

Congress 2021 Update and Important Changes

Dear Members and Friends of EABP

The EABP Board and the CPC have been keeping the Corona Virus situation, travel across Europe and from elsewhere under close view. It is with deep regret that we have come to the decision to not go ahead with a *face-to-face* Congress in 2021.

We are grateful for and appreciate the loyalty and support shown by members and friends of EABP in your continued booking for the 2021 face-to-face Congress.

Thank you all for sticking with us during these very difficult times.

The CPC worked hard at clarifying the congress venue and other activity venue situations in Bologna in order for Congress 2021 to go ahead as a face-- gathering. However, this has proved far too uncertain both in terms of the situation with venues - who cannot now guarantee they will be open and available - also in terms of travel restrictions and finally in terms of financial guarantees. EABP could not take the financial risk by continuing in such uncertain conditions.

Therefore, the Board and the CPC feel the best choice is to cancel the face-to-face Bologna Congress.

We are planning to hold instead a virtual Congress and General Assembly in 2021.

More details about this virtual Congress will be sent out to members once they are finalised. We are looking at the possibility of a face to face Congress in 2023 when we hope to be well beyond the current difficulties.

In the meantime, you might consider attending the virtual conference on 19th December 2020 as an appetiser and a bridge to our virtual Congress and General Assembly in 2021.

Please see the following [link](#) to the conference being hosted virtually by our Italian colleagues later this month. The conference will be conducted in English and Italian with simultaneous translations.

REFUND of FEES

If you have made a booking, and paid fees for the Congress 2021 *on or after September 1st 2020* then you are entitled to a full refund of your fees.

If you carried over your registration payment from Congress 2020 to Congress 2021 then you will be refunded your fee paid in full also.

If you currently are booked in for Congress 2021 you will get a full refund without an administrative charge.

If you paid your fees *on or after 1st September 2020* and you have already cancelled your attendance and claimed for a refund, then you are entitled now to a *refund of the administrative charge* levied when you cancelled.

Refunding will take place from now, please be patient in waiting for your refund as this is a very large task that will take time for the secretariat and registration team to manage.

An opportunity for Voluntary Donations towards the Administrative and other Financial costs

There are many associated costs for EABP in organising our congresses, that are not necessarily seen by the members. Including, but not limited to, payment for the updating of the website and changes that have to be made along the way; planning meetings costs with the conference agency and costs associated with checking of venues and meetings arrangements for catering, dinner dance and cocktail evenings, and also publicity costs. Not all these costs can be recovered and so we will face making a loss on the money we have had to spend already. EABP also will have to pay for extra administrative and financial work involved in refunding all members and other booked participants.

If you would like to help us with either administrative or other financial costs you can make a donation to EABP to help us.

Please let Rob van Schaik know via email the amount you would like to donate.

Contact Rob at: officemanager@eabp.org

I wish all members and friends of EABP a safe and healthy time as we get through these most uncertain of times,

Warmest wishes from all the Board and the CPC,

Carmen Joanne Ablack

Carmen Joanne Ablack
EABP President