

March 11, 2020

Dear Colleague,

It is with deep regret that we must inform you that we are cancelling our annual conference and all related activities around CUGH 2020, April 17 to the 20<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Holding a big gathering like our annual meeting, given the rapidly expanding Covid19 outbreak, could risk the health and welfare of you, the other registrants and the public. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this has caused but we will always put public safety as our top priority. We wanted to inform you as soon as possible to give you time to cancel your travel arrangements.

**We would ask you to please do the following as soon as possible:**

- **Cancel your hotel registration.** If you are booked at the Hilton Hotel you will receive a 100% refund if you do this from now until 72 hours prior to your arrival.

Regarding the registration fees, there are a few options. Please see the online form here: <https://forms.gle/PQ7Dfj68CJoJftV47> and select the option you prefer. We will allow this year's fee to apply directly for next year's meeting. CUGH has already incurred considerable costs planning the conference that are not retrievable. Any support you can provide via the allocation of your registration fee will be much appreciated.

To capitalize on the outstanding speakers and topics we had booked for the conference we are going to create an e-book that will be a compilation of as many presentations we can access from the presenters. You will receive a copy and it will be an open access document that we will share widely.

CUGH 2020 was on board to be our most successful conference ever. Attendance was 20% higher than last year with a roster of innovative leaders from around the world. I would like to thank our host institutions (the African Forum for Research and Education in Health, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership) members of the executive planning committee, local organizing committee, abstract reviewers and volunteers for the hard work they put into the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at our conference in Houston Texas, March 12-14, 2021.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please stay safe and know that we are a global community in addressing this pandemic. See [www.cugh.org](http://www.cugh.org) for information on Covid-19. If you have any questions please email us at [jsmith@cugh.org](mailto:jsmith@cugh.org)

Best wishes,



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