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WELCOME LETTER for 2021 ESPCR MEMBERS

Madrid, 22 February 2021

Dear colleagues and friends,

Let me first express my hope that you are all well, and unaffected by the coronavirus infection. Last year, 2020, was a difficult year for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted us all and, among many other consequences, the planned IPCC2020 conference in Yamagata (Japan) had to be cancelled.

This year 2021 has not started much better, with further additional pandemic waves that continue recommending the cancellation and postponing of many physical meetings, even though several vaccines against COVID-19 are already available and are being actively distributed.

Hence, for 2021, at the ESPCR Board, we decided it would be highly risky, at present time, to organize a regular physical ESPCR meeting. Therefore, we have cancelled the ESPCR meeting 2021 as well and, instead, we will organize a virtual ESPCR conference in Autumn with selected talks presented from our members. Details will follow in due time.

In 2022, our annual ESPCR meeting will be held in Krakow (Poland), organized by Dr. Michał Sarna (Jagiellonian University, Krakow), likely in September 2022. Please, bear these dates in mind. We hope it will be the meeting for returning to our traditional physical conferences, although we might also add online features, for those unable to travel to Krakow. In any case, whether online or physically, let's please attend all these meetings where to share your progress in pigment cell research. Let's support these forthcoming meetings to the greatest level, as we have continuously done with any previous ESPCR or IPCC meeting organized.

The formal registration/renewal campaign for 2021 ESPCR members has just begun. You are more than welcome to join our Society and/or renew your ESPCR membership. For 2021 we will maintain the same annual fees, as we have been maintaining over previous years.

I hope we will continue growing, as a Society, and reaching out to new colleagues involved in Pigment Cell Research throughout Europe and beyond. In this regard, your help and recommendation to pass this message further to other researchers will be greatly appreciated.

With my best wishes,

Lluís Montoliu, PhD
ESPCR President