

AAES 2020 ANNUAL MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Why is the AAES Annual Meeting cancelled?

A. We have been closely monitoring updates and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as state and local governments. We have also been actively following travel advisories and restrictions being placed on hospitals and institutions. The health, safety, and well-being of our members, staff, exhibitors, faculty, patients and other stakeholders is of paramount importance. With an ever-increasing number of our members on the front lines of preparing and reacting to the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide, it is in the best interest of everyone to cancel the meeting.

Q. Are all ancillary events associated with the AAES Annual Meeting canceled as well?

A. Yes, all ancillary events, including the RFA Course, Advanced Endocrine Surgery Course, Young Surgeons Social, President's Reception, Gala, and all sporting events run by the AAES are canceled in Birmingham. Endocrine Surgery University is being restructured to a digital format for Thursday, April 2. All Faculty and Fellows involved and invited have been notified of the change.

Q. Will the 2020 Annual Meeting be postponed until a later date or rescheduled?

A. No, we will not be postponing or rescheduling the 2020 Meeting. Meetings of our size are planned as much as 12-18 months in advance, with many staff, faculty and volunteers involved in coordinating speakers, sessions and science, as well as careful coordination with local venues. Additional considerations with postponing the Meeting included the ability to work collectively with the venues on alternate dates, the financial impact to the association, and the still unknown effect of COVID-19 on the health care industry, economy and public at large.

Q. How will we handle registration refunds?

A. Full refunds will be issued to all Annual Meeting and ESU attendees beginning the **week of March 23**. This includes any pre-Meeting events or add-on options such as Courses, lunch session or guest tickets that you may have purchased. We appreciate your patience as staff works through the mechanism to issue refunds as soon as possible.

Q. How can I donate my registration fee to AAES instead of getting a refund?

A. Send an email to info@endocrinesurgery.org by **Sunday, March 22** with your request to donate your registration fee to AAES. Staff will email you back to confirm the original amount of your Registration and the amount you wish to donate. In April, AAES will send you a donation letter that may be used for tax purposes.

Q. Will attendees be refunded for hotel costs?

A. If you booked a room within the AAES room block at the Sheraton or Westin hotels, they will cancel your guest room reservations for you in the coming days/weeks and send you a confirmation of such. If you did not book within the AAES room block at the Sheraton or Westin, or you do not remember if you booked a room at either hotel, you should contact the hotels

directly: 1-888-627-7095. If you booked at a hotel other than the Sheraton or Westin, you would need to cancel your reservation with that hotel directly.

Q. Will attendees or speakers be refunded for airline tickets?

A. No, we will not refund individual airline ticket costs. Please contact your airline directly regarding ticket cancellations. If you purchased travel insurance, please contact your provider for information and next steps. Most major airlines have publicized new policies offering credit or re-booking in light of the COVID-19 situation. Also, if you made reservations for other means of transportations such as rental cars, airport shuttles, taxis or rideshare arrangements, be sure to cancel these as well.

Q. What else do I need to be aware of as it relates to the AAES Annual Meeting being cancelled?

A. If you invited any guests to the Meeting, make sure they know of the cancellation and be sure they also cancel their travel accommodations. If you or your Institution made dinner reservations or scheduled other activities while you were to be in Birmingham, make sure to cancel those as well.

Q. Will any sessions be made available virtually?

A. AAES leaders will be working on a plan to present the outstanding research papers and posters in an online format so we can share the amazing work of our community. We will be in contact with presenters with more information in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more information. Updates will be posted to meeting.endocrinesurgery.org/covid-19.

Q. What happens if I submitted an abstract?

A. The AAES edition of *Surgery* will be published as scheduled, with epublication on a rolling basis, as manuscripts are accepted for publication, and as a dedicated issue in January 2021.