

# 41<sup>ST</sup> Annual Spring Conference

*Dear Colleagues:*

After careful consideration, the Executive Council and Conference Planning Committee made the difficult decision to cancel GAMFT's 41st Annual Spring Conference that was scheduled to take place in Marietta, Georgia April 24-26, 2020. Due to rapidly growing concerns around the COVID-19 virus across the U.S. and Georgia, we felt this was the best way to address this situation. We stand alongside other major organizations and government agency officials, and will adhere to their recommendations of social distancing by limiting large gatherings.

It is with a heavy heart that we are unable to hold this event for our local MFT community, but we also know it is the best decision based on the information we have. We will be reaching out to sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees this week to issue refunds. Thank you for your patience.

A very special thanks to those who signed on to provide outstanding training opportunities during this event: Tracey Laszloffy, our main plenary speaker; our Pre-Conference presenters, Shatavia Thomas, Andrea Meyer Stinson, and Michael Cook; our Sunday Ethics Workshop speaker, Michele Smith; as well as each of our student research poster presenters.

Many folks have volunteered tirelessly for months to make this conference accessible, affordable, and professionally beneficial for all members. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the Conference Planning Committee, Adam Albrite, Conference Chair, Jennifer Vann, Edna Abney, Jennifer Lambert-Shute, and Shirley Shani Ben-Zvi.

We are aware that the annual conference is a critical time to obtain continuing education. The Executive Council and Continuing Education Committee are setting up a series of virtual planning meetings to identify ways to account for this loss in networking and continuing education opportunities. We will inform you of these options in the coming weeks and months.

Again, we deeply regret this situation, but we believe it is the right response for the health, safety, and consideration of our esteemed membership, healthcare workers, and local communities. We look forward to connecting with you soon.

With deep appreciation,

*GAMFT Executive Council*