Dear SPA Members and 2020 Convention Attendees,

The SPA Board of Trustees has unanimously agreed to cancel the 2020 Annual Convention in San Diego. We have spent the last several days working with the Westin hotel, our Travelink representative, and our attorney exploring options and consequences related to this decision. Our foremost consideration during these discussions has been the welfare of our convention attendees. We also worked to understand the consequences of cancelling the convention and the potential impact that would have on our society and its ability to serve the membership. Furthermore, the number of workshops and scientific sessions has been (and would continue to be) substantially reduced by the number of presenters that had to cancel. The ability to offer continuing education credits has been reduced by half, at least, at the time of this writing. All things considered, there is absolutely no doubt that the correct action to take was cancellation.

We realize it has been stressful for our membership and convention registrants as we proceeded with our deliberations. Many of you have been extremely helpful in providing information to us from around the country and the world that helped us know virtually minute by minute what the status of the COVID-19 virus was and what actions have been taken by other associations, universities, employers, and public health officials. Thank you all for your patience, help, and support.

For those who have registered for the convention, the central office will process your refunds in the next few weeks. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation of your refund to the SPA Foundation, please contact Monica Tune for further information at manager@spaonline.org, or by phone, 703-534-4772. Be sure to cancel your hotel reservations and contact your air carriers regarding the details of cancelling your flights. The SPA Board and Administration are working on other details that we will share with you in the coming days.

Cancelling this Annual Convention was due to extraordinary circumstances that we trust will be resolved without any long standing consequences for SPA. The Board is committed to holding an outstanding Convention next year and looks forward to a well-attended meeting in Boston, March 17-21, 2021. SPA is a historic organization that is financially strong and will continue to meet the needs of its members and fulfill our mission to promote personality assessment.

John McNulty, President
SPA Board of Trustees