Like you, the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) has been closely monitoring the developments related to the COVID-19 virus and the impacts it has had on patients, healthcare workers, the community, and the broader economy. As healthcare workers ourselves, we have an appreciation for the risks posed by this novel coronavirus and must do everything we can to decrease the negative impacts to our society. The health and wellness of our members, their families and patients, and our employees is always our top priority. That is why the COS Board has decided to cancel the physical portion of this year’s Annual Meeting scheduled for June 25-28th 2020 in Vancouver, BC.

This was not an easy decision and we will miss the opportunity to be with you all in person. However, now for some good news. We are working hard to develop an alternative to an in-person meeting and are working with our Session Chairs to create an innovative and educational virtual conference. As details are confirmed, we will keep you up to speed about how we will move forward together and how you may participate. For those who have registered for the meeting, and for our supporters and partners, we will reach out to you directly with options to move forward. While we are disappointed that we have had to make this change, we look forward to embracing a new meeting format.

For those who have booked accommodations at one of our host hotels (Fairmont Waterfront, Pan Pacific and the Marriott Downtown), your accommodations will automatically be cancelled. However, you will be responsible for cancelling any travel plans you may have made directly with your airline provider.

We are all in this together and we must all do our part to keep each other safe and healthy. We encourage our members to continue to physically distance when and where possible. Please review our recommendations for dealing with COVID-19 in your work as ophthalmologists, which can be found HERE. These measures are important to ensure we limit the spread of the disease and reduce the risk to our members and the general population.

Please take care and stay healthy.

Dr. Mona H. Dagher
Chair, COS Annual Meeting

Dr. Yvonne Buys
President COS