



# INTERNATIONAL MENTORING ASSOCIATION

Dear IMA Members and Friends,

After months of discussion with the Executive Board, the Board of Directors, and the Conference Committee members, we have resolved that the 2021 IMA face-to-face-Conference will be postponed to February 2022. However, IMA will host a virtual symposium in February 2021 in lieu of the 2021 face-to-face Conference. Additionally, professional development events will be held throughout the fall of 2020 and throughout 2021. We will be sending out more details and updating the conference website in the coming weeks.

Since March, we have been monitoring COVID19 related CDC announcements and weighed various options, considerations, and scenarios for our conference. We considered institutional budget cuts and spending freezes as well as how to continue to provide meaningful professional development opportunities that support research and networking. We waited until August, after our proposal deadline, to make a final determination as to whether the conference would be adjusted to a hybrid format, completely moved to a total virtual format, or postpone the conference until 2022. We received a robust number of unique proposals, and while a symposium will be briefer than a conference, we will call upon those proposals because we believe they will be of interest to the mentoring community. As such, on August 10, 2020, the Conference committee and Board recommended to postpone the conference to 2022 and provide virtual professional development for 2021.

In the weeks and months ahead, keynote speakers will be contacted, proposal decisions will be made, and registration fees will be adjusted. If your proposal has been accepted, you will have the option of presenting at the 2021 symposium or defer to the 2022 conference. If you have registered for the conference already, the IMA Staff will follow up with you with options to transfer your registration fee, refund your registration fee, or donate your registration fee.

We also seek your ongoing commitment to membership in IMA. We realize that resources for many may be tighter than ever before and we want to respond to such circumstances with special membership offers.

Although we will not be able to gather in person throughout the days of this global pandemic, we will "mentor on" with resilience, rigor, and results!

Brenda L. H. Marina, PhD  
IMA President

**STAY CONNECTED**

