

March 17, 2020

Dear TMS Members and Colleagues:

As information about COVID-19 continues to evolve rapidly, we are sharing with you the steps that TMS is taking to ensure the health, safety, and engagement of those who participate in our meetings and activities.

The strength of TMS is its ability to convene scientists and engineers across disciplines to learn, network, and exchange knowledge critical to the advancement of materials technologies. Starting in June through September 2020, we are organizing or are supporting an array of international technical meetings that enable this work.

Travel restrictions and containment strategies to address COVID-19 are being adopted at all levels and are, out of necessity, frequently unspecific as to when they will end. We cannot make decisions regarding events three or more months in the future from this date and believe it is not appropriate or necessary to summarily cancel or postpone these events without further information. Within this context, we are reviewing each event's unique situation and working closely with our volunteer meeting organizers to be assured that we can deliver the kind of essential experience to which the materials community and our members have become accustomed. **As of today, our position is to work hard to assure that all 2020 TMS-organized meetings proceed.**

To access information on TMS meetings that are being monitored, please visit [www.tms.org/COVID-19](http://www.tms.org/COVID-19).

#### **Guiding Principles:**

As we examine the particular considerations for each of our meetings, we will make our decisions and take action within the context of the following guiding principles.

- The health, safety and comfort of our meeting attendees, TMS members, and staff is our primary concern in our decision-making.
- Any individual who has traveled from, to or through any country or region that has been placed on the restricted travel list by the U.S. government—inclusive of both federal and state governments—within 14 days of a TMS meeting or activity will be prohibited from attending that TMS meeting or activity.
- We will follow all Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization guidance on preventive and containment measures.
- We are working with our venues to arrange access to health care professionals to respond to attendee concerns and support routine preventive health care measures.
- We are also working with our meeting venues to ensure access to hand sanitizer, as well as additional and extensive cleaning and sanitation of high traffic and public areas that will be frequented by our attendees.
- We are developing both onsite signage and website resources for each meeting on preventing the spread of communicable disease, along with a list of local health care resources.
- We will waive cancellation fees for all our meetings through September 2020 to provide maximum flexibility for our attendees' planning.
- If a decision is made to reschedule a meeting, we will immediately notify our presenters and registrants with refund information and guidance on housing cancellations or rebooking.

## Stay Connected

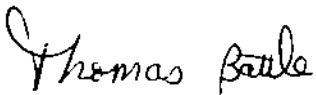
We realize many of you are working under stressful conditions as the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold, with changes in your work protocols and travel restrictions. As TMS members, there is a broad, international community that you have access to in these extraordinary times. You can find colleagues near and far in the TMS Membership Directory. Publication of our journals continues—We encourage you to access these resources by logging in to the [TMS Journals page](#) to keep current on the latest advancements in our field at your convenience. If you cannot attend a meeting in 2020, be it one sponsored by TMS or otherwise, please consider sharing your work as a TMS journal author.

TMS is also extending deadlines for key activities to accommodate the disruptions to school and work that many of our members are experiencing. For instance, we are extending the deadline for TMS Award nominations from April 1 to April 17. We are also extending the deadline for student scholarship applications from March 15 to April 17.

Most importantly, please do not hesitate to reach out to TMS directly if you have any questions or concerns regarding how COVID-19 might affect your engagement as a TMS member or meeting attendee. You can contact us at [members@tms.org](mailto:members@tms.org) or by calling 1-800-759-4867 (U.S. and Canada) or 1-724-776-9000 (All other countries).

Thank you for your attention and take good care.

Sincerely,



Tom Battle  
TMS President



James J. Robinson  
TMS Executive Director

*P.S. We know that TMS members are also interested in the well-being of our exceptional staff. You will still find them conducting TMS business, albeit temporarily from their home offices as the headquarters takes protective measures to distance our team from the risk of exposure.*