Dear AFCC Community:

We are very excited about the upcoming AFCC 57th Annual Conference, May 27-30, 2020 at the New Orleans Marriott. At this time, we expect to hold the conference as planned. We are fully aware of the concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and we are monitoring the situation on an ongoing basis. The health and wellbeing of conference registrants is our top priority.

As of March 9, 2020, Centers for Disease Control states that for the majority of people, the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Risk is elevated for older people and those with serious chronic medical conditions like such as heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease.

As we plan for the conference, we are working to ensure that appropriate precautions will be in place to promote a healthy environment for the meeting. I have just returned from a visit to the New Orleans Marriott, along with Dawn Holmes, AFCC Director of Operations, where we discussed additional measures that the hotel will take. These include, but are not limited to, increased frequency of cleaning public spaces, elevator keypads, banquet chairs, meeting room door handles, and banquet tables; providing public hand sanitizing stations, and having all food servers use disposable gloves. Major airlines have also stepped up their cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

We understand that the situation is changing daily and we continue to monitor all developments, including travel restrictions and advisories issued by the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to follow the everyday precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses: avoid close contact with people who are sick; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.)

We will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with you as needed. If you have specific concerns about attending, please feel free to contact me directly at psalem@afccnet.org or 608-664-3750.

Sincerely,

Peter Salem
Executive Director