

**MMI**

Malaysian Medics International™

PRESS STATEMENT

NOTICE FOR POSTPONEMENT OF UPCOMING EVENTS BY MMI

12 March 2020 – Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has become widespread globally and was recently declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO)¹. The disease is highly infectious, with new cases emerging daily. As of yesterday, Director General of Health, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, had released a press statement providing us with updates on COVID-19 in Malaysia and had also issued a health advisory to the public². Of particular interest to us is the ministry's advice to postpone all mass gatherings involving the public to reduce the risks of COVID-19 infection.

Mass gatherings are defined by WHO as “more than a specified number of persons at a specific location for a specific purpose for a defined period of time”. Any event can be classified as a mass gathering when the risk of hosting any number of participants puts a strain on the planning and response resources of the community, state or nation³. Our country's healthcare system, functioning as remarkable as they are in the context of COVID-19, faces an unprecedented amount of strain in terms of manpower and resources.

As medical students and doctors, we understand the significance of this pandemic and the risks associated with this infection. Therefore, it is in our interest to ensure the safety of both our participants and our committee. Given the recent development, the members of the Executive Council of MMI have come to the agreement that we will postpone the upcoming events indefinitely.

¹ WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 11 March 2020 [Internet]. [cited 2020 Mar 11]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020/>

² Ministry of Health, Malaysia, 2020. Kenyataan Akhbar KPK 11 Mac 2020 – Situasi Semasa Jangkitan Penyakit Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Di Malaysia. [Internet]. [cited 11 March 2020]. Available from: <https://kpkesehatan.com/2020/03/11/kenyataan-akhbar-kpk-11-mac-2020-situasi-semasa-jangkitan-penyakit-coronavirus-2019-covid-19-di-malaysia/>

³ World Health Organization, 2015. Public Health For Mass Gatherings: Key Considerations. Geneva: World Health Organization, p.171.

The affected events are as follows:

1. MMI Young Medic's Making An Informed Decision (MAID), 14 March 2020 at UKM Medical Centre, Cheras
2. MMI Doctor's Conversation: Getting Into Research, 14 March 2020 at Cranial Cavity
3. MMI Malaysia's Kurang Manis, Please! Fiesta, 28 March 2020 at Atria Shopping Gallery
4. MMI Malaysia's Dermatology Workshop, 4 April 2020 at Taylor's University
5. MMI Malaysia's Care Beyond Cure, 11 April 2020 at Perdana University

We acknowledge and apologise for the inconveniences caused by this postponement to our hardworking organising committee, stakeholders, especially our partners and sponsors, and most importantly, our supportive participants. We are committed to ensure any updates for these postponed events to be communicated to everyone in a timely manner via email and our social media platforms. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure any request for refund will be attended with urgency.

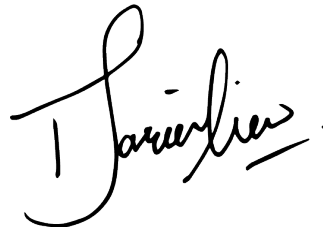
We thank everyone for the continuous support which has kept us motivated to connect, educate and cultivate for the betterment of our healthcare community in Malaysia.



Low Wen Yan

Co-Chair

**Malaysian Medics International
Executive Council**



Dr. Darien Liew Daojuin

Co-Chair

**Malaysian Medics International
Executive Council**

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