

Dear colleagues,

COVID-19 pandemic prevented us to hold the 4th Global Conference on Myositis in Prague in March 2021. We have decided to postpone the conference until 2022. We strongly believe that the situation will improve thanks to availability of vaccination and it will be possible to attend the meeting in person. We all feel that although virtual meetings are useful and informative, face-to-face encounters and mutual discussions taking place during the professional program but especially outside of it are indispensable because they bring an immediate sense of authenticity and experience. We have rescheduled the event to June 2022, as we anticipate loosening of travel and other restrictions at that time. However, because COVID-19 will not disappear and may not allow participation at GCOM 2022 from some areas of the world, the program will also be streamed online and the lectures will be recorded and made available for distant access. We hope that this arrangement will enable all interested to attend the conference.

Since the 1st convention in Stockholm in 2015, followed by meetings in Potomac 2017 and Berlin 2019, this conference has firmly established its place in the field of myositis research. Participation of researchers, clinicians and health professionals from rheumatology, neurology, paediatrics, dermatology, pathology, immunology, pulmonology, physiotherapy and other specialties offers a unique opportunity to meet and discuss the topics from different perspectives. From the very beginning of these conferences, a strong attention has been paid to stimulate active participation of young doctors and scientists. We would like to further encourage communication between young and more experienced experts by intentionally removing any barriers that might exist. We also hope for active participation of patient representatives and their organisations and we work together to support these activities.

With its accessible geographical location and rich cultural heritage, Prague has become a favourite destination for scientific conferences and congresses. We look forward to renewing this tradition after the COVID-19 pandemic and welcoming as many of you as possible in our beautiful city next June.

Jiří Vencovský