

12/03/2020

Message to TSANZSRS ASM 2020 Congress

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Dear Members and Delegates,

We thank you for your unwavering support and patience during the last few weeks as we have sought to do everything in our powers to continue to deliver the 2020 ASM. Unfortunately, events of recent days have made it impossible for us to host the ASM as planned. Travel restrictions have meant that we can no longer offer a cohesive program. Furthermore, whilst we did have mitigation strategies in place to reduce the risk of infection, we were compelled to put the safety of our delegates and their patients first - at a time when health resources are being stretched. Our members are on the front line of dealing with COVID-19 and it is our duty to ensure you are present and able to respond to the challenges we are facing as a community.

With so many of our members contributing their time, energy and academic expertise to the ASM we have sought to honour those commitments. As a result, the Boards of TSANZ and ANZSRS have opted to postpone the Melbourne ASM until 29th April – 4th May 2021, still in Melbourne. All 2020 ASM postgraduate courses and associated meetings have been cancelled.

Delegate ASM registration fees will be rolled across to 2021 unless you request a refund by 30th April 2020. As the postgraduate courses have been cancelled, registration will NOT roll over to 2021 and delegates may apply for a full refund for post-graduate courses fees by no later than 30th April 2020. The attached FAQ sets out how to apply for postgraduate and ASM fee refunds.

Please remember to cancel or reschedule any arrangements you have made regarding travel and accommodation as soon as possible and please refer to FAQ 9 at the bottom of this letter for more information.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to patients who will need you increasingly in the coming weeks. Please stay well and look after yourselves. We look forward to seeing each of you in 2021 and having a belated celebration of ANZSRS' 40th and TSANZ' 60th!

Best wishes to you all



Bruce Thompson
President TSANZ



Jarrod Warner
President ANZSRS

Delegate Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply for a refund of my ASM registration?

To apply for a refund, please complete the registration preference online form that has been emailed to you. If you have not received this form, please email tsanzsrs@theconferencecompany.com.

2. How do I carry my ASM registration forward to 2021?

You do not need to do anything in order for your registration to be automatically carried forward.

3. Will my postgraduate course registration be carried forward to 2021?

As all postgraduate courses have been cancelled, please apply for the refund by 30th April 2020 using the registration preference form that has been emailed to you. Any postgraduate course fees not claimed for a refund by that date will be treated as a tax-deductible donation and a donation receipt will be provided to delegates.

4. Can I make a donation to TSANZ and/or ANZSRS to help recoup the losses experienced as a result of postponing?

Thank you for asking. Unfortunately, even with event cancellation insurance in place, TSANZ and ANZSRS will incur a significant financial impost as a result of our decision to postpone the ASM. As TSANZ is a deductible gift recipient, delegates can provide a donation to offset the costs incurred from the decision to postpone. ANZSRS is not a deductible gift recipient and so cannot accept tax deductible donations. Donations received from delegates will be used to offset the costs incurred by both Societies. To donate, please complete the registration preference form that has been emailed to you. If you have not received this form, please email tsanzsrs@theconferencecompany.com

5. I'm an AT and I need to present a paper this year to finalise my FRACP. What is TSANZ doing to support this?

If you are an AT who must present this year, please email programs@thoracic.org.au with the subject line AT Final Year Presentation and we will get back to you.

6. How will the Ann Woolcock New Investigator award be managed?

We are currently investigating a digital solution to the New Investigator award. We will keep you posted.

7. When will the TSANZ/ANZSRS AGM take place now?

Members will receive further information from their Society regarding AGM details consistent with the requirements of their constitutions and cognisant of the significant challenges currently posed by requiring face to face meetings.

8. If I had my abstract accepted will it automatically be included in next year's program?

We will advise presenters shortly on the process for abstract management as we recognise you may want to get your work published before next year rolls around.

9. What do I do about my airfares and accommodation bookings?

Please contact your travel provider directly for assistance. Airlines may allow airfares to be taken as credit to be rebooked at a later date. Accommodation providers will have different rules for varying bookings and are often more supportive of changing dates than cancellations.

- a) If you booked your travel and accommodation through your work, your workplace travel provider and/or travel insurance can provide more assistance. Likewise, individuals should consult their individual travel insurance providers. Please contact us on programs@thoracic.org.au if you require a letter confirming the postponement of the ASM.

- b) If you booked your accommodation through the ASM website or directly with the Meeting Managers; as per the terms and conditions of your booking, refunds for cancelled rooms are not permitted. However, we are negotiating with the hotels given the extenuating circumstances and are confident that, in some cases, partial refunds or a partial transfer of funds to bookings coinciding with the 2021 meeting will be possible.

We will be communicating the position on accommodation refunds formally with attendees once these are finalised.