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27th May 2020

Dear Colleague

The 65th Annual Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials (MMM 2020) was due to be held in Palm Beach, Florida November 2-6, 2020. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic means that there is going to be considerable uncertainty about the ability and willingness of our attendees to travel internationally and gather in large groups for some time to come. Owing to this uncertainty, the MMM 2020 Steering Committee has voted to cancel the face-to-face meeting and instead hold the Conference in a virtual form.

First and foremost we are concerned about the health and safety of all our Conference participants and their loved ones on returning home after travelling. Whilst, thankfully, the first wave of COVID-19 infections is starting to subside in many parts of the world, we cannot discount the possibility of a second wave later in the year, either in the USA or in any of the many other countries around the world from which our attendees travel to present their work and keep up with the latest developments in magnetic science and technology. Moreover, having a face-to-face Conference that had a very low attendance, or had to be cancelled at the last minute, would mean a significant financial loss that could jeopardise the future of the entire Conference series, a series that has been running continuously since the first MMM in Pittsburgh in 1955.

Whilst we were reluctant to give up the benefits of talking with presenters face-to-face, enjoying the bierstuben together, and having those serendipitous meetings in the Conference corridors, by making this change now we give ourselves enough time to plan the best possible virtual event. By doing so we expect to be able to offer a registration fee that is substantially below the usual level for a face-to-face MMM Conference. We also wanted, as we open up for abstract submissions in a few days' time, to be clear what kind of Conference the submissions will be for so that nobody would be deterred from submitting by having to commit to uncertain travel plans.

Shifting to a virtual conference is a significant change for this community and the MMM 2020 Steering Committee is working exceptionally hard, along with our sponsors, the IEEE Magnetics Society and AIP Publishing, to make this event serve the needs of our participants, who live in time zones all around the globe, in the best possible way.

Jointly sponsored by AIP Publishing, LLC and the IEEE Magnetics Society





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Many other scientific and technical conferences have had to shift to a virtual format and we are learning from their example about the best way to run a virtual event that is as easy to attend, secure, and rewarding as it can be. We aim to hold online versions of the tutorials and career development events as we know these are valuable to our conference attendees, and there will continue to be sponsorship opportunities for our supporters and exhibitors.

We will be in touch with all those who submitted nominations for invited speakers and symposia to check that the nomination should proceed under these new circumstances. We also plan to briefly re-open this process to allow nominations of speakers who were not confident of their ability to travel to Florida.

We expect Conference publications in AIP Advances to be unaffected.

We are very disappointed to not be able to provide you with the opportunity to come together and interact with, learn from, and be inspired by your colleagues this November in Palm Beach, but your health and ultimately that of all of our families, colleagues, and communities is absolutely paramount. We shall continue to update the conference website www.magnetism.org as more information becomes available, but you can, as usual, contact the conference by sending an email to info@mmmconference.com. We look forward to seeing you online instead in November from wherever you are in the world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'C. Marrows'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Christopher Marrows
University of Leeds
General Chair, MMM 2020

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