



March 17, 2020

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The American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists (ASDA) Annual Session planned for April 30 – May 2, 2020 in Philadelphia has been cancelled. After careful deliberation by the ASDA Board of Directors, this decision was reached with regret as this meeting promised to be an excellent conference with esteemed speakers and contemporary topics. However, in the last week it has become apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly escalated, and out of an abundance of caution for all of our members, families, colleagues and patients, we must take extra care to ensure their safety and health.

Limitations placed on large gatherings by the CDC and WHO, along with domestic and international travel restrictions, have made it impossible to host this almost sold-out, international meeting. Several faculty members and residents also expressed concern as to whether their attendance outside of their home academic institutions would be allowed. We could no longer ensure that a high-quality meeting could be held for our members, speakers and exhibitors. While many of us had hoped that the situation would improve as the weeks drew closer to the time of the meeting, given the course of events in other countries and in parts of the United States thus far, the Board felt that the only choice was to cancel the meeting.

Out of consideration to all attendees and participants, we have chosen to provide this timely notification for all to cancel travel and hotel reservations. Hotel reservations may be cancelled directly with Loews Philadelphia Hotel. The ASDA will issue full refunds for all registrations for the meeting and for the Saturday airway course. There is no need to contact ASDA to cancel your registration, as refunds will be processed automatically in approximately 4-6 weeks by the manner in which the registration was made.

Concurrent events planned for this session may possibly be rescheduled or conducted via remote access as possible. The American Dental Board of Anesthesiology (ADBA) is in contact with current registrants regarding the board examination process. The ASDA will continue to relay announcements and will plan a series of communications with our membership concerning developments that we had hoped to discuss as a Society together during the ASDA General Assembly.

Preparation for this Annual Session involved a great deal of time, effort and creativity on the part of many member volunteers, speakers, faculty, residents, exhibitors, board members and our executive director. I want to thank each and every person who contributed to the conduct and organization of this meeting. I am truly

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disappointed that cancellation has become unavoidable and want to ensure continued welfare to our communities in which we practice and educate.

The ASDA remains dedicated to our dentist anesthesiologist community and hopes that they remain healthy and available to our patients and colleagues. We are profoundly aware that every member in the ASDA plays a critical role not only in the care they provide but also in their commitment to this organization. We hope that as we move forward and consider what this pandemic means to our Society and its membership, that you will join us in that effort. Thank you for your continued attendance at our meetings and your valued support.

Please take care and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Cynthia Fukami', written in a cursive style.

M. Cynthia Fukami, DMD, MS

President, American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists