Dear readers and friends

At this time, I want to say thank you all of you who are in the front lines. As a global journal, SPINE represents some of the finest professionals on the planet. To each of you and your families know how much we appreciate all you are doing for so many. Many of us are blessed with beautiful families and jobs we could only dream of and places to shelter with the necessary supplies and support to making it through these difficult times. Others are suffering and fearful that the worst is yet to come. Some don’t have the ability to socially isolate and some can even get the food they need to support their families and or themselves. For those, know that we want to help and many of us are and even more will help in ways we have yet to see. Each of our countries are approaching this pandemic a little differently. Hero’s abound, whether the doctor, the nurse the postal worker and or the service that picks up the trash. We cannot survive without all of the help around us. Thank God for them.

To those of you who have lost friends or family members our hearts go out to you and yours. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you now and throughout. My wife and I are in Seattle and our daughter is on the front line in Boston working the Covid19 ICU. At Microsoft we’ve been working 24/7 with countries around the world to support many projects that hopefully make a difference. That said, I miss being on the frontline with my colleagues and friends. It a privilege to serve as the editor of Spine but even a greater privilege to work with so many of you. In this role I again want to say thank you. The number of manuscripts received is at an all-time high and each of you, authors, reviewers and all those who support you and us, thank you.

This pandemic is filled with unknowns and uncertainty, but I know the people of the world can win, People 1 Virus 0. Together, as academic colleagues we are obligated to help each other as we share in the temporary burden of this disease. We are all learning and must share those learnings toward a better future. Please feel free to share your learnings in your manuscripts or in a brief case report. Be safe, hug those you love and promise to hug others when the social isolation and distancing ends.

With this note, my family and I are sending you and your families love, support and wishes for an early return to what we take for granted, as normal.

God speed

Jim