

## Announcement of EASD

21 May 2020

Dear friends, dear colleagues,

We are just starting to see some light at the end of this dark and challenging time. In many countries the number of people affected by the COVID-19 is slowly dropping and the burden on the health care providers progressively becomes less oppressive.

However, although the overall situation may further improve in the next couple of months we have no certainty about possible relapses of the epidemic and no information concerning how simple or even whether it will be possible to travel at all for the many people coming from all over the world to attend the EASD Annual Meeting nor are we aware about any specific restriction the Austrian authorities may require to ensure safety in the occasion of large public meetings. Because of these uncertainties we are forced to transform the 56th Annual Meeting of the EASD into a virtual event.

The EASD values first of all the safety of its members and all of those attending the Annual Meeting and, of course, it is much committed to continuing to provide the diabetes community with the most recent developments and breaking news in the different fields of investigation in diabetes and related conditions. Over the past couple of years, we have had much discussion about how to reinvigorate the traditional format of the Annual Meeting and even more how we could allow sharing the research information to a much broader worldwide audience. It is because of this commitment that the EASD Virtual Meeting was initiated back in 2008. The virtual EASD broadcasts all sessions of the Congress live and represents a formidable repository of the last 12 editions of the Annual Meeting of the EASD. Last year in Barcelona, more than 15,000 people attended the Annual Meeting. On the five days of the congress another 15,000 colleagues accessed the Virtual EASD. Since the end of the Congress till today another 66,000 persons have accessed the website to listen to the science delivered in Barcelona. The math is simple enough showing how large indeed the audience of our Annual Meeting can be.

By combining the need to protect everybody's safety, our commitment to support and foster science in diabetes, and by taking advantage of the existing experience with the EASD Virtual Meeting the 56th Annual Meeting of the EASD will be held virtually with the aim of providing a completely new experience and a totally different way to participate in the multiple activities of the Meeting. All the features of the EASD Annual Meeting will evolve into a new dimension with an interactive Scientific Programme, discussion rooms, personalized scientific tracks, walk through Association Village, EASD, EFSD, Diabetologia, Post-Graduate Education interactive booths, meet the Experts along with the usual corporate symposia and exhibition hall. This enables us not only to take a step into the future, but also to create a safe environment for everybody.

# EASD

European Association for the Study of Diabetes e.V.

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We do appreciate that the time of our Meeting is a unique occasion for networking and interaction. We will make sure this will continue to be the case although it will be through the most modern technology. The 56th Annual Meeting of the EASD will represent the step forward we have been dreaming of and a turning point concerning all future congresses where face to face meetings will be entangled with state-of-the-art virtual technology.

What we are facing is a new life and the Executive Board, the EASD staff and all who are involved in the organization of this event count on all of you to make the 56th Annual Meeting of the EASD another big successful scientific event with the ambition to reach out to every corner of the world, everyone with an interest in diabetes at the time of the Meeting itself and for many months to follow. Just stay tuned for more details to come in the near future.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Del Prato', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stefano Del Prato  
President of EASD/EFSD