To whom it may concern

Reference
16th WCPH 2020

Date
11 March 2020

Dear colleagues,

Last Sunday the deadline for submitting the abstracts for the World Congress on Public Health (WCPH) closed with an exceptional result which was beyond all expectations. In total 3,798 abstracts for single presentation and 260 workshop proposals were submitted. This is the result not only of the good work by the members of the Congress Management Committee (CMC), International Congress Council and the three organizing associations but also by the national public health associations.

The last few weeks has seen an expansion of the coronavirus epidemic, not only in Italy but also in other European countries. The CMC believes that the World Congress provides the best possible platform for discussion and sharing of data and experiences, especially in the rapidly-evolving situation of the crisis.

We remain hopeful that the crisis will resolve itself before the summer and that the situation will have returned to normal by October. The CMC will also analyse alternatives should any changes to the programme become necessary. The decisions of organizers of scientific events prior to our World Congress on Public Health will be carefully taken into account. The organizers of the WCPH will work within the rules of the relevant health authorities, and keep the health and safety of our delegates as our utmost priority. We will keep you informed of the situation when it changes.

It is our hope that the COVID-19 virus will be contained as soon as possible and our thoughts go out to those families that have been affected.

On behalf of the Congress Management Committee

Yours sincerely,

Prof Walter Ricciardi
Co-Chair World Congress on Public Health

Prof Carlo Signorelli
Co-Chair World Congress on Public Health