

20 June 2021

Dear INLA Working Group Management,

As we continue our journeys through the recovery from the pandemic, I hope all is well with you and yours and that a return to normalcy can occur shortly for all.

In this course of events, I am, as INLA President, writing to formally invite you, as Working Group management, to oversee and manage the preparation and conduct of individual virtual Working Group meetings during the summer and early fall of this year. As the pandemic has impacted all our schedules, we are taking the opportunity for each Working Group to conduct meetings, open to all of INLA. These virtual meetings will serve effectively as Working Group business and recruitment meetings, allowing familiarization of INLA members with the areas of focus of each Working Group. Such meetings also will be in anticipation of the INLA Virtual Congress 2021, to be held this October.

Regarding INLA Virtual Congress 2021, as has been noted in our INLA newsletter, and other contexts, INLA-US has determined that circumstances dictate that the INLA Congress activities in 2021 should remain virtual. We aim to have all INLA members, globally, have the same experience. The combined Working Group virtual meetings described here, and the INLA Virtual Congress 2021 this fall, are each an opportunity for all members to participate in the ultimate movement toward the in-person Washington, DC, Congress 2022!

With those goals in mind, on behalf of INLA, myself as INLA President, and Patrick Reyners as INLA Secretary General, as well as the INLA-US Board, and Congress Committee, we fully support these Working Group meetings as benefitting INLA as an organization. As noted, a key benefit is the promotion of the Working Groups, and encouragement for all INLA members' active participation in Working Groups as they may choose. This benefit can be gained efficiently by promoting participation in each individual Working Group's meeting by all INLA members. The meetings would, of course be free to participants. Such open virtual meetings would allow the presentation of each Working Group's interests in a context leading up to the INLA Virtual Congress 2021 in the fall. These meetings would not be expected to be lengthy, nor would the agendas be expected to include long individual presentations. The goal would be to maximize participation and potential attendance by all INLA members, and thereby maximize exposure to each Working Group.

As indicated in the Attachment (presenting a suggested framework for elements of these meetings), the proposed structure is designed to facilitate individual Working Group's efforts for exposure and thereby recruitment, in these pre-Congress meetings. We note that at least two Working Groups have moved forward with their planning already!

It will be the responsibility of the management of each Working Group to organize and arrange for these meetings. We are confident in each Working Group's abilities in this arena, particularly given our virtual meeting experience during the pandemic.



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In addition, we ask that you keep INLA and INLA-US informed, and we also suggest that each Working Group have two contacts for these activities with the INLA-US Congress Committee which will assign a representative to help your Working Group directly with regard to schedule coordination to assure Working Groups do not schedule conflicting dates. And, as desired, to assist on matters such as speakers (e.g., from abstract submitters). These Working Group meetings will be official INLA meetings and the results will be posted on the INLA website.

If you could provide us with your contacts' information as soon as possible, we will provide a representative to work directly with you in this regard.

We greatly look forward to hearing from you and we ask you contact the INLA-US Congress Committee at INLA.us.2021@gmail.com with your Working Group representative(s) for meeting coordination. If you have any questions, please use the same email.

Respectively,

William Horin, President, INLA

Patrick Reyners, Secretary General, INLA

William Horin, Will Fork, Dan Stenger, and Mark Herlach
INLA-US Board and Virtual Congress 2021 Committee



ATTACHMENT
**INLA WORKING GROUP RECRUITING/
PRE-CONGRESS 2021 MEETINGS**

WHAT: Individual Working Group Business/Recruiting/Pre- Virtual Congress 2021 Meetings

WHERE: Virtual, with broadcast arrangements established by each Working Group, using standard meeting broadcast formats.

- INLA (all members) and INLA-US US members) will publicize each Working Group meeting to encourage attendance by INLA members at any, or all, of those meetings

WHEN: From August 2021, to early October, 2021. (Virtual Congress tentatively planned for the last week of October 2021.)

GENERAL MEETING FORMAT: A few hours, perhaps up to 3-4 hours, for each Working Group. Presentations/topic discussions, each 15-25 minutes.

- Meeting materials will be placed on the INLA website, and the Virtual Congress 2021 will reflect the results of these recruitment meetings as well.

AGENDA: INLA has reached out generally to the abstract submitters for confirmation of interest to participate. Those who have submitted relevant abstracts can be asked to provide a brief discussion, overview, of their topic during these virtual Working Group sessions.

COST: No cost for INLA Member participation in and attendance at the virtual Working Group recruitment meetings.