

Dear Members of the Somatic Experiencing® Community:

The world continues to change rapidly in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The board, staff, faculty, coordinators and organizers of the Somatic Experiencing Trauma Institute (SE™ Institute) are mobilized and engaged in conversation and action regarding the upcoming trainings supported by our organization. The focus on the safety and regulation of the community and those we love and serve is foremost on our minds. We thank those of you for your support and outreach to us in this most challenging time.

With the new guidance on social distancing for groups of over 10 people provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), **the SE Institute is extending its postponement for all U.S. trainings until May 11.** It is likely that postponements will continue until early June. We will continue to monitor and provide this weekly update on every Thursday until we receive assurance from key government agencies that the pandemic has been managed so that life for all of us can return to some level of normalcy. We are also providing this update and others periodically to our international organizers and leaders of the European and Brazilian association communities.

All cohorts affected by these additional postponements in April and May will be receiving additional communication soon detailing registration options. Please allow some time for our Training and Event Schedule to be brought up to date. Postponement of trainings will not affect continuing education (CE) offerings in most of our trainings, but if it does affect a training, participants will be notified. Please note that we are not able to provide CEs for training videos.

Sadly, the coronavirus has had direct impact on our community. We have learned in the past few days that colleagues in our community have been tested positive and are suffering complications from the coronavirus. The potential for more updates like this is likely. SE Institute is looking at ways to create a community fund to provide some level of support to members who have been critically afflicted and impacted by this awful infectious disease. Please let us know if you have ideas and can help.

The SE Institute staff in Boulder, Colorado, is fully practicing social distancing recommendations. We are working from home locations and meeting by videoconference regularly to discuss ways to better serve the SE community through virtual programming to maintain connection with new and established cohorts and to offer new educational opportunities in SE specialty fields. Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements on how this effort may play a positive role in supporting your ongoing learning needs and community outreach.

Our goal during this time of uncertainty is to be supportive and flexible with all who are currently active in our trainings and related efforts. Here are several steps we have taken since the onset of coronavirus:

- A tuition increase for 2020 trainings scheduled for March 13 has been delayed indefinitely.
- We are working with individuals requiring financial assistance.
- We are waiving fees associated with maintaining registration in our training.

- We are allowing additional use of videos to support training/learning advancement in this interim period

Finally, we are finalizing plans to host a community-wide teleconference on Tuesday morning, March 24, at 11:00 Eastern, 10:00 Central, 9:00 Mountain, 8:00 Pacific, and 17:00 Central European Time. Michael Changaris, chair of our Board of Directors, will host the meeting with participation by other board and staff leaders. We will update you on our efforts and do our best to answer any of your questions and concerns at this time. A separate announcement and more details on how to participate will be sent soon. Attendance capacity at this time will be limited to 200 participants so the teleconference will be recorded and archived on the SE Institute web site, www.traumahealing.org.

We urge you to reach out to us for any support and assistance that we can provide. Similarly, we ask for your support and consideration as we move to a different level of operation for the organization. As for many of you who are active providers and private practitioners, this has hit SE Institute hard and immediately. We are being thoughtful and diligent with the use of our financial resources to get us through the next few months and to keep the SE Institute going forward. We appreciate your continued positive thoughts, best wishes and ideas for being innovative in tough times.

We ask you, as your trainings get postponed, to reconsider refunds if you are in the position to do so. The more registrations that remain in the postponed trainings, the more capacity we have to assist those who need financial help during this time.

It's with the spirit of serving and being here for each other that will continue to create resiliency and resolution for our work together. Take care of your loved ones and be safe!

With appreciation and gratitude for you,

Marv Tuttle

Interim Executive Director