

Dear Colleagues,

We are most grateful for your sustained support of the World Congress on Osteoporosis and Musculoskeletal Disease. Now that our first virtual meeting has been successfully delivered, our thoughts are turning to the event in 2021.

We had previously scheduled a face-to-face congress in London, but the COVID-19 pandemic has brought this plan into sharp focus. The well-being and health of our friends and colleagues is a primary concern for us, and the potential for future recurrence of waves of infection remains high. As a consequence, it is highly likely that travel restrictions will remain in force until well into the spring of 2021. Although we hope that vaccine technology will have delivered results by that time, it is more probable that such innovation will facilitate a return to normal travel during the late second and third quarters of the year. As a consequence, we have looked at alternative possibilities for the 2021 WCO.

The Hilton Metropole provides a highly attractive venue: it is centrally located in London; it is compliant with our corporate partnership governance metrics; and it has some flexibility of dates. After discussion, it has become apparent that we have the opportunity to postpone the WCO 2021 by a few months until the week of 23-29 August. If we were to book the 26-29 August 2021 dates, we will have dates which were after the summer holidays for most people; we would hold the meeting before children return to school; and we would be a week before the Labour Day bank holiday in the United States. The dates are not in competition with other congresses in our field; and avoid major religious holidays. As the time is approaching when our constituency might be planning their summer breaks for 2021, we felt we should give them the opportunity of doing so, in full knowledge of this alteration.

We have therefore taken the decision to adopt this course of action. We know you will agree that this plan is both safer, and will make the meeting more attractive.

We look forward to your thoughts in due course, and remain indebted to you for your support.

With kind regards,

Jean-Yves Reginster, John A. Kanis, Cyrus Cooper, René Rizzoli

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