



DNTS

Developmental
Neurotoxicology
Society

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Dear Members,

For the last several weeks, we have been monitoring the potential impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our plans for the 2020 Developmental Neurotoxicology Society meeting. Our sister society, the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention (BDRP), cancelled their meeting yesterday. As a result, DNTS Council made the decision to cancel our face-to-face annual meeting that had been planned for June 27-July 1 in Charleston, SC. The decision to cancel the face-to-face meeting was made based on concern for the health and safety of our membership, mounting travel restrictions, recent extensions of social distancing policy, and the uncertainty of when this public health concern will resolve.

With this decision made, we are working with BDRP to determine whether there are opportunities for our societies to work together to provide online options for the effective sharing and discussion of science. We will keep you informed through email and the DNTS webpage of our plans as they take shape.

Registration: For those of you who have already registered for the meeting, we will issue full refunds through PayPal during the next several weeks. If you would prefer to convert your registration fee to a donation to the Society, please contact our treasurer, Andrew Kraft, at kraft.andrew@epa.gov.

Hotel Reservations: If you had booked a room at the Charleston Marriott using the group rate, you should have received an email from Marriott cancelling your reservation. If not, please contact the hotel at (843) 723-3000.

Abstracts: We encourage everyone who submitted abstracts this year to consider resubmitting for next year. For those of you who submitted abstracts, you will be notified individually of acceptance so that this can be officially acknowledged for the purposes of documenting your scholarly work in performance evaluations and your CV.

Travel Awards: Students who were selected for travel awards will be notified and sent a certificate. We encourage students to resubmit for next year. No travel funds will be distributed this year.

DNTS Annual Business Meeting: We are planning a virtual business meeting for later in the summer. Details will follow as they become available.

In closing, we want everyone to know that foremost in our decision was the health and safety of our members and the ongoing uncertainty about the resolution of the coronavirus situation. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times. We wish our colleagues ongoing health and well-being now and in the future. We look forward to reuniting in Pittsburgh in 2021!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Willford, DNTS President