

Message from the AAPT President, Past President, and Executive Officer Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on AAPT and Our Members

We recognize that the past few weeks have been some of the most tumultuous and stressful for many in the United States and beyond because of COVID-19. We know that some of you now have school-aged children at home and/or are having to care for sick loved ones. We all have become vigilant about practicing social distancing and are staying at home and working from home. Many of us know colleagues who are quarantined. Every part of our lives has been impacted by the current circumstances.

We also understand that your lives as physics educators have been changed, too, with many of you having to quickly convert your courses to be fully online. But what is reassuring about our AAPT community is that while your methods of instruction have had to quickly adapt, your core commitment to your students and their learning has remained rock-solid. We applaud you for being flexible, compassionate, creative, and supportive while your students adjust to these extremely challenging circumstances. We have heard uplifting stories from some of you who have had interactions with your students that go well beyond physics content, reminding students that this is hard and you are there to support them --just like an oasis in the desert. We have also heard hard stories where our community of educators and learners are, understandably, struggling to focus on academics. We also greatly appreciate how so many of you are personalizing your instruction, recognizing that your students' individual situations may be very different at this time and some students are significantly more resource-limited than others.

We have also been uplifted by the response from the AAPT and physics community to the sudden changes in the way we are teaching and how many of you have shared resources to support the entire community. Our AAPT listservs have included so many thoughtful ways to support students and share teaching resources during this time. Many AAPT members have contacted the Executive Office to suggest resources to help other physics educators make the transition to online teaching. We are grateful for the enthusiastic response and thank everyone who has contributed. We are especially thankful that Linda Strubbe and Sam McKagan quickly built new pages on [PhysPort](#) that lists many research-based practical tips and resources. We also appreciate the list of *The Physics Teacher* and the *American Journal of Physics* articles that TPT Editor Gary White and AJP Editor Richard Price curated that was recently sent to you. We have been sharing these resources via email to our members and on AAPT's social media. Please continue to share your tips and resources with us at eo@aapt.org.

We realize there are many questions in light of COVID-19 about future AAPT events, particularly the upcoming 2020 AAPT Summer Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. The health of attendees, presenters, exhibitors and staff is AAPT's top priority. We also need to consider the communities that we are visiting and make sure that we do not put the Grand Rapids community at additional risk. We will continue to monitor the situation and are following the recommendations regarding safety and precautionary measures issued by the World Health

Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and we are paying attention to the directives of the governor of Michigan. We will continue to provide updates as they become available. We are actively exploring options and developing alternative plans should a change in the Summer Meeting be warranted. A number of you have communicated your concerns to us. As always, these comments are reflective and thoughtful and they are extremely helpful. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this unprecedented and unpredictable time.

The next few months will continue to be full of uncertainty. But, we know one thing - that we will get through this by supporting each other and our students. AAPT will continue to support your work and physics education. We will be excited to see you at a future AAPT event.

Take care and be well,
Chandralekha, Mel, and Beth