Dear Colleagues!

WHO declaring COVID-19 pandemic on March 11, 2020 and over a million confirmed cases of COVID-19 around the world by today demand increased efforts to prevent viral spread. Hundreds of meetings are cancelled, postponed or organized online. By March 10, 2020 (deadline for early registration) we had over 50 participants registered and new applications kept coming after the date. We contacted more than half of all participants and they all supported the idea of holding the conference at a later time point, when the epidemic would be largely resolved. Organizing committee of TECHVAC2020 has considered the options and decided to postpone the conference to autumn 2020.

The number of abstracts submitted so far indicate that the duration the meeting – 2.5 days – will not be sufficient to fit in all presentations. Many abstracts are devoted to human papilloma virus (HPV) infections, HPV related carcinogenesis and HPV vaccines. This motivates program change with introduction of a special HPV session, or HPV Symposium as it was done on TECHVAC2018. We also hope to collect new abstracts on coronavirus infection, disease, epidemiology and vaccine development. With this, we plan to extend the duration of the conference from 2.5 to 3.5-4 days. Abstract submission is extended to August 10, 2020.

The preliminary dates for TECHVAC2020 are 3.5-4 days either between September 10 - 16, 2020, or October 24 - 29, 2020, but today we cannot set any definite date. The Organizing Committee will set the exact date by the end of June 2020 based on the situation with COVID-19 epidemics around the world and decisions of the government of the Russian Federation. Updated information will be posted on the conference website and sent by e-mail to all registered participants. Early bird registration fee for the conference is prolonged until June 30, 2020.

All submissions and payments are valid for the new TECHVAC2020 dates. If you decide to not participate, please, read carefully the terms for cancellation:

- Up-to June 30, 2020 cancellations will be free of charge. Abstracts will be withdrawn. Access to conference materials in print and on line will not be provided.
- Cancellations done in the period between July 1 and August 10, 2020 (till 24:00) will be subjected to a fee equal to 20% of the registration fee. Abstracts can be withdrawn if requested by the author(s). Access to conference materials will not be provided.
- Cancellations done in the period between August 10-31, 2020 (till 24:00) will be subjected to a fee equal to 50% of the registration fee. Withdrawal of the abstracts may be possible, but will not be guaranteed if materials are in print. Access to conference materials will not be provided.
- Cancellations of registration done after August 20 will not be refunded. Withdrawal of the abstracts will not be possible. All abstracts will be published in the abstract book and participants will have access to all on-line and printed conference materials.
- Bank fees for the refund must be covered by the participant and can amount up to $75 if you have paid by bank transfer in foreign currency or 5% of the sum (UCS and ASSIST company fees) if you have paid by the credit card.

We sincerely hope for your understanding and cooperation and look forward to see you on TECHVAC2020 in autumn 2020!

Organizing committee of TECHVAC2020