

Dear NEAA Members:

I hope that you are all safe and healthy as the world responds to the [COVID-19](#). Your Leadership Team has been closely monitoring the guidelines from the [CDC](#) and from the [TC administration](#), and we have decided to cancel the May 1, 2020 Stewart Conference. We had hoped that by May 1st, it would be safe for us to come together. However, a few days ago Columbia University and the [TC Administrative Team](#) published guidelines for students, faculty and staff to work remotely and to have classes online through April 30th.

As you watch the news you see new restrictions being added on almost a daily basis to halt the spread of COVID-19, and it seems likely that TC will extend restrictions as is necessary to keep our Columbia community safe.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Stewart Conference Committee and all those who spent the last several months planning an amazing conference with world-renowned speakers for all of us to learn from. While it is unlikely that we will be able to re-schedule the conference to another date in 2020, we are hoping to get the speakers from this year's conference to agree to present at the 2021 Stewart Conference.

In the meantime, while responding to the restrictions set by the CDC and our government leaders, remember what strengthens our immune systems: healthy foods; vitamin C, zinc, lots of good sleep, fresh air, exercise, and reduced stress. If you can't leave the house, make contact with loved ones by phone or Skype. Call a neighbor that might be alone. Make someone else's day and your day will most likely be brighter.

Since handshakes and hugs are contraindicated to reduce the spread of infection, I am sending virtual hugs to all of you because I think we all need them.
Sending hugs and love (We need lots of love too).

Nan Masterson :)
President, NEAA

PS If you have already registered, you will receive a refund.