

## **Airway Management Education Center Cancellation Statement**

The leadership of Airway Management Education Center has made the difficult decision to cancel The Difficult Airway Courses in Boston and Seattle this spring. The decision was difficult because we know that many medical professionals rely on us for life-saving airway education. Many hospitals count on our programs to ensure that their staff can provide the highest quality airway care. We remained optimistic that we could continue our courses even as others began to cancel events. However, our optimism turned to pragmatism when we learned that many on our renowned faculty of airway experts were unable to travel to Boston or Seattle, and even if local, were prohibited by their employers from participating in large gatherings.

These travel and conference prohibitions are only part of the story. As clinicians, we have a professional obligation to support all efforts to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to provide effective response to those afflicted by the virus. Cancellation was truly the only viable decision we could make, given the risk of exposing front-line health care professionals who are critical to their community's ability to treat coronavirus patients, a population that is expected to grow exponentially.

We know that the situation will change. In fact, it will likely be dramatically different tomorrow than it is right now. Attitudes about the severity of the situation, about how to prevent the virus' spread, and about whether it is safe to travel and congregate with large groups all will change as we learn more about COVID-19 and how to adapt. On the day we made the difficult decision, we faced a rapidly evolving environment with many signposts pointing toward a worsening situation. We simply could not ignore our obligation to protect the health and safety of our attendees, faculty, staff and the thousands of people they encounter at work, at home and in the community.

This is the first time in over 20 years we have had to cancel a course. We are heartbroken by these developments and are profoundly eager to begin teaching again. We look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans, San Diego and Nashville in the fall!

The Founders and National Course Directors of The Difficult Airway Course  
*March 9, 2020*