CLWA2020 ORGANIZING PARTNERS SUSPEND APRIL CONFERENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Dear Colleagues,

Our region has not been spared from the ongoing global pandemic. Several West African Countries have confirmed cases of the Novel Corona Virus or COVID-19, with some reporting community infections as the disease continues to spread.

Many states in the sub region, including Ghana, our host country and partner for CelebrateLAB West Africa Conference 2020, have acted swiftly and issued travel restrictions and limitations on mass gathering including conferences and workshops – steps that we strongly agree with and support as necessary measures to help contain the disease that could potentially ground the region’s already fragile health systems.

On Thursday, 19th March, an emergency conference call was held with CLWA 2020 Ambassadors to discuss the situation and further consultations were held with other partners. Following the outcome of the consultations, we have decided to suspend, till a later date, CelebrateLAB West Africa Conference 2020, originally scheduled for Accra, Ghana from April 21st - 23rd, 2020.

Whiles the suspension of the meeting create some logistical challenges, we at CelebrateLAB see this as an opportunity for the scientific community and policymakers to take a critical look at the sub region’s health systems in general and laboratory systems in particular when we eventually convene at a later date, and come up with practical solutions to double up efforts to strengthen health systems across the region. The conference theme: “Combating emerging and re-emerging infections through standardization of laboratory system across West Africa” remains relevant.

We are closely monitoring developments in the sub region and indeed on the African continent and the world at large and will announce a new meeting date as soon as practicable. In the meantime, we are looking at innovative ways to continue to engage our community to keep the conversation going. We will keep you posted via our website at www.celebratelab.org and via eBlasts.

In its 6th year, CelebrateLAB West Africa Conference, which has its genesis from a similar infectious disease outbreak (Ebola) in West Africa, is the annual meeting of medical laboratory professionals, clinicians, researchers, policymakers, vendors and other stakeholders in laboratory systems strengthening environment.

We thank you for your continuing support.

Stay safe.

Candace Eastman
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