



March 10, 2020

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Dear SOCS Colleagues,

As the outbreak of COVID-19 has been developing worldwide, the SOCS Executive Leadership has been closely tracking its impact within the global dermatology community. We have been monitoring daily recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO), along with the numerous travel restrictions issued by companies and medical institutions.

Last night we received word that the AAD made the difficult, but necessary decision to cancel the AAD 2020 Annual Meeting in Denver. The SOCS Leadership had previously decided that if the AAD Annual Meeting was cancelled, then the **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Skin of Color Society Scientific Symposium** would also be cancelled. **This communication is to officially notify you that the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Skin of Color Society Scientific Symposium has been cancelled.**

Preparing for the symposium involves the time, talent, and creativity of a great many of our physician volunteers, speakers, management team/staff and event partners. We are incredibly grateful for this and deeply disappointed not to be able to hold the symposium as planned.

In the coming weeks, we will tap into the innovative spirit of the aforementioned individuals to explore virtual meeting options that deliver world-class education, spotlight dermatology's innovation, and celebrate the many achievements we had planned to recognize in Denver. Through regularly posted updates on <http://skinofcolorsociety.org/> and our other SOCS social communication channels, we will keep all participants apprised of our plans to deliver the research, knowledge, and expert insight you value from the symposium.

We will be communicating specific information in the next several days to those who had planned to attend, present, and sponsor our meeting. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we consider the rapidly changing circumstances as well as the safety and well-being of our symposium participants and staff, as well as their families, colleagues, patients and communities.

Sincerely,

President – Lynn McKinley-Grant, MA, MD, FAAD  
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