Good Afternoon WCMEA Members,

I hope that everyone is doing well during these very difficult times.

I regret to inform you that Angela Hinze, who has graciously served the WCMEA for many years, will not be available as the President of the WCMEA, effective January 31, 2021. Per the WCMEA Bylaws, as the 1st Vice President, I will be taking on her duties as the Acting President of the WCMEA until we can coordinate a safe election process for the membership.

As you know, our Annual Meeting and elections process were interrupted by the pandemic in the spring of 2020. The Bylaws did not provide for such an eventuality, and there is no precedent for a “missed” election. However, the Bylaws are the scaffold that maintains orderly function of the WCMEA, and we intend to rely on the structure predetermined in said bylaws to serve the interests of the membership.

As such, the Board of Directors will begin the process de novo, starting with the formation of a Nominating Committee. The process includes an opportunity for members to nominate qualified individuals; time for the Nominating Committee to collect nominations; and a period of announcement to the membership. In general, the BOD requires 6 to 9 months to accomplish these requisite steps before any given election, even in the best of times.

If the circumstances allow us to call meetings safely, we may attempt to hold in-person elections early in 2022. The BOD will also seek electronic solutions that maintain the integrity of the election process while still being readily available to all members. But this process will likely not be quick, and we appreciate the patience and assistance of the membership during these unprecedented times.

In the meantime, the BOD will continue to provide you with as much up-to-date information as we can, and seek out virtual educational experiences available to C/ME. You may shortly see more emails from the WCMEA, and we ask you to take the time to review this information carefully; the following months will help shape the organization for years to come. We encourage qualified members to consider applying for leadership roles in the WCMEA, and are always available to answer questions.

I wish everyone a happy and safe 2021, and look forward to seeing you all – electronically or otherwise, as soon as possible!

Please stay safe,

Agnieszka Rogalska, M.D.

Acting President

WCMEA