



Coronavirus Updates

May 1, 2020: Annual Conference Going Virtual

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to express your views and preferences in our April member survey about the 2020 Annual Conference. The future has never felt so uncertain as it has during this extraordinary period. We truly are all in this together, and you have provided valuable guidance to URMIA's leadership and staff as we make decisions about this year's conference.

In a normal year, we would be looking forward with great anticipation to coming together as the close-knit community we are in Indianapolis, just as we did in Boston last September and elsewhere for many previous years. This year, we have made the difficult decision to postpone our time together in Indianapolis. **Instead, we look forward to welcoming you to a newly reimagined virtual annual conference experience in September. Details will be forthcoming no later than June 4.**

As we navigate this time of pandemic, nothing is more important than the peer-to-peer discussions and resources we share. Please keep an eye on our [Coronavirus Information & Updates](#) page, our [Events Calendar](#), and the weekly URMIA Updates post to make sure you are aware of all professional development and discussion opportunities. Please feel free to post a question in the URMIAnetwork online communities, use the [ASK LOU](#) button to get help finding URMIA Library resources, and [contact the National Office](#) to suggest a topic for professional development or discussion. Most of all, please make sure you take the time to care of yourselves and your loved ones.

March 31, 2020: Update on Annual Conference

URMIA leadership and staff are closely monitoring coronavirus developments and the resulting impact on this year's annual conference, scheduled to take place in September in Indianapolis. We will have an update May 1 after seeking guidance from our members, health organizations, governmental entities, and conference partners.

As always, our top priority is to support member needs. We understand your increased workloads, the possibility of extended institutional travel restrictions and budgetary constraints, and the fact that many of you are on the front lines of institutional planning and response, which may require you be present on campus as developments unfold. We want to assure you that we are actively looking at alternative methods to deliver the incomparable opportunities you have for professional development and connection at the annual conference.

Stay well and keep in touch! Until then, we invite you to join the online discussions on the URMIAnetwork to find or share answers with the community, monitor our [Coronavirus Information & Updates](#) webpage, and please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) with your comments and concerns.

March 23, 2020: Update on National Office

URMIA National Office staff will be working from home as of Wednesday, 3/25/20, in accordance with the Indiana statewide stay at home order. We want to assure our members that we are well connected via phone and email to provide service to you. Please feel free to contact us as usual.

March 16, 2020: Update on Upcoming 2020 Regional Conferences

Upcoming Regional Conferences Will Go Virtual

Thank you to all the members who responded to our online survey about your preferences regarding “attendance” at our upcoming regional conferences. According to your wishes, as well as rapidly-changing COVID-19 guidelines and mandatory requirements regarding size of group gatherings, both the 2020 Northeastern Regional Conference (Philadelphia, PA) and the 2020 Central Regional Conference (Cincinnati, OH) will not be offered as in-person events.

Instead, we are preparing to offer content planned for both conferences through virtual channels. We expect to be able to provide details on schedule and pricing in the immediate future. **Stay tuned for details.**

For Upcoming Regional Conference Registrants

Everyone who is currently registered for either of these upcoming conferences will receive a full refund via the method by which they made payment. If you have questions, please contact the National Office at urmia@urmia.org or by calling 812-727-7130.

For Upcoming Regional Conference Sponsors

Michelle Smith, URMIA senior director of events, will be contacting each sponsor to explain all your options. If you have questions, please contact her directly at michelle@urmia.org or by calling 812-727-7125.

March 13, 2020: Update on National Office

Currently, the National Office staff is arranging to work outside of the physical office. Please be assured that we are prepared to provide the responsive service our members value via computer and telephone from 8:30am-5pm ET.

March 6, 2020: URMIA Executive Committee Statement

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 URMIA network. 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.