



December 2020

Dear IPVS members,

With advent of COVID-19 vaccine programs, there is reason for cautious optimism that 2021 will be a better year for global public health. Other serious health issues have not gone away and IPVS has an important role in bringing resources and attention back onto HPV and the cancers it causes. The IPVS mission in HPV science and education fuel our contribution to helping countries to implement the WHO global strategy for eliminating cervical cancer.

Reflections over an exceptional year

IPVC 2020 In spite of the chaos that the pandemic caused to our original plans to hold **IPVC 2020** in Barcelona in March, conference-organisers responded and held a **fully virtual event** in July. The conference was well received, and my thanks go to the HPV community for their support in making this such a success.



IPVS decided to host three post-conference **live educational webinars** covering topics of major interest (as identified in the feedback from delegates) in November and December. The webinars have been very well received, drawing hundreds of participants. We would like to thank our key-note speakers, panelists, and moderators for three excellent presentations. The webinars will remain available on the IPVS website under Basic Educational Resources. To view the sessions, [access this link](#).

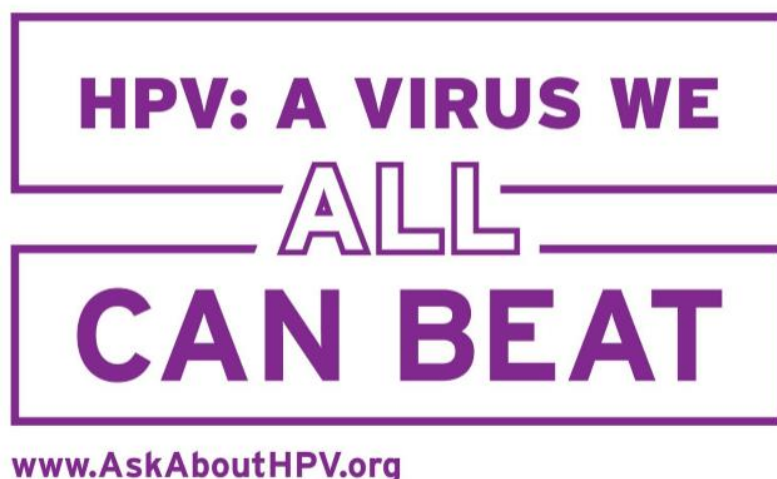
Another highlight of the year definitely worth mention is the historic **WHO launch of the Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer** in November. It is genuinely exciting to be part of the global community mobilizing to make cervical cancer a disease of the past. There is much work ahead of us to get there. The role of IPVS in these efforts must be clear to our partners as we go forward.

Finally, a word about IPVS membership. Our society ends the year at all time high of **564 active IPVS members** in December. We expect to keep growing in the new year.

Looking ahead to 2021

International HPV Awareness Day – March 4th 2021

Preparations are well under way for the 4th annual HPV Awareness Campaign culminating on **International HPV Awareness Day (IHAD) on March 4th, 2021**. Last March, HPV was side-lined as public attention centered on another virus. We are not going to let that happen in 2021. Leveraging the current global environment of greater awareness about viruses and vaccines, the 2021 campaign will promote the fact that **HPV is a virus that we have the knowledge and tools to beat!** This is the inspiration behind the Campaign 2021 tag line



The 2021 awareness campaign will be about **hope, inclusiveness, and collective action**. The connection between HPV and cancer will be more explicit in our messaging but brought with optimism. We have the tools to beat HPV and a solid track record of progress. Additional effort has gone into tailoring videos for maximum impact at the regional level, so that more people realize that we are all affected by HPV. We anticipate that the [AskAboutHPV.org](http://www.AskAboutHPV.org) website will be fully updated in early January. In the week of **January 18th-21st**, IPVS will host several **regional webinars** in French, Spanish, and English, to introduce the campaign theme and materials (posters, videos, leaflets, logos and more) to partners around the world. The campaign toolkit (available in 6 major languages) can be adapted and co-branded as necessary and used for local HPV awareness events and activities.

IPVS joins the European Cancer Organisation (ECO)

We are pleased to announce that that IPVS will join the European Cancer Organisation as a member society, as was approved by the ECO Council in November. The longstanding cooperation between IPVS and the HPV Action Network (an ECO entity) will continue at a closer level as plans for eliminating HPV-cancers in Europe are implemented. This goal is achievable through evidence-based steps in four key areas: vaccination, screening, treatment, and public awareness. IPVS members will hear more about the specific priorities and focus of our collaboration with ECO in the new year.

IPVS will host more educational webinars in 2021

The IPVS Education Committee is planning a series of webinars in 2021 at the global and regional level. These webinars will target scientists and health professionals that wish to keep abreast of advances in HPV basic and translational research leading to evidence-based developments in HPV prevention, screening and treatment. We will keep you informed as the webinar calendar for 2021 takes shape.

The 34th International Papillomavirus Conference – November 15th-19th, 2021



Research & Education for HPV Elimination. Toronto, Canada

Unfortunately, we cannot assume that the world will return to normal by November 2021, so our plans are that **IPVC 2021** must be at least partially if not fully virtual. Fortunately, we have learned from our conference experience this summer that a great deal can be achieved in a virtual setting. We also anticipate that significant advancement

in the technology supporting virtual conferencing will translate to an even better experience for IPVC 2021 conference delegates. The conference planning team is doing its utmost to pull together an outstanding program. Be sure to save the dates of **November 15-19th, 2021** to join us.

Do you have a position in your research team that you would like to advertise? Send the job description to ipvsoffice@kenes.com, to be posted on the **IPVS Job Board**.

Please accept my warm wishes for a safe and virus free holiday season with your families and friends. Stay safe, stay well and let's look forward to better times.

Prof. Margaret Stanley, President IPVS

IPVSoc.org – society website

AskAboutHPV.org – Public Awareness website

