

President's Page

The Gift of Mentorship

Five years ago, as part of an "introductions" exercise for the new members of the Executive Committee of the Council, Jack Hastings, asked each of us to include comments about how we came to be on the Ex Comm. What opportunities were we given, what challenges did we face, was there someone in the Association we looked to for advice? It led to some interesting insights about our fellow Executive Committee members and, despite the differences in our backgrounds, there was a common theme that ultimately brought us all together.

Never one to leave someone else's good idea on the table, I asked this year's Executive Committee to indulge me when we met for the first time in late August. We began the meeting with each presenting a brief biography of our professional experiences. Included was a discussion of our experiences within the Association, beginning with our initial introduction to the AsMA family. Just like the 2007 Executive Committee, this year's Ex Comm arrived from different directions, with distinctly diverse backgrounds. We are a mixture of physicians and scientists, clinicians and researchers. We come from across the United States and around the world. As one would expect, we reflect the diversity of our Association and you are well represented by the perspectives, expertise, and passion they bring to the table.

For some, the path to Aerospace Medicine was more direct than for others. America's manned space program was the inspiration that drove a number of us to careers at NASA. For others, AsMA was less a destination than a destiny. Starting as military pilots, two discovered Aerospace Medicine via indirect routes. For others still, it was more serendipity – an unexpected assignment or educational opportunity. Regardless of the path, each of us expressed a passion for the specialty, mindful of the true joy that comes from the meaningful practice of a career that we love. While most dreams were fulfilled, there were some early goals that were not achieved. Still, no words were spoken of missed opportunities, of broken promises, nor of regrets for how our careers had evolved.

Earlier I mentioned a "common theme" the 2007 Executive Committee discovered during our oral biographies. Not surprisingly, that same theme appeared at this year's meeting. All of us, members of two Executive Committees separated by 5 years, recognized and appreciated that we were each beneficiaries of the gift of mentorship.

None of us found AsMA on our own. Each of us could identify an individual, many years ago, who took the time to introduce us to the Aerospace Medical Association. Some were invited to join; others were told that "not joining" was not an option. Handed an application, we were told it was time to join the professional organization of our chosen profession. "You want to be a physiologist, then join AsMA!"



P. Glenn Merchant, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.

"Now that you're in medical school, you should become an AsMA member...."

For most of us, the mentoring didn't stop when our membership application was accepted. Many of our initial mentors continued to serve as guides, demystifying the complexities of a large professional organization. They identified opportunities. In my case, I was the beneficiary of a few mid-course corrections (also know as a "dope slap") over the years. Our mentors shared our joy when a child was born; they shared our pain when a loved one passed. Along the way, I picked up new mentors (I needed a lot of supervision), building a network of colleagues and friends that is one of my most cherished "possessions."

I have had the privilege of introducing a handful of folks, typically new to the military, to our AsMA family. I accepted their initial respectful "Sir's" knowing that before long we would be fast friends on a first name basis. I watched them grow and assume increased responsibility as they gained the knowledge and experience that would enable them to step into leadership positions in the future. Although I started as their mentor, I invariably found that I gained as much, if not more, from our relationship. Their gift was energy and enthusiasm, questioning and challenging of the status quo. Couldn't we do it better, and if so, why weren't we.

I know many of you currently serve, or have served as mentors to one of our fellow members. You know the joy such a relationship brings. For those not currently serving as a mentor, I would challenge you to look around your local community. Try to identify a colleague who is not involved with AsMA. Introduce them to our organization. Welcome them to join. The gift you'll receive is well worth the investment!

Finally, from your Executive Committee, to those who took the time to mentor us, you have our deepest appreciation!

As always, I'd love to hear your thoughts. Please contact me at pgmerchant@mac.com.

Glenn

Association News

In Memoriam: Neil Armstrong

AsMA was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Neil Armstrong, astronaut and first man to walk on the Moon, on August 25, 2012.

Armstrong was born in Ohio in 1930. He received a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from Purdue University and an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California. He also held honorary degrees from various universities.

Armstrong served as a naval aviator from 1949 to 1952 and then joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) Lewis Research Center in Cleveland. He served in several positions over the years, such as engineer, test pilot, and astronaut, for both NACA and its successor, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). As a test pilot, he flew over 200 different types of aircraft and was the project pilot on many pioneering high-speed aircraft. He became an astronaut in 1962 and was assigned to the Gemini 8 mission as command pilot. As such, he performed the first successful docking of two vehicles in space in March of 1966. Following this, he became Deputy Associate Administrator for Aeronautics at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. From 1971 to 1979, he was Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

From 1982 to 1992, he was chairman of Computing Technologies for Aviation, Inc., in Charlottesville, VA.

Armstrong was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the National Commission on Space from 1985-1986. He was Vice Chairman of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident and Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee for the Peace Corp. He held decorations from 17 countries and received many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, the Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the Gold Space Medal of the Federation Aeronautique Internationales, the American Astronautical Society Flight Achievement Award, and the AIAA Astronautics Award.

Members of AsMA were privileged to hear Mr. Armstrong speak to the Society of



NASA Flight Surgeons at our Annual Scientific Meeting in May. He was passionate about the need for manned space exploration and the need for national goals that will unify the country as they did in the 1960s during the 'space race.' Some photos of that event are available on our SmugMug page at:

http://aeromed.smugmug.com/Events/Neil-Armstrong/25023787_6qGp3z.

For the NASA biography of Armstrong and more about his life and achievements, please visit <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn/about/bios/neilabio.html>.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE OCTOBER 31, 2012!

Submit your abstract online at
<http://owpm.net/abstracts/ASMA>

If you have any questions,
please contact Pam Day

pday@asma.org
(703)-739-2240, x101



European School of Aviation Medicine

Training Courses 2013 for JAA/FAA Aero Medical Examiners

Aviation Medicine/Travel Medicine
Diploma Course 22 9 – 17 March 2013

AME Class 2
Basic Course 23 31 August –
8 September 2013

AME Class 1
Advanced Course 23 7 – 15 December 2013

Venue: Lufthansa Aeromedical Center,
Frankfurt Airport.

Application forms and further details under www.flugmed.org
or www.eusam.org.

ECAM 2012
the 3rd European Conference of
Aerospace Medicine

9th to 11th November 2012
Sheraton Skyline Hotel & Conference Center

At Heathrow, London - close to the airport
With special delegates hotel rates

Medicine in the Extreme Environment

Organised by **ESAM**, the European Society of Aerospace Medicine and
AAME, the Association of Aviation Medical Examiners (UK)

Organised by **ESAM** - The European Society of Aerospace Medicine
 UK AAME - the Association of Aviation Medical Examiners

Supported by **BHA** - The British Hyperbaric Association
 AsMA - the Aerospace Medical Association

Programme

- ▶ reception buffet on the evening of Friday 9th
- ▶ scientific programme on 10th and 11th November
- ▶ gala dinner on Saturday evening
- ▶ programme for accompanying persons to Westminster Abbey and trip to Central London
- ▶ General Assembly of ESAM with presentation of the new Executive Committee over lunchtime on Sunday 11th
- ▶ flight deck experience in a mobile flight simulator available

Information & Online Registration

- ▶ www.esam.org www.aame.co.uk www.ecam2012.eu
- ▶ Registration also possible by post or fax 0044-1534-631-272
- ▶ Discounted package rates are available
- ▶ All Delegate rates include lunch and morning / afternoon beverages

Recommended for
12 hours
CME credit

BRE* Cabin Air Quality Workshop

The BRE held a Cabin Air Workshop in the UK in February. They have now released an Outcome Statement on behalf of the workshop. The Workshop was held in response to concerns by pilots and cabin crew that exposure to contaminants in the aircraft cabin air may impact flight safety and cause long- or short-term health effects. It was concluded that there are no published peer-reviewed reports of acute organophosphate poisoning with analytic confirmation of the diagnosis or delayed neuropathy after cabin air fume exposure, with no causative association between cabin air fume exposure and short- or long-term nerve damage. The Workshop did recommend that further research should be considered and that there is a need for standard-ization in many aspects of measuring and reporting fume events.

The full Statement is available on the AsMA website at: http://www.asma.org/asma/media/asma/PDF-announcements/cabin-air-workshop_outcome-statement_july2012.pdf

*According to Wikipedia, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) is a former UK government establishment (but now a private organization, funded by the building industry) that carries out research, consultancy, and testing for the construction and built environment sectors in the United Kingdom. The BRE is headquartered in Watford with regional sites in Glasgow and Swansea. Among the BRE's areas of interest are participation in the preparation of national and international standards and building codes, including the UK Building Regulations. The organization is now funded by income from its commercial program, the BRE bookshop, contracted work, and by bidding for research funding from government and the industries it serves. It is also a UKAS Accredited Testing Laboratory.

NSBRI Renews Space Life Sciences Graduate Programs at MIT, Texas A&M

by Brad Thomas, NSBRI

HOUSTON - The National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) has renewed awards for its Graduate Education Program in Space Life Sciences to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Texas A&M University. In its seventh year, this innovative education program allows participating students to work toward a Ph.D. that focuses specifically on space life sciences. MIT and Texas A&M will each receive \$1 million over a five-year period.

"MIT and Texas A&M are two leading academic institutions that have made significant contributions to the nation's human space-flight program," said Dr. Jeffrey P. Sutton, NSBRI president and CEO. "NSBRI is proud to continue support for graduate education programs at Texas A&M and MIT. These programs have been successful in training outstanding young scientists and engineers in space life sciences and in promoting research excellence in the next generation of space biomedical leaders."

Students participating in the Texas A&M University Ph.D. Training Program in Space

Life Sciences earn a Certificate in Space Life Sciences. This is in addition to a doctorate in genetics, kinesiology, nuclear engineering (health physics), nutrition or medical sciences from the university.

The Bioastronautics Ph.D. Program at MIT is a part of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. This program combines training in space life sciences, aerospace engineering and space medicine.

In addition to training students, the NSBRI Graduate Education Program is developing and evaluating education modules at MIT and A&M that can be implemented at other accredited doctoral programs across the nation.

Each summer, students from the MIT and Texas A&M programs participate in an enrichment program in Houston. Summer activities include the week-long Summer Bioastronautics Institute at NSBRI Headquarters. The Institute features space life sciences and professional development lectures by NSBRI and NASA scientists and Baylor College of Medicine faculty. Participants then receive a nine-week assignment at Johnson Space Center.

NSBRI, funded by NASA, is a consortium of institutions studying the health risks related to long-duration spaceflight and developing the medical technologies needed for long missions. NSBRI's science, technology and education projects take place at more than 60 institutions across the United States.

For more information about NSBRI, please visit www.nsbri.org.

Upcoming FAA AME Seminars:

Oct. 4-6, 2012
La Jolla, CA
CAMA ††

Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 2012
Oklahoma City, OK
Basic *

Nov. 16-18, 2012 (tentative)
Denver, CO
O/O/E †

O/O/E = Ophthalmology/Otolaryngology/Endocrinology

* A 4-1/2 day AME seminar focused on preparing physicians to be designated as Aviation Medical Examiners. To sign up or for more information, contact your Regional Flight Surgeon.

† A 2-1/2 day AME theme seminar consisting of 12 hours of AME specific subjects plus 8 hours of subjects related to a designated theme. Registration must be made through the Oklahoma City AME Program staff. Please call (405) 954-4831 or (405) 954-4830.

†† Seminar sponsored by CAMA. It is sanctioned by the FAA and fulfills the FAA recertification training requirement. Registration may be completed through CAMA or by calling (770) 487-0100.

For more information, you can visit the FAA's site at: www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/designees_delegations/designee_types/ame/seminar_schedule/

50th Annual SAFE Symposium October 22-24, 2012 Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, NV

For further information contact: SAFE Association, Post Office Box 130, Creswell, OR 97426; (541) 895-3012; safe@peak.org; www.safeassociation.com.

Meetings Calendar

October 4-6, 2012; the Civil Aviation Medical Association's (CAMA) Annual Scientific Meeting; San Diego Marriott La Jolla, La Jolla, CA. The theme for this year's meeting is "Taming the Complex Aeromedical Examination: Flight Physician Preparedness." For more information, please see CAMA's website: www.civilavmed.com/.

October 22-24, 2012; 50th Annual SAFE Symposium; Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, NV. For further information contact: SAFE Association, Post Office Box 130, Creswell, OR 97426; (541) 895-3012; safe@peak.org; www.safeassociation.com.

October 29-November 16, 2012; Aviation Leaders Programme in Advanced Management (ALPAM); Singapore. For more information, please visit www.saa.com.sg/ALPAM/alpam.html.

October 31-November 3, 2012; The 23rd International Symposium on the Autonomic Nervous System; Paradise Island, Bahamas. For info, contact: Anita Zeller, AAS Executive Secretary, American Autonomic Society, Phone: 952-469-5837, Fax: 952-469-8424; or visit www.americanautonomicsociety.org.

November 9-11, 2012; The 3rd European Conference in Aerospace Medicine: Medicine in the Extreme Environment; Sheraton Skyline Hotel, Heathrow, London, UK. For info: www.esam.aero or www.aame.co.uk.

Future AsMA Meetings

May 12-16, 2013
Chicago Sheraton
Chicago, IL

May 11-15, 2014
San Diego Hilton
San Diego

May 10-14, 2015
Walt Disney World Swan and
Dolphin Hotel
Lake Buena Vista, FL

April 24- 28, 2016
Rio Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, NV

Member News

Colonel L. Mark Johnson, a Life Member of AsMA, has retired from the United States Air Force after 29 years of active duty service. He and his wife Susan are planning to move to Kansas City, Missouri. Mark will continue to work for DoD as a Medical Adjudicator on the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR).



FOCUS ON MEMBERS--Royce Moser poses with F-100 aircraft. Dr. Moser was featured in the article, "Taking a Medical Profile of Royce Moser" by Karin Kiewra, *Harvard Medical Magazine*, Spring 2012, p. 56.



AsHFA ROSCOE AWARD—Maj. Tom Dube, USAF, received the Aerospace Human Factors Association Stanley Roscoe Ph.D. Dissertation award. Maj. Dube could not attend the AsMA meeting this year, so the plaque was presented by the AFIT Chancellor, Dr. Todd Stewart, Maj Gen (Ret), at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR AN AWARD!

January 15 is the deadline for receiving nominations for awards to be presented at the 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, IL. The names of prospective award winners should be submitted as far in advance of the deadline as possible. The form is available on the AsMA website. You may either submit the nomination directly from the website or you may download the nomination form into your computer for e-mailing as a pdf document attachment. Nomination forms sent via e-mail should be addressed to the Awards Committee Chair, Kris Bolland, D.O., at awards@asma.org.

New Members

Andropov, Dimitri, M.B.B.S., Nightcliff, NT, Australia
 D'Orazio, Gary W., M.D., Warrensburg, MO
 Duong, An T., MAJ, MC, USN, Pensacola, FL
 Gifford, Sheyna E., Philadelphia, PA
 Hamm, Matthew, 2Lt., USAF, Washington, DC
 Hunt, Shannon E., Seattle, WA
 Johnson, Ewan D. M.D., Houston, TX
 LaMar, Dan, Maj., USAF, MC, Beavercreek, OH
 Langenberg, Matthew T., M.D., Warren, OH
 Lewis, Brian J., Capt., USAF, MC, Mount Laurel, NJ
 Marchant, Danny, Fayetteville, NC
 Marshall, Jordan, B.S., Washington, DC
 Morton, Robert, M.B., Ch.B., Dunedin, New Zealand
 Mouri, Michael, COL, MC, ARNG, Plano, TX
 Petrie, Daniel, Sqn. Ldr., RAF, Stamford, UK
 Smith, Katrina A., SSgt., ANG, Southfield MI
 Stork, Benjamin F., 2Lt., USN, Sarasota, FL
 Tarpara, Kishan N., Grapevine, TX

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UNDERSEA & HYPERBARIC MEDICAL SOCIETY 46th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

JUNE 13-15 2013

Pre-course: June 12

LOWES ROYAL PACIFIC RESORT AT UNIVERSAL ORLANDO
ROOM RATE: \$169.00 s/d

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.UHMS.ORG