will be additional seats offered for the virtual program for up to a total of 150 participants.

URMIA Monitoring & Communication
We receive updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and are prepared to communicate any important change of plans to conference registrants, as well as to attendees during our events. We also are working with peer associations, following advice from event organization groups, and consulting with host venues. URMIA will share updates with all members on the URMIAnetwork. URMIA will communicate directly with registrants about any change of plans.

At this time, US government travel restrictions are not impacting the areas for which our remaining spring regional conferences and the fall annual conference are scheduled. We ask registrants who are ill not to travel to our conferences.

Onsite Preventive Measures
If you plan to attend an upcoming URMIA conference, we encourage you to follow the World Health Organization and CDC’s primary suggestions for preventive measures. These are highlights of specific onsite prevention measures we are putting into place:
- We discourage hand-shakes and suggest some creative alternatives (demonstrated here).
- We encourage attendees to wash hands frequently.
- We’ve asked the hotel to provide extra sanitary measures, which include displaying these posters in the public restrooms.
- We’ve asked host venues to provide extra hand sanitation options.
- We’ve asked hotel staff at buffets to serve the requested portion/dish to “stop cross-contamination at buffets” while preserving your ability to personalize meals to your taste.
- Attendees who become ill while at an URMIA conference will be asked to self-isolate in their rooms and seek medical attention as advised here.

Cancellation Policies
We have no immediate plans to cancel upcoming URMIA conferences. Should that change, we will refund anyone who cannot enter the U.S. due to a government-mandated travel restriction (CDC level 3 or higher advisory nations), or anyone whose airline flight is canceled due to virus concerns.

We are not refunding people who are making the decision not to travel. Anyone who chooses not to travel will forfeit their registration fee but will be given our virtual pass at no cost should a virtual option become available. Please review URMIA’s standard regional and annual conference policies:
Standard Regional Conference Policy
Conference registration cancellations and requests for refunds must be received in writing and are subject to a $45 administrative fee. Please allow 30 days following the conference for refund processing. Cancellation requests received on or after [a date specific to the event], are not eligible for registration refunds, but you may tell us that someone else from your organization will use your conference registration instead.

If URMIA must cancel this conference for any reason, our liability is limited to paid registration fees. URMIA is not responsible for other expenses incurred, including travel and accommodation fees.

Standard Annual Conference Policy
Registrant requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to URMIA.

- Special events and tours are non-refundable.
- Cancellations before August 1 are entitled to a full refund, excluding non-refundable activities.
- Cancellations between August 1 and September 3 are entitled to a full refund minus a $100 processing fee, per registrant, excluding non-refundable activities.
- After September 4 no refunds will be granted for cancellations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the URMIA National Office at 812-727-7130 or urmia@urmia.org.

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