March 6, 2020

As Vice President of the ASDA, I am the program chair of the annual session. I am excited about the upcoming program and want to thank the many people who have put countless hours into preparation. It is looking to be an incredible program.

I realize that in light of the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus there are a lot of concerns about travel and questions if the meeting will be held. At the present time we are proceeding with the meeting as planned at the Loews Philadelphia April 30-May 2. As a board we are paying close attention to this fluid situation.

The health and safety of our membership and meeting attendees is our number one priority. We are exploring possibilities of postponing the meeting if the situation warrants. That is currently not indicated. The ASDA board is monitoring information put out by the WHO and CDC. There are currently no travel restriction within the United States. Unless this changes the meeting will be held.

Registration for the meeting has been strong and I anticipate a successful meeting. In the meantime, the ASDA leadership will follow the recommendation from the CDC and the WHO and encourage everyone to:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

We will have hand sanitizer available to meeting registrants and will encourage no handshaking at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lenny Naftalin