



March 19, 2020

Cancellation of the LESI International Management Delegates Meeting (IDM)

Dear LES Society Presidents, Committee Chairs and Delegates,

We are very sorry to inform you, that due to the Coronavirus and the rapidly developing health crisis in Europe and throughout the world, we are cancelling the LESI International Delegates Meeting scheduled for 15 -17 May in Berlin. We plan to hold a shorter, virtual meeting to conduct the business of the organization on **Sunday 17th May**. The LESI office will be in touch with all LESI leaders and delegates very soon with more details and a formal notice (please reserve time on this day. We expect this to be about a 60-90 minute session).

LES Germany has decided to continue to monitor the situation as it relates to the 2020 Annual Meeting Program planned for 17- 20 May. To date, the German government has prohibited conferences through 15 April and we understand that it is expected that they will extend this prohibition through May when ours was planned to occur. Once we have confirmation of LES Germany's path forward with the Annual Meeting, we will send out another update to all LES members. Likewise, we are discussing options to make some of the planned meeting content available in an online format.

Like many of you, we have closely watched the global situation worsen throughout the last week and monitored the actions taken by various governments to contain the virus – these actions have severely limited our ability to hold our meetings in Berlin. This, as well as ensuring the safety of LES meeting attendees, led to the decision to cancel at least the IMDM now as we continue to monitor other LES meetings and the global response.

The cancellation is very disappointing for the LESI Board, especially given that it has been such a busy and successful year -- and there is much to report and discuss.

If you have already registered and paid for the IMDM, we will be in contact shortly.

In the meantime, we hope that you and your families stay healthy and safe throughout this challenging time. We will continue to connect parts of our LES community virtually and look forward to reconvening in person very soon.



Dana Robert Colarulli
LESI Executive Director