

Dear ALSTAR, NPIRS, and NSPIRS users,

The global outbreak of COVID-19 continues to warrant the attention of each and every one of us as we work together to keep our friends, family, and coworkers safe and healthy. With the continued progression and spread of this virus we continue to make decisions in our precaution-containment-continuity framework, with our overarching focus on health and safety – especially for those in high risk categories. Ensuring health and safety now means taking actions that aim to limit exposure of the NPIRS community members to the virus, imposing social distancing where appropriate, and generally elevating preventive hygiene practices.

We have been instructed by Purdue University to suspend all university-sponsored events involving travel and external visitors effective March 16 through May 2. For purposes of this suspension, gatherings of 50 or more attendees should be postponed or cancelled. So, with this unprecedented circumstance we are saddened to announce that we will be cancelling the 2020 ALSTAR Spring Conference.

With that being said we have taken the necessary steps to schedule the 2020 Fall ALSTAR-NPIRS Conference in Columbus, Ohio for September 28<sup>th</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additional information about the Fall conference will be issued very soon.

As many of you know we have been working diligently to bring you ALSTAR 2.0 and were planning to unveil the much-improved user-friendly system at the spring conference. We have decided that we will reveal the New ALSTAR 2.0 system in the upcoming months and plan to offer virtual training prior to the fall conference.

Stay tuned for further communications as we try to navigate these uncharted territories.

From your CERIS family