



Porto, 2nd March 2020

Dear **PortoLIVE** LOC,

Dear Colleagues from Transmission Centers,

Media Professionals, Partners, Institutions, Invited Speakers,

Friends from the **PortoLIVE** Community,

I regret to tell you all that, unfortunately, **PortoLIVE 2020** has been postponed to **the 30th,31st of October** (preliminary date). The decision is in accordance with the Recommendation of the Portuguese National Medical Council, issued today, underlining that scientific events should not be taking place, and one should not attend them, unless indispensable for its purpose.

This was based on the latest scientific data being reported and the fact that a large number of attendees at this meeting are coming from outside Portugal, including countries considered high risk for coronavirus transmission, having deep concern for the health and well-being of our registrants, staff, company representatives and invited speakers. Today, the first two positive cases were identified in Portugal; the opinion of a National KOL on Infectious Diseases was taken into consideration on the decision-making process. Some Colleagues cannot travel due to National guidelines involving the COVID 19 situation, and just reported us their sadness for not being able to attend and participate.

WHO recently stated that It is still possible to interrupt virus spread, provided that countries put in place strong measures to detect disease early, isolate and treat cases, trace contacts, and promote social measures commensurate with the risk. Despite being a meeting driven with live transmissions, videoconferences, box cases and new ways to interact, having ways to avoid people to travel and still participate and attend, we assumed that the “momentum” constraints would jeopardize **PortoLIVE** goal.

Although this decision can be considered of extreme caution, the health related facts urge us to act in this way, moreover keeping **PortoLIVE** project up to its previous standards, because it belongs to all of us, on the benefit of our patients, after sharing knowledge and expertise. Together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Teixeira", is written over a vertical line that extends from the word "Together" in the previous paragraph.

José Fernando Teixeira

PortoLIVE 2020 Chairman
