

COVID 19- Update : 5th March 2020

Dear Members and Delegates,

Further to our previous advice regarding the ASM and COVID -19, please see the updated information below from the Boards of TSANZ and ANZSRS.

We have reviewed the current Government advice and it remains unchanged at business as usual and no need to cancel major events. As such the ASM will proceed as planned from the 27-31st March in Melbourne. This is an evolving situation which we will continue to monitor daily.

For delegates who feel that they are unable to attend the meeting, we are currently working on a digital solution that will enable participation in the entire ASM remotely (the current digital registration has limited access). We are finalising these arrangements and will provide further information as soon as possible.

If one of the following circumstances apply to you and you are therefore unable to participate in the ASM, your registration will be transferred across to an online registration which will enable you to participate fully in all conference sessions. Please email the conference organiser on tsanzsrs@theconferencecompany.com to advise you will not be able to attend and you will be provided with a digital registration. If you are a speaker, please notify us as soon as you can, that you are unable to attend so we can make every endeavour to enable your work to be presented.

Circumstances that require delegates to attend the ASM via digital registration include:

1. If you are experiencing flu like symptoms
2. In accordance with Government advice, if you have travelled from, or transited through, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Mongolia, Japan, or mainland China, and are in the 14-day isolation/monitoring period
3. If you have been in close, unprotected contact with a proven case of coronavirus, you must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of last contact (ie if you have had contact with a confirmed coronavirus case where universal precautions were not fully and effectively deployed). Or if you have been advised by your employer or health department to self-isolate.

Whilst at the ASM delegates are reminded to practice good hygiene including:

- frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue or flexed elbow
- avoiding close contact with anyone who has a cold or flu-like symptoms
- adopt a “social distancing” approach – substitute a friendly smile and wave for the handshake or kisses.

Hand sanitisers are available at the venue and a limited supply of personal sanitisers are available from the TSANZ stand.

We are in regular contact with the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre who are increasing sanitation measures and cleaning and adhering to Department of Health recommendations.

Whether delegates choose to participate remotely or in person, the ASM program is one of the richest programs we have yet assembled, and we look forward to hearing the ground-breaking science and clinical knowledge being presented.

Best wishes to you all

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Thompson".

Bruce Thompson
President TSANZ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jarrod Warner".

Jarrod Warner
President ANZSRS