



December 2, 2019

Dear 22q11.2 Society Member,

Here's hoping you've had a happy and successful 2019 to date. There is much to anticipate given the upcoming holiday season, as well as, our 12th Biennial International 22q11.2 Conference which is just around the corner. But before launching into those details, I would like to take a moment to express how honoured I am to be taking over the helm of this important organization. The 22q11.2 Society was launched with tremendous enthusiasm in 2013 with a goal to promote both basic science and clinical interdisciplinary research, as well as, the diagnosis, prognosis and management of related disorders. Under the direction of our most dedicated leader, Prof. Peter Scambler, the launch of the Society did not disappoint - having developed a "go-to" website (22qsociety.org) with links to review papers and guidelines, discussions regarding nomenclature, commentaries on peer-reviewed publications, consortium updates, clinical observations, a family corner, and contacts to connect with colleagues, clinical centres, and lay organizations alike. The Society acknowledged the work of seasoned and junior investigators, as well as, our partners in the community through a number of accolades including the Angelo DiGeorge Memorial Medal of Honor, Junior Investigator, Unsung Hero, and Special Service Awards. Concurrently, the Society very nearly perfected the biennial international meeting with a combination of outstanding science and an engaging social program that encourages cross fertilization and collaboration which continues well after the effects of sunshine and salt air have faded.

Certainly none of this would have been possible without the dedication of our founding Trustees and Advisors, and in particular our rock – Peter Scambler. Peter was lured into this role with the promise of a figure-head position but as we secretly hoped he rolled up his sleeves and made it all happen with the precision of a surgeon. On behalf of the current and ex-officio trustees, I would like to offer Pete our sincerest gratitude and announce at this time that our Post-Doctoral Basic Science Junior Investigator Award will now and forever more be renamed the **Scambler Junior Investigator Award** in his honour. We are certain very little else (with the exception of running marathons) makes Peter happier than recognizing our juniors – so congratulations, Pete!

At this time we would also like to express our enormous appreciation for our Founding Trustees and Advisors who are now rotating off the board. These include: Professors Sixto Garcia-Minaur, Damien Heine-Suner, Bruno Marino, and Nicole Philip-Sarles. Their dedication has been longstanding (even before the establishment of the Society) and boundless. We could not have moved forward with such rapidity without their support and we look forward to thanking them in person in Croatia.

We would be remiss if we did not also acknowledge those Trustees and Advisors who have agreed to remain with us for our next steps along this journey, including: Professors Ann Swillen (Secretary), Anne Bassett (Treasurer), Pete Scambler (Vice-Treasurer), Bernice Morrow (Trustee), and Jacob Vorstman (Advisor). We thank them for their continuing dedication to the cause and we look forward to all good things to come. In the coming months we will announce our new Advisors, representing the Society as seasoned experts and junior investigators alike.

Moving onward, please consider this letter as an official "Call for Abstracts" for the 12th Biennial International 22q11.2 Meeting – "Celebrating 22 Years of Education and Collaboration" to be held from **June 23-26, 2020** at the

lovely Le Meridien Lav Hotel in Split, Croatia. Updates on the International 22q11.2 Brain and Behaviour Consortium will be presented on the morning of June 23rd while the afternoon on the 23rd will be dedicated to supporting Clinical Networks, including the 22q11.2 Network of the America's, as well as, updating existing guidelines and establishing subspecialty recommendations. The traditional scientific symposium, primarily featuring submitted abstracts, will run from June 24th through the end of the day on the 26th. As always there will be cutting edge science mixed with an amazing social program in this idyllic Croatian retreat. Just minutes from Split's bustling city centre filled with Roman ruins (including the famous Diocletian's Palace), café's, and shopping, attendees are only a ferry ride away from scenic islands including Hvar and the Italian coastline just across the Adriatic. Direct flights from anywhere in Europe are a breeze to Split's airport (SPU) which is only a short bus or taxi ride from the main hotel, while easy connections are available for those traveling from a greater distance via London, Frankfurt, and Dubrovnik, just to name a few. Details regarding the conference, venue, accommodations, and abstract submission can be found via:

<https://chop.cloud-cme.com/default.aspx?P=0&EID=1026>

Please note that the deadline for abstract submission is **January 22, 2020**.

New for this year, the 22q11.2 Society Membership renewal deadline has been extended from November 22, 2019 to January 22, 2020. Thus, existing members will receive two free months of affiliation. As always, membership significantly reduces conference registration fees while allowing the Society to complete our essential work. Of note, the rates for **two full years** of membership will remain constant at £175 for full members, and £125 for junior members. All renewed and new memberships will expire on 1/22/22. That said, we very much hope you will consider renewing your membership while submitting your abstract for the meeting on 1/22/20 if not beforehand.

Once again, I am honoured for the opportunity to lead. I thank you for your trust. I promise to work diligently on behalf of the Society and I am so looking forward to seeing you in beautiful Croatia!

Cheers,



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