



Dear IAPHS Community,

I hope that you are all faring well during these stressful times and managing to practice social isolation in ways that involve ongoing connections to others and maintenance of physical activity, which are so important to mental and physical health.

The Board and leadership of IAPHS are well aware that this Covid-19 moment presents challenges for individuals and for the organization, as well as a teachable moment around population health themes. We are actively working to meet the needs of our members and our broader community in several ways.

At this moment, planning continues for our 2020 meeting, which **we are assuming will take place in person in Minneapolis from September 30th — October 2nd as planned**. Take a moment to look at the [exciting plenary speakers that we have already lined up!](#)

We do recognize that the situation for travel and planning is grim right now and that many people will have difficulty making plans. We will continue to monitor the situation and will provide regular updates to our membership about the conference if and when plans or deadlines change.

We received an enthusiastic response to our call for individual abstracts and for panels, with 25 panel submissions and 224 individual abstracts. We are delighted with the creativity and energy in the IAPHS community. Our program committee volunteers will be evaluating these submissions over the next several weeks. Notifications for panel submissions will go out at the end of April, with individual abstract notifications in mid-to-late May.

We also want to make you aware of what IAPHS is doing around Covid-19. As an association of Population Health experts, this is our moment to give back to our communities with our knowledge and skills.

IAPHS is in the process of forming a Covid-19 working group within our Communication Committee to help get the word out about the population-health perspective on this rapidly evolving pandemic. We believe that a population health perspective can provide useful insights and data-driven guidance for individual behavior and policy. Expect to see more soon on our blog and website, including ways for members to get involved in this response.

I have been really impressed with the commitment of so many people in IAPHS to the ideals of population health at this time. Although all of the attention is perhaps rightly on the immediate medical problems, population health continues to be more relevant than ever.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Zimmerman
President, IAPHS

On behalf of the 2020 Program Committee and the Board of Directors, IAPHS