

**COVID-19: A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF EBPS**

Dear EBPS members,

We are finding ourselves in a surreal situation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Public life has come to a halt in many countries – encouraged or enforced by government regulations, and the vast majority of our laboratories have minimized their activities, if not temporarily closed the doors altogether. It is something that hardly any one of us will have experienced before.

Right now, global health – the health of every person on this planet – has top priority. It is therefore of utmost importance to take precautions to stay safe, to follow health advice and practice social distancing. Our own health is at stake, as well as that of our families, and vulnerable individuals in our surroundings. As a matter of fact, our own behaviour determines what will happen to the population at large.

It is a sobering, quite frustrating situation to find ourselves unable to continue our exciting research – the work that we are so incredibly committed to. Through our work we aim to understand the brain better, in order to contribute to mental health. Yet, the best contribution to health we can make at this time is to help control the spread of the coronavirus, by staying at and working from home. I hope that this will also provide opportunities to regard our work from a distance, to read, think and discuss – albeit remotely – with colleagues. I wish that in this way, something positive can come out of this dramatic situation.

At this time, we do not know what will happen to the meetings EBPS is organizing in 2020: the mini-conference preceding the FENS Forum in July, and our workshop in August. As soon as there is any news regarding these events, we will of course let you know. Until then, please be assured that we will decide on the most sensible course of action, also if this means that a meeting will have to be postponed or cancelled. Global health is most important now.

Stay safe and take care. I am convinced that in time, there will again be ample opportunities for us to meet, catch up and interact – something that I look forward to.

My very best wishes,

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