



04 March 2020

Annual Scientific Meeting, Dublin 20 March 2020

***is now deferred until later in the year***

Dear Colleagues

Over the last days the Executive of the Irish Nephrology Society, in consultation with the National Renal Office, has been reflecting on how the current epidemiology of the COVID-19 virus might impact upon this meeting. We have now, reluctantly but confidently, decided that it should be deferred until later in the year.

This is an internal decision taken by the Irish Nephrology Society rather than a specific directive from those responsible for guiding the national response to containing the spread of COVID-19. It may be viewed as an excessively cautious decision, but we are comfortable that the principles informing our decision are robust.

It is as yet unclear as to what guidance regarding meetings of this kind may emerge in the next weeks. It may not be wise to physically concentrate a significant proportion of the medical staff from all of the Renal Units in Ireland in one space at this time. There is a reasonable hazard that we may have to take this decision closer to the event, with a greater disruption, at shorter notice, to speakers, presenters, exhibitors and delegates. We are concerned that, for these and other reasons, a smaller number of delegates than usual may register, which would undoubtedly diminish the impact and delegate experience of the meeting

On these bases we have taken our decision. We know that many of you have prepared or will be concluding preparation of Abstracts for submission. Such as have been submitted will be retained until the rescheduled meeting (with a possibility of re-editing then). We encourage those of you who have not yet submitted to retain these works for the rescheduled meeting.

We thank our invited Speakers for their understanding and support; we thank our sponsoring Partners from Industry for their understanding and support. We apologise to delegates disappointed by this deferral, but trust that you will understand the reasons why we have so acted. We will advise on the date/location of the deferred Annual Scientific Meeting in due course.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Plant', is written over a double horizontal line.

Liam Plant  
President, Irish Nephrology Society