



Society for Epidemiologic Research

Dear SER friends and colleagues,

We are writing to let you know that after careful deliberation, we have decided to postpone our annual meeting in Boston until the week of December 14 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we can't know at present what the situation will look like in Boston in June, we wanted to act swiftly with the membership's and SER's best interests in mind. We realize this change in plans might add more disappointment, frustration, and anxiety, but we hope that it brings some relief with respect to travel planning. We are committed to continuing to offer opportunities for learning and disseminating epidemiology through a range of platforms. Our plan is to roll out innovative internet-based sessions over the summer AND maintain the high quality, high energy in-person meeting in Boston in December.

In the meantime, listed below are a few conference related items:

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

If you have registered for the conference, a member of our administrative team will be in touch to provide you with the option to transfer your registration to the December conference, or cancel your registration and receive a full refund.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT

If you have been invited to participate in the conference, our administrative team will be in touch to confirm your continued desire to participate in the conference. This will include abstract submissions, confirmed symposium sessions, student volunteers, travel scholarship winners, award winners, lunchtime and professional development sessions, etc. If you do not hear from a member of our administrative team by April 6th, please contact them directly.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Please contact the conference hotel to cancel your reservation. In some situations, the hotel may cancel your reservation directly. We encourage you to contact them directly to ensure your cancellation has taken place. <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bosbo-sheraton-boston-hotel/> In the coming week, the new room block will be open for the December conference at a deeply discounted rate of \$139.00 per night. Continue to check the website for updated information (<https://epiresearch.org/annual-meeting/2020-meeting/hotel-accommodations/>).

TRANSPORTATION

For flights which have been booked, we encourage you to contact your airline to make the necessary arrangements. It is the responsibility of each individual to make the necessary adjustments to their travel. We are finding airlines to be accommodating in cancelling or rescheduling flights.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM – DECEMBER

SER will release the updated conference program in the coming months once we have re-confirmed all participants. The intent is to continue to offer the same conference program structure with Pre-Conference Workshops on Tuesday, December 15th, with Plenary, Concurrent, Lunchtime, and Poster Sessions running Tuesday, December 15th – Friday, December 18th.

Many thanks to the SER Executive Committee and Staff for their invaluable input as we chart these uncharted waters. More thanks to you, SER members, for your flexibility during these uncertain times. And heartfelt thanks to those whose practice of epidemiology is serving the greater good through the COVID-19 pandemic and forward.

Best wishes for health and safety,

Martha Werler, SER President
Enrique Schisterman, SER Past President
Jay Kaufman, SER President-Elect
Suzanne Bevan, Executive Director