



## **COVID-19 update**

16th March 2020

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the postponement of this year's BMLA Annual Conference and Courses (due to take place 5-7th May 2020).

We know that this will come as an enormous disappointment to all our members, attendees and exhibitors.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly and there are two overriding concerns that have caused us to make this decision at this time.

First is the uncertainty caused by the fact that so many other events have been cancelled and rescheduled for later this year.

Second, our primary concern is always the responsibility we feel towards our valued delegates and exhibitors.

Whilst only a short time ago we felt optimistic that May was far enough away to confidently proceed with our plans, as it stands today [16th March] we cannot guarantee the one thing that our attendees trust us above all else to deliver – namely a high quality conference with maximum attendees.

In an ideal world we would wait and see. But we are in the real world and we cannot, in all good conscience, ask our exhibitors to continue to invest money against which they may not get a return and our delegates to commit time and book travel which will incur costs.

Both of these factors – uncertainty around whether conferences and events will be allowed to proceed in the near future, as well as doubts as to the number of attendees who will be able to attend - have led us to the conclusion that we now have no option but to postpone the BMLA 2020 Conference and Courses.

### **A decision based on facts**

We want to make it very clear that we have made this decision based purely on the facts as we know them today and, importantly for the whole BMLA team, based on the responsibility and genuine care we feel for all our members, and the laser community.

We have tried today to take the best decision for the Association, and we are so thankful for the support that has already been shown to us. We've thought long and hard in the past few days, consulting in depth with partners and stakeholders before making this announcement.

### **Committed to serving our members**

Despite the disappointment and impact, we know you will feel, we want you to know that we're fully committed to rearranging the meeting for next year. The BMLA team is already working on plans to still host the meeting in Edinburgh around the same time next year and we will confirm all those details in due course. We will be in contact with all registered delegates and exhibitors in the coming days to discuss refunds etc. and anticipate they will all be processed within two weeks.

For more information please contact Clare Beach, BMLA Conference Manager

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Once again, we thank all the attendees and our members for the support that has been shown to us and we are here to support others in the industry as we all work through these difficult times.

*The BMLA Executive Committee*

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