

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

### **Strange Times - Difficult Decisions**

After much consideration we have made the difficult but required decision in conjunction with the ESAO Executive Committee, to postpone ESAO 2020 to 2021 at Brunel University London.

Obviously, this is very disappointing, as we know how much ESAO annual conference means to everyone. We assure you this decision was not taken lightly or in haste, but we are still some distance from the peak of this dangerous pandemic and no date at sight to when might normal working conditions are restored. With lockdown in most countries, restrictions on movements and travel bans, we had no real choice, but to postpone.

We thank you and the whole ESAO membership for understanding the extreme difficulty of this decision and for your commitment to the success of ESAO yearly conference. Specifically, we profoundly appreciate all of the abstracts submitted, which we plan to publish in the International Journal of Artificial Organs, as originally planned (more information to the corresponding authors will be sent out next week).

In a spirit of optimism please mark September 2021 in your diaries. Meanwhile, take very good care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely with all good wishes,

Prof. Ashraf W Khir, Congress President, on behalf of the organising Committee.

Prof. Piotr Ladyzynski, ESAO President, on behalf of ESAO Executive Committee.