

Dear Sir/Madam,

ICLP 2020 Colombo, Sri Lanka – CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19

We are living in very challenging times as a consequence of the pandemic coronavirus, which is resulting in many changes to our traditional way of working.

In view of the rapid global spread of COVID-19 and the unpredictable evolution of this health emergency, the ICLP Scientific Committee together with the Local Organizer of ICLP2020 has reviewed the economic risk related to the organization of the ICLP 2020, scheduled to take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka from August 30th to September 4th, 2020.

After a thorough analysis by SC and the Local Organizing Committee of the situation and of the financial exposure linked to the organization of the ICLP 2020, we have come to the conclusion that pursuing the preparations for ICLP 2020 to take place in Colombo would result in an undue financial burden for the Local Organizers, should we be forced to a late cancellation due to the pandemic coronavirus.

The ICLP SC, therefore, proposes to postpone ICLP 2020 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, by one year and then organize a joint ICLP/SIPDA conference in Fall 2021. This extended ICLP/SIPDA conference would allow all colleagues in the lightning community to meet in person again and share their research results.

ICLP SC has decided to continue as follows:

- (1) the ICLP conference is postponed for one year (exact date will be determined later)
- (2) In 2021 a joint ICLP/SIPDA will take place in Sri Lanka
- (3) the review process will be completed as usual, with extended deadlines for the submission of reviews until 30/06/2020
- (4) All authors will be informed accordingly without delay (a draft of the text for all authors of submitted papers is enclosed)
- (5) All authors are free to decide whether to withdraw their contributions and publish them elsewhere or keep them for the ICLP/SIPDA planned for next year.
- (6) All not withdrawn and accepted contributions will be posted provisionally on the ICLP2020 website. Together with the posted contributions, we will provide an opportunity for readers to ask questions or make comments to the authors in the form of an online chat, where authors should respond directly in the chat.

We hope that this approach is acceptable for you, and thank you for your understanding.

We wish you and your families health and all the best! Stay safe!

ICLP Executive Board

Prof. Vernon Cooray
Prof. Carlo Alberto Nucci
Dr. Gerhard Diendorfer

ICLP2020 Local Organizing Board

Dr. SSN Perera
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