

Dear Members and Delegates,

As I am sure you would expect, the Boards of TSANZ and ANZSRS have been keeping a close watching brief on the COVID-19 situation and how it may impact on our upcoming TSANZSRS ASM in Melbourne at the end of this month. The ASM in Melbourne has a rich diversity of presenters and sessions and we are also pleased to confirm a highly anticipated session, by leading experts on COVID 19. Please see: <https://tcc.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/tsanzsrs-annual-scientific-meeting-2020/program/Agenda/AgendaItemDetail?id=7d6c389c-3fa5-47f9-b3ae-47018e512e33>. This session will be recorded and made freely available to all TSANZ members immediately post the ASM.

To date, the number of confirmed COVID-19 infections in Australia is low, and so far, well contained. We are monitoring, and heeding, the advice of the Federal Government on a daily basis. The current advice is to conduct business as usual with no need to cancel major events.

Today the TSANZ Board held an extraordinary Board meeting to further review the risks associated with COVID-19 and the ASM and resolved that the ASM will go ahead as planned from the 27-31st March in Melbourne. The ANZSRS Board has also come to this decision. 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.

For delegates who are attending the meeting in person, please take note of the following sensible precautions which will be in place for the ASM:

1. If you are displaying flu like symptoms and are therefore unable to attend the conference, 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.
2. Following Government advice, if you have travelled from, or transited through, Iran, Italy, South Korea or mainland China, you require 14 days self-isolation and/or monitoring of your health before attending the meeting in person. If these restrictions apply to you, i.e. you are in the 14 day isolation/monitoring period, please email the conference organiser on tsanzsrs@theconferencecompany.com to advise that you will not be able to attend, and you will be provided with a digital registration which will enable you to participate fully in all conference sessions. 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.
3. If you have been in close contact with a proven case of coronavirus, you must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of last contact with the confirmed case. If this applies to you do not attend the ASM. 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. 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 which will enable you to participate fully in all conference sessions.

4. Delegates are encouraged 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.
5. Hand sanitisers are available at the venue and 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 in just over a fortnight.

Best wishes to you all



Bruce Thompson
President TSANZ



Jarrod Warner
President ANZSRS