



Dear Colleagues,

These are historic times. All of us are hunkered down worried about our safety and that of our families. At work all are exceptionally busy dealing with the COVID-19 related issues whether it be the diagnostic challenges or the scarcity of PPE, reagents for testing or nasal swabs and the viral transport media. It is hard to overstate the times we are in. I hope all of you are taking care of yourselves and keeping as safe as possible. The scientific work goes on. You will be happy to know that your Council is working diligently on a number of far reaching issues on your behalf.

We have decided against having a face to face annual meeting in August this year. Maggie went to work to negotiate with the hotel in Austin to preserve our funds and with the help of Bonni Scepkowski, recommended by Wayne, that project was successfully completed – saving the society tens of thousands of dollars. The meeting however will go on in a digital fashion. We will get back to you regarding the schedule and the exact format. Like other societies in a similar situation, we will span our meeting over many days over the month of August and have the same number of sessions that you are used to but in small two to two and a half hour sessions. For the moment, understand we will have the meeting digitally, safely and hopefully up to your high standards. The exact details will follow.

You have all been invited to be part of the COVID-19 discussion group. Thanks to Jeff and Maggie for setting that up. You will see comments by a lot of talented people in our AMLI community. Hope you are enjoying it. We are hoping to develop other avenues for our society to communicate with members. Sara Nandiwada and Eric and Kevin are working to set up a Listserv for our community which will have a lot of discussion, educational and training opportunities for us all.

Please keep safe. As a health care community, we are always at higher risk, our training and our inclinations put us in harm's way. The public and society at large have lauded our efforts, as have your peers. We should be proud of our work and thankful for the opportunity to serve, but please be safe, keep yourselves informed and keep your guard up.

Happy Laboratory Week!

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Qasim Ansari MD".

Qasim Ansari

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