We at Rubber Division, ACS recognize that this health crisis has created unprecedented challenges and that you are faced with making difficult decisions regarding your business and personal lives every day. We hope that you, your families, co-workers and friends are safe and healthy. Our industry is vital to our society and the world. From medical supplies and automotive, to food service and technology...and nearly everything in between, our industry’s products and services are critical to the lives of so many and to the advancement of world we live in. Together, we can get through this and come out even stronger!

We are planning for the 2020 International Elastomer Conference to take place as scheduled. Currently, over 140 companies/organizations are set to exhibit at the Expo and we continue to receive inquiries and companies looking to secure space. Over 80 abstracts for the Technical Meeting have been received and we are still building on this daily. 11 courses are being featured at the Educational Symposium (the most we’ve ever had), with even more being added. **We believe IEC will be a valuable opportunity to bring our industry together especially after this challenging time everyone has experienced. Here are a few things we wanted to share with you:**

**COVID-19 Task Force**
A Rubber Division, ACS COVID-19 task force has been developed and will be convening frequently. This task force will closely monitor the evolving situation and any potential impact new developments may have on IEC. They will analyze all possible situations and scenarios that should be looked at, as well as determine any options and make decisions as information is received and situations are encountered. As anything develops or changes, information will be communicated immediately to those involved with IEC.

**Knoxville, TN**
We are in very frequent contact with Visit Knoxville (the Convention & Visitors Bureau), Knoxville Convention Center and the Knox County Health Department regarding their state of operations and all measures in place or being developed to ensure the safety and well-being of their city and visitors. In addition, to be directly involved in such matters, we have asked Visit Knoxville and the convention center to add pertinent Rubber Division, ACS team members to any task force created that would benefit from client perspective. Eventually, we will be able to provide you with information regarding city, convention center and hotel reopening and/or operational strategies in place in response to COVID-19.

**Onsite Efforts**
As a team, we are working with our partners to come up with options for ways to implement social distancing measures as much as possible during IEC. In addition, we are investigating opportunities for providing some personal protective equipment and items to encourage good personal hygiene of all present at IEC.

We fully understand the unpredictable nature of the situation we all find ourselves in these days is unsettling. Rest assured, ensuring the safety, health and well-being of all involved with IEC is our top priority. Our team is busy working to make IEC 2020 a fantastic event - one which promises to be as successful as possible for all. We will continue to keep you informed and provide you with any more detailed information regarding the safeguards being put in place for IEC. We appreciate your support and remain committed to providing our attendees, exhibitors, sponsors and partners with an event where...connections are made, knowledge is shared, new products, new technology and new ideas are introduced, business is conducted, developed and gained, fun is had, encouragement and empowerment happen, and the future is embraced.