

Berlin, 11 March 2020

Dear colleagues,

Today, following recent reports on COVID19 from the Robert-Koch-Institute (RKI) and the World Health Organization (WHO), we are sorry to inform you that the Horatio 2020 congress in Berlin is cancelled.

This decision was made in mutual agreement by organizers, European Psychiatric Nurses (Horatio) and Deutsche Fachgesellschaft für Psychiatrische Pflege (DFPP) after careful consideration. As the potential reach of the virus has changed significantly during the last days, it is impossible to assess the risks for congress participants. Additionally, there are concerns about the consequences of displacing healthcare workers during this critical time, as well as stressing the local health systems were there to be an adverse event.

“We recognize all the hard work so many have put into preparing their presentations and panels for the congress,” said Susanna Flansburg the Regional President of Berlin congress. “Based on evaluation of evolving circumstances and coordination with an external advisory panel of medical professionals to support evidence-based decision making, it is clear that it would be an unacceptable risk to bring so many people together.”

This is the first time Horatio event ever has been cancelled, but it is now clear that cancellation is unavoidable in order to protect the health and safety of the attendants. Registration fees will be returned to your accounts in few days' time and we strongly suggest you cancel hotel reservations to avoid further payments.

We do hope to see you in our future events and will inform you on those with our social media and website. At the moment, the plan is to have next Horatio Festival in May 2021, further details will be published later this spring. We wish you all a nice springtime although the current situation is creating also need for emotional support for many, support that many of us might be providing also during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Nina Kilkku
President
European Psychiatric Nurses (Horatio)



Dorothea Sauter
President
Deutsche Fachgesellschaft für
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