

March 5, 2020

Dear US HUPO 2020 Attendees:

It is with deep regret that we announce the cancellation of the US HUPO 2020 Annual Conference in Seattle (March 7-11). This difficult decision was made out of deep concern for the health and safety of our attendees, staff, partners, and our communities.

US HUPO leadership has been closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Based on the latest guidance from public health officials and the travel bans implemented by different institutions, it became clear to us that cancellation was the right course of action. It is heartbreaking to cancel what we have anticipated would be our biggest and best conference yet. We also deeply regret that this cancellation had to be made with such short notice, given the recent emergence and rapidly evolving circumstances in Seattle. We thank our community for their understanding and commitment to the success of this conference – from the hundreds of attendees to the presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors who shared their time, expertise, collaboration, and leadership to make it happen, we deeply appreciate you all.

Looking ahead, we urge attendees to expedite cancellation of travel reservations and hotel reservations made outside the US HUPO block at the Westin immediately. If you made your Westin reservation as part of the US HUPO discounted block, you do not need to cancel your reservation; the Westin will cancel those reservations and send you a confirmation of the cancellation. If you have any issues or don't receive a cancellation confirmation prior to your scheduled check-in, we recommend contacting the Seattle Westin directly at (206) 728-1000. Hotel room reservations made within the group block will receive reimbursement.

We ask for patience as we evaluate our next steps, and will alert you as further information becomes available.

We all know that great things happen when the community comes together and connects at US HUPO, and this conference is a valuable and treasured event for our scientific community. We are working hard on means to provide opportunities to foster these connections during this year, and will send you an update as soon as possible.

On behalf of the US HUPO Executive Committee and Conference Organizers,

Ileana Cristea
US HUPO President