



**ACADEMY  
OF APPLIED  
MYOFUNCTIONAL  
SCIENCES**

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Dear AAMS Community,

As you know, we have been in full swing as a society in organization of the AAMS/IPOS (the 5th Academy of Applied Myofunctional Sciences & 1st International Pediatric Orthodontic Society Congresses) in Paris for June 26-29, 2020. We have an extraordinary line up of over 50 speakers poised to deliver cutting edge science, break new boundaries in treatment guidelines, and present practical and compelling clinical approaches.

This past week, however, recent public health developments have brought worldwide concern with the spread of the coronavirus. Knowing that many people would be impacted, the AAMS board convened an emergency session on how best to proceed. It was clear in this meeting that holding a live congress would jeopardize not only our congregants but those who would have to travel.

In keeping with the tenet of do no harm, the board unanimously agreed to suspend a live congress. However it was clear that there was a great sense of enthusiasm, amongst presenters and our board, that with the new data, initiatives, and the promise of groundbreaking position statements, that we must find a way to transform the AAMS/IPOS 5th Congress. With this in mind, there was another unanimous board vote to move forward with an innovative congress—a **virtual congress**—where presentations would be shared with an online community. Our scientific and program committees are working to develop this format quickly, and we know this is a huge opportunity to continue the momentum, expand our network and reach, and proceed with the AAMS-IPOS Congress on a new and innovative platform.

The format we are working on will have a lineup of key leaders from around the world providing clear, scientific, and immediately clinically practical consensus on topics that will be organized into **virtual symposia** available in an online library. We are working to incorporate live panels with key speakers along each topic. We are striving for dynamic interaction, supporting bibliographies, and tools shared amongst all registrants. This new format will also allow us some expanded time for presentations, and indeed it will expand the roster of presentations well beyond the original 50+, as key world leaders who were unable to be present in Paris have already come forward to offer new submissions for joining this congress.

The response from our speakers has been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic in the universal support for moving forward with this new format of a virtual congress. There is so much we can do to continue our mission to move medicine forward and bring myofunctional sciences further into allied health arenas; really, the sense of urgency to advance the knowledge and the concomitant access to care creates an imperative to carry on and lead this work.

***Please consider registering for the virtual congress, which is absolutely going forward, as it will be a landmark event that you will not want to miss!***

Thank you for your continued support, your scientific integrity, and your willingness to be a part of this movement. We hope this news comes with more excitement than disappointment as we are working to bring your contributions to a wider arena in which we collectively advance in our shared goals.

We are excited to update you in the immediately ensuing weeks of the shape of the congress, which will be truly dynamic, innovative, and potent!

Sincerely,

The AAMS Board