

March 13, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Shuzo Shintani, MD
President, International Association of Rural Health and Medicine (IARM)

Announcement of Cancellation
of 21th IARM Congress on August, 2020 in Hungary for Corona-virus Disaster

I hope this email finds all of you well.

Unfortunately, we have no choice but to cancel The 21st Congress of the International Association of Rural Health and Medicine (Hungary, Pécs), which was scheduled on August 24 (Mon)-26 (Wed) 2020, to prevent spread of the new coronavirus infection. We are sorry for the inconvenience for the doctors who have been preparing for the congress, and we appreciate your understanding. Please note that the International Conference on Rural Medicine in Serbia (Belgrade) from September 10 to 12 next year (2021) is currently scheduled to be held.

Sincerely,

[Letter from Prof. Istvan Szilard, President of the 21st Annual Scientific General Assembly to President of IARM Prof. Shintani]

March 4th, 2020

Dear IARM President

I'm writing to inform you about a very difficult decision as a consequence of the Corona Virus epidemic that has reached already the 'very serious' level according to WHO, and the announcement of 'pandemic' is already under consideration. In all of the neighboring countries of Hungary there are already positive cases, and the situation in North Italy is the most serious one in the region. There is no experience with this virus and it is questionable whether with the improvement of the weather a decline could be expected or not.

In this case on the one hand, we would be irresponsible to encourage people to travel into a region with increasing health risk and/or oblige themselves to participate an event when nobody can forecast the health hazards in six month. On the other hand, scientists from Japan, South Korea, Italy etc. would very likely not wanted to take the risk and oblige themselves to join to the IARM Conference in the region with increasing epidemiologic hazard. (A number of events with high prestige were already cancelled or postponed. Even the Olympic games in Japan are still under consideration, as far as I know.) That is the background of the painful decision that we have to cancel the IARM conference planned for August this year. There was no reason for the 'postponement' of it, because for the next year there is already a decision for the conference in Belgrade. I'm seriously disappointed with this development, but it was a collective decision of our leadership.

I and my colleagues would like to ask for your kind understanding.

Yours truly,

Prof. Istvan Szilard
President of 21th IARM Congress in Hungary