March 13, 2020

In Response to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus:

The International Museum of Surgical Science is monitoring the situation closely and on an ongoing basis. Following the recommendations of the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, and the Chicago Department of Public Health, we are taking several steps to ensure the health and safety of our staff and visitors. The International College Of Surgeons is a nongovernmental organization in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). In that capacity, we have received and made available WHO's latest releases concerning COVID 19 at https://www.icsglobal.org/news/. Any questions concerning the information presented should be directed to WHO.

Our visitors and community are our top priority. In support of preventing the spread of the virus, we are taking measures at the Museum to include increased and frequent cleaning and disinfecting, posting and providing educational materials, educating staff and volunteers about proper hygiene standards and encouraging sick employees to stay home.

At this time, according to the Chicago Department of Public Health, the immediate health risk to the general public in Chicago from the virus remains low, and so we will remain open and scheduled events will proceed. The Museum will remain open during regular business hours. We encourage any visitor who is experiencing flu-like symptoms or a fever to choose to stay home and visit us at a later date.

This is an evolving situation and we will continue to respond with updates via our website, social media and email.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community in enhancing their appreciation and understanding of the history, development, and advances in surgery and related subjects in health and medicine.

Max Downham  
Executive Director  
International College of Surgeons