



WELSH PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY
CYMDEITHAS PEDIATRIG CYMRU

WELSH PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY
Spring Clinical Meeting 2020

Friday 22nd May Deganwy, North Wales.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thursday, 12 March 2020

Re: Cancellation of 2020 Spring WPS and deferring it to Spring 2021.

In light of the exceptional public health concerns we have decided to postpone the Spring Clinical Meeting which was scheduled to take place on **Friday 22nd May in Deganwy, North Wales** until May 2021. This follows discussions we have had with our hosts, Lee and Hamilton, in response to the evolving public health challenge caused by COVID-19.

The Chief Medical Officer for Wales spoke to me as part of a teleconference with the academy of Medical Royal Colleges this morning. Frank expects the peak of the epidemic to hit Wales between April to early June over an 8 to 9 week period. He envisages us working across boundaries and probable stopping all routine work during this challenging spell. Thus, it is difficult for the Welsh Paediatric Society to justify a gathering of doctors when it is likely that all of us as clinicians will be operating under significant additional strain coping with COVID-19 in Wales. You will be aware too of the RCPCH's recent cancellation of it's annual meeting.

Those of you who had kindly submitted abstracts have 2 options, unless you wish to withdraw them. We can either enter them for the November 2020 meeting or next Spring's. Please email Lisa and let her know which you would prefer. We regret that we cannot give you the opportunity to showcase your work in the Spring meeting this year.

I'm very sorry to deliver this unprecedented disappointing news; when I took on this role it never occurred to me that I would become the first President to cancel a meeting! However, it seems clear to us that it is the only right and responsible decision left. We are working now on alternative arrangements for holding the conference in Spring 2021. On a happier note Jenny and I hope we will see you for November's meeting in Cardiff when COVID-19 has passed.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Tuthill.
President of the Welsh Paediatric Society.