

## IETS communication April 2020

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in December 2019, the disease has spread all over the world and is affecting every one of us. My first thought is for your health and that of your family, friends, and staff: I hope you stay healthy and safe.

The board of IETS is monitoring the situation very seriously. This pandemic not only affects our private lives, but also our businesses, research, and income. So far, it is impossible to foresee how long the crisis is going to last and when/how international travel and exchanges of goods will go back to normal. We expect that it may last at least for several months.

Therefore, we have been reviewing plans and financial commitments for the 2021 meeting in Lima. So far, we do not plan any postponement of the 2021 meeting, but we are regularly re-assessing the situation because any late change would be a huge cost to the society.

The board will meet again in late May/early June 2020 to evaluate the global situation and recommendations from the World Health Organization in order to make a decision for the 2021 meeting. For now, do not book flights or make reservations for travel arrangements before we come back to you in June. At the same time, we encourage you to start preparing your abstracts, as the deadline for submission is July 15.

Please stay tuned for more news; meanwhile, take care of yourselves.

Pascale Chavatte-Palmer, IETS president and the Board of Governors of IETS