https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6505/750/tab-e-letters

Virtual conferences and meetings should be practiced under covid-19 pandemic

Yoshiyasu Takefuji, Professor, Keio University

(18 August 2020)

Organizers of one of the world's largest scientific (neuroscience) meetings announced last week it will not take place online or in person this year because of COVID-19 (1). Organizers do not understand the meaning of neuroscience. According to Wikipedia, "Neuroscience (or neurobiology) is the scientific study of the nervous system. It combines physiology, anatomy, molecular biology, developmental biology, cytology, mathematical modeling, and psychology to understand the fundamental and emergent properties of neurons and neural circuits. (2)." They should experiment and practice the virtual conference to examine and explore what is an ideal virtualization for understanding the nervous system instead of stating "It would have been a pretty sad virtual experience (1)." The cancellation means giving up the study of neuroscience. "Practice makes perfect" is a line to encourage kids or 30,000 neuroscientists. During the covid-19 pandemic, we must or should practice virtual conferences making better.

References:

- 1. News at a glance, Neuroscience meeting axed, Science 14 Aug 2020: Vol. 369, Issue 6505, pp. 750-751
- 2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuroscience