



Date: June 12, 2020

To: Delegates, Alternate Delegates and Chapters Executives

cc: AAFP Board of Directors  
Douglas E. Henley, MD, EVP - CEO  
Shawn Martin, EVP - CEO Designee  
Todd Dicus, JD, CAE, COO  
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Dana Hille  
Becky Gardner

From: John Cullen, MD, Chairman, AAFP Board of Directors  
Alan Schwartzstein, MD, Speaker, Congress of Delegates

Subject: Official Call for 2020 Special Session of the Congress of Delegates

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The AAFP Board of Directors has decided to cancel the in-person 2020 Congress of Delegates (COD) scheduled for October 12-14. These decisions were made after careful consideration surrounding health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic and the phased reopening plan for the state of Illinois which doesn't allow for large gatherings until phase 5 and may not be reached by October.

The Board of Directors believes it is important that COD, as the policy-making body of the AAFP, convene in 2020. Therefore, the Board is officially calling for a special session of COD (per Article VI, Section 2 of the AAFP Bylaws) to take place in a virtual format, for the purpose of accomplishing critical, time sensitive work. The Board has also determined that the 2020 FMX will be transitioned to a virtual-only format (see below for more information).

Cancellation of the in-person COD meeting and calling for a special virtual session is pursuant to the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code, which states that virtual conduct of a "regular meeting" of the COD is only allowed if it is explicitly addressed within the organization's bylaws. Since this is not addressed in the AAFP Bylaws, the regular meeting must be canceled, and a special session called for the virtual meeting.

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### Speaker

Alan Schwartzstein, MD  
Oregon, WI

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Russell Kohl, MD  
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Douglas E. Henley, MD  
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More details on COD logistics, including but not limited to schedule, events, elections, and the virtual platform we will be using will be forthcoming. To enhance the efficiency of a virtual meeting of the COD, the reference committee hearings will be held in advance on October 3-4. We are evaluating exact dates to conduct the special session of the COD between October 9 and October 13. Chapter executives will receive a survey soon to indicate the timing preference for each delegation.

Below are details regarding the specific items of business that the AAFP Board of Directors has determined will be conducted during the special virtual COD session.

**Specified business to be conducted at the 2020 special virtual COD session will be:**

- Leadership reports and insights.
- Candidate activities and officer and director elections for terms beginning October 2020 (standing Rules for the special session will be developed and shared when available)
- Reports for consideration and action including bylaws amendments and Board of Directors reports.
- Only resolutions of an exigent nature to AAFP policy will be considered (exigent is defined as 'pressing, demanding and requiring of immediate action').
  - Each Chapter can submit up to two (2) resolutions for consideration. Resolutions submitted by more than one chapter will be applied to the lead chapter's maximum.
  - **The deadline for resolution submission is August 26.**
  - Once the submission deadline has passed, no late resolutions will be accepted except those of an emergent nature that are due to events that occur after the deadline, as determined by the Speaker and Board Chair. Resolutions meeting these criteria cannot exceed the maximum of two (2) resolutions per chapter.
  - Since resolutions must be exigent to be considered in this special session and this stipulates chapter consideration, no individual member resolutions will be considered.
  - If the Speakers, in consultation with the Rules Committee, determine that a submitted resolution reflects current policy, and therefore would not be of an exigent nature, the resolution will not be considered. These resolutions can be resubmitted at a future COD for consideration as per the standing rules for a regular COD meeting.

**Items typically conducted at the in-person COD that will be excluded from the special session include:**

- Introductions
- Real time organizational greetings
- Award presentations
- Introduction of Commission Chairs
- Acknowledgement of retiring delegates

As for the transition of FMX to a virtual conference, we are still working through the details associated with this change. The [FMX event website](#) has been updated to let attendees, faculty and exhibitors know that more information will be coming soon.

As attendees of COD for decades, the members of the Board of Directors, including the Speakers, regret the necessity of a virtual meeting, which could never capture the interpersonal experiences that make COD the re-energizing experience it has come to be for the Academy and so many of our members. We are heartened to know that we WILL see each other again, we WILL keep our Academy moving forward during these difficult times, and we WILL continue to fight for our members and patients!

If you have questions, please contact us at [johncullenmd@gmail.com](mailto:johncullenmd@gmail.com) or [alan.schwartzstein@ssmhealth.com](mailto:alan.schwartzstein@ssmhealth.com).