



**European Society of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons**  
Founded in London 2010

**ESPE**

## **Important Update as of March 31st, 2020**

**Dear IPEG/EUPSA/ESPE Members and Meeting Attendees,**

**In the face of the global crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic, our primary concern must focus on safety and responsibility. The EUPSA-IPEG-ESPE executives have been constantly monitoring the situation as it pertains to the 2020 Vienna Congress.**

**Planning for Vienna has been suspended as many of our leaders' and members' institutions have extended travel bans and have prioritized patient care. We could not, in good conscience, ask our leadership to continue to move forward with planning when many now have limited bandwidth. Holding the 2020 Congress is no longer a viable option. By June, we can only hope that things are normalized and all our colleagues on the front line have the opportunity to rest, re-set, re-group and enjoy colleagues, friends, and family.**

**Our management team is now working with the venues in Vienna to bring matters to a successful conclusion on the business side. Once that has been completed, we will formalize the decision and establish a process and timeline for various details such as refunds.**

**Laying the groundwork to bring the global pediatric surgical community to Vienna has been a teamwork effort made by all three societies (EUPSA, IPEG, & ESPES). We are all very appreciative of the leadership and three- society working team that evolved. We look forward to continuing to build the relationships and as we move forward as a global family, we will keep you updated on additional joint efforts “Among Friends.”**

**Communication directly to author submissions and meeting registrants will be forthcoming.**

**Your well-being and the well-being of your families is our priority**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**Tomas Wester – EUPSA President**

**Holger Till – IPEG President**

**Henri Steyaert – ESPES President**