

## A Note of Appreciation

### To all BIRC researchers:

I hope all of you are keeping well and staying safe. To our city-wide pandemic response teams, thank you for your communications and updates. To our clinical colleagues, thank you for your courage and commitment, and for all that you do. To our Engineering colleagues who are partnering with industry and hospitals to manufacture personal protective equipment, thank you. To our researchers at Western and Lawson who are making inroads into our understanding of COVID-19 and the SARS-CoV2 virus, thank you. To those of you who have donated PPE to our hospitals, thank you. And to those researchers who have suspended their research programs and are staying at home: thank you.

In this turbulent and uncertain time, I would like to post some information and updates on upcoming Imaging society conferences.

The Imaging Network of Ontario <https://imno.ca/2020-symposium> did hold their annual meeting on March 26-27 via Zoom, thanks to the heroic efforts of many people: in particular, the organizing committee: Carol Richardson, Johanne Langford, Janette Wallace, Kitty Wong; the chair, Dr. Amber Simpson; and BIRC researchers Corey Baron, Savita Dhanvantari, Maria Drangova, David Holdsworth, Ali Khan, Charlie Mackenzie, Tamie Poepping, and Aaron Ward. We are all very proud of the outstanding online presentations (oral and poster) by all BIRC trainees, whose enthusiasm and knowledge inspired everyone. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Congratulations to BIRC trainees who won awards! Xin Yue Wang, Loxlan Kasa, Derek Gillies, Daniel Lorusso, TianDuo Wang, Alicia Cronin, Kevin Borsos, and Jessica Rodgers.

As for other major Imaging society conferences, below are websites and Twitter handles at which you can receive updates:

**SNMMI:** The annual conference scheduled for June 13-16 in New Orleans is still set to run. No updates have been posted as of March 11. Please keep checking at <http://www.snmmi.org/COVID-19#tab9> and on Twitter @SNM\_MI

**ISMRM:** The annual conference has been rescheduled for August 8-13 and moved to Paris. The latest update is that members of the organizing committee are in a shelter-in-place order, so responses email and phone enquiries may take some time. Updates can be found at <https://www.ismrm.org/20m/> and Twitter @ISMRM

**WMIC:** The annual conference is scheduled for October 7-10 in Prague, Czech Republic, is still set to run. Please check for updates at <https://www.wmis.org/2020-wmic-2/> and Twitter @WMIS\_WMIC **Update on Apr 1: FREE registration for ALL Student Members of WMIS who**

**are submitting an abstract. The deadline has been extended to June 10. Login to the portal and let them know if you intend to submit by June 10.**

**RSNA:** The annual conference scheduled for November 29-December 4 is still set to run. Please check for updates at <https://www.rsna.org/annual-meeting> and Twitter @RSNA

For other imaging conferences, please check the relevant websites and social media sites. If you have updates on other conferences, please let me know and I can post them.

As you know, border closures, flight restrictions and travel bans by Western, as well as your own personal feelings, will all affect your decisions to participate in in-person meetings. I would encourage you to have your students submit abstracts without plans to travel. I anticipate that most societies will offer a reduced registration fee for virtual access to their sessions.

I would like to recognize our immensely talented scientists who have had to shut down their research programs, and our amazing trainees whose projects have been interrupted. Please remember that your physical and mental well-being take precedence over any notion of productivity. Some of you will feel frustrated at not being able to continue a project, or contribute in a meaningful way. Maybe you could write an outline for a review article, mine a database, or attend a webinar. There are many resources available at Western to keep you engaged and to help you with any concerns or uncertainties you have. Go to <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> any time for health and wellness resources.

Please take care of yourselves, keep well and stay safe.

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