“Sweet Home Chicago”
Jeff Sventek, AsMA Executive Director

Remember the blues song first recorded by Robert Johnson and made famous by the Blues Brothers? Lyrics from that song state:

“Come on
Baby don’t you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Sweet home Chicago”

The Aerospace Medical Association conducted our 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago and due to a confluence of negative events, I swore we would never return to Chicago for a future scientific meeting. Well, I’ve had to eat those words because we are returning to Chicago in 2024 for our 94th Annual Scientific Meeting. So, for a one-week period in early May 2024, we will be back in “Sweet Home Chicago.”

The Aerospace Medical Association’s 94th Annual Scientific Meeting is scheduled for May 5–9, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel located at 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL, United States. The hotel is in downtown Chicago right on the Chicago River and very near excellent restaurants, shopping, and social activities. The hotel offers more than 2,000 guest rooms and 240,000 square feet of meeting spaces.

We recently completed a site visit at the Hyatt Regency Chicago and we are very pleased with the hotel location, meeting spaces, sleeping rooms, and restaurants. There are several options for getting to the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel from the two Chicago airports.

Chicago Midway International Airport
This airport, typically referred to as Midway Airport, Chicago Midway, or simply Midway, is a major commercial airport on the Southwest side of Chicago, IL, located approximately 12 miles from the city’s Loop business district. Midway is a base for Southwest Airlines, which carries over 95% of the passengers at the airport. The terminal contains 43 gates with facilities for international passengers. Ground transportation options from Midway Airport to downtown Chicago are many. The CTA rapid transit Orange Line provides transit to Downtown Chicago, where it connects with other subway/elevated rapid transit lines. Travelers can also travel from Midway Airport to Hyatt Regency Chicago via taxi, Uber, Lyft, and GO Airport Express.

Chicago O’Hare International Airport
Sometimes referred to as Chicago O’Hare, or simply O’Hare, this airport is the main international airport serving Chicago, located on the city’s Northwest side, approximately 17 miles (27 km) northwest of the Loop business district. O’Hare has non-stop flights to 214 destinations in North America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Oceania, and the North Atlantic region as of November 2022. As of 2023, O’Hare is considered the world’s most connected airport. O’Hare is a major hub for both United Airlines and American Airlines. It is also a focus city for Spirit Airlines. There are many ways passengers can get to and from O’Hare International Airport. Public transportation such as the CTA “L” trains and Metra offer up easy and economical travel. The CTA Blue Line station is located right within the airport, offering easy access for passengers. A number of airport shuttles and regional buses service O’Hare, offering transportation for passengers in the city, suburbs, and surrounding states. Taxis, limos, and rideshare companies are all accessible to passengers who are both coming and going. There are also many rental car companies which service O’Hare.

Should you plan to park a personal vehicle or rental vehicle during the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting, the Hyatt Regency Chicago recommends parking at the 111 E. Wacker Garage. You can book parking at this garage on SpotHero for $53 per night when you self-park. Valet parking is $79 per night.

See ‘Chicago,’ p. N64
Sleeping Rooms
The Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel offers two towers of updated sleeping rooms. The room block for our scientific meeting will offer the following:

- $216.00/night for single and double occupancy;
- Additional 17.4% (subject to change) room tax;
- $20.00/night for each additional person above double occupancy;
- Regency Club is available for $75/person; and
- Complimentary guest room internet.

Meeting Spaces
All meeting spaces to be used during the 94th Annual Scientific Meeting will be in the East Tower. The meeting spaces are on different levels within the East Tower, but all scientific plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and poster sessions will be on the same level and within easy walking distance of each other. The session rooms will also be very close to the Registration area. There are several small boardrooms for small meetings and other meeting rooms for larger groups to meet.

Food & Beverage
The Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel offers several locations within the hotel for food and beverage opportunities. The American Craft restaurant is on the main entrance level of the East Tower and offers a great menu selection and plenty of seating. The American Craft restaurant is open daily 6:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

One level up from the main level (near the hotel registration desks), you’ll find the Big Bar, which happens to be the continent’s longest free-standing bar. Revel in unparalleled views of downtown Chicago while sipping on beer or signature cocktails. Sports fans can also catch games on one of 24 large flat-screen TVs. The Big Bar opens at 4:00 p.m. with Happy Hour from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 4:00–6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Back on the main entrance level of the hotel, you’ll find the Market Chicago. Stop by day or night for a cup of freshly brewed coffee, or choose from a selection of gourmet sandwiches, fresh fruit, smoothies, pastries, and more. Market Chicago is a great place to start your morning or enjoy a late-night snack. The Market Chicago hours are 6:00 a.m.–12:00 a.m.

For those who choose to pay the extra fee for Regency Club access, there is a Regency Club lounge on the 35th floor of the East Tower. Hyatt Club lounges vary depending on brand, property, and location. But club access can save you money on dining, since these lounges typically provide free breakfast and snacks throughout the day. They also offer quiet spaces with wi-fi and work areas for when you need a change of hotel scenery.

Finally, the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel offers its own very modern, upscale restaurant. Voted Diners’ Choice 2023 by OpenTable, Stetson’s is located on the main entrance level of the hotel, close to the American Craft restaurant and the Market Chicago, and is open 5:00–10:30 p.m. This non-traditional steakhouse serves internationally inspired dishes prepared with sustainably sourced beef, seafood, and produce. Enjoy the cozy setting with an open kitchen and energetic sushi bar.

Registration for 94th Annual Scientific Meeting
Early Bird registration for the 94th Annual Scientific Meeting will open on the AsMA website on January 1, 2024, and run through January 31, 2024. Early Bird registration offers a small discount on the Advance and Onsite Registration fees. Advance Registration starts on February 1, 2024, and closes...
on May 4, 2024. Onsite Registration will open at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

I hope many of you will have the opportunity to join us for the 94th Annual Scientific Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel. It will be 11 years since our last scientific meeting in Chicago, so come back to “Sweet Home Chicago” next year and enjoy what Chicago and the 94th Annual Scientific Meeting have to offer. See you there!

AsMA welcomes 27 new members in September.

Abadi, Parisa; League City, TX, United States
Adegbindin, Moustaine; Memphis, TN, United States
Bechard, Brendan; New York, NY, United States
Bell, Stephen; Carleton, MI, United States
Boswell, Bruce; Fleming Island, FL, United States
Daire, Bethany; Lichfield, Staffordshire, United Kingdom
Dvorak, Claire; Windermere, FL, United States
Dziesinski, Lucas; New York, NY, United States
Gobac, Robert; Kigali, Rwanda
Grete, Alicyn; Niceville, FL, United States
Hershenhouse, Tyler; Chicago, IL, United States
Johnson, Kim; Lewisville, TX, United States
Kuhl, Heather; Fort Lauderdale, FL, United States
Laird, Phil; Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Larson, Jennifer; Raleigh, NC, United States
Lee, Sariah; New York, NY, United States
Levine, Laurence; Stuart, FL, United States
Miller, Muska; London, United Kingdom
Mohan, Keerthana; Cumming, GA, United States
Nakajima, Akie; Takasaki, Japan
Pulford, Dominic; Farnborough, Hampshire, United Kingdom
Reed, Breland; Enid, OK, United States
Smith, Brooke; Bethesda, MD, United States
Upadhyay, Anubhav; Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
Ward, Gavin; Fort Lauderdale, FL, United States
You, Christine; Los Angeles, CA, United States
Zachariah-Kurian, Mary; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, United States

AsMA welcomes back three returning members:

Brane, Lucas; Pearland, TX, United States
Maloney, Elbert; Gulf Breeze, FL, United States
Petersen, Eric; Chandler, AZ, United States

The Need For Speed
Farther, faster, together.

The Aerospace Medical Foundation is working to accelerate its efforts by empowering the next generation of Aerospace Medicine scientists who will take humans to deep space. In order to achieve these objectives, they are setting a goal in the “Need for Speed” campaign of $5 million by AsMA’s 100th anniversary! Donations can be in cash or in stock and can be made by credit card or PayPal through the AsMA foundation.org website. AsMA Members: consider joining the Heritage Society and include the Foundation in your estate planning.

Support the Foundation!

The Need for Speed - $680,000

CALL FOR AUTHORS

Join a project spearheaded by the History and Archives Committee as we prepare for the upcoming 100th anniversary of AsMA in 2029!

The Committee is seeking authors interested in contributing a chapter to a book that examines the ways in which the fields of aviation and aerospace medicine have changed over the past century, as reflected by our Society through the years.

Help us celebrate the history of our organization and the innovations in our field that many of you have not only witnessed but engineered.

Please contact Committee Chair Walt Dalitsch at walt3@dalitsch.com if interested.

MEETINGS CALENDAR

Please check the websites of meetings listed to see updates.


HFACS Workshops: Workshops on the The Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS) are available online and in-person. For more info, please visit https://www.enrole.com/erau/jsp/course.jsp?categoryId=&courseId=HFACS for in-person and https://www.enrole.com/erau/jsp/course.jsp?categoryId=558570F8&courseId=OHFACS for online.

September Crossword Puzzle
By Lt. Col. Srihari Iyer K, Flight Surgeon, Indian Army

The solution is on p. N68 of this newsletter.
Axiom Space Newest Corporate Member

AsMA welcomes Axiom Space as its newest Corporate Member. They are a commercial space company located in Houston, TX, and are a leading provider of human spaceflight services and developer of human-rated space infrastructure. They operate missions to the International Space Station (ISS) and are developing a successor to the ISS. They also build next-generation spacesuits. They were recently chosen by NASA for the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS and have signed an agreement with the European Space Agency (ESA) and Poland to send a Polish astronaut to space on a future Axiom Space mission. This astronaut will focus on scientific research and educational outreach while in orbit. Axiom Space will manage all aspects of the mission, including access to training, hardware and safety certification, on-orbit management, and post-mission support. For the NASA mission, Axiom Space launched in August from the Kennedy Space Center and contracted with SpaceX as launch provider to provide transportation to and from the ISS and to familiarize Axiom's astronauts with the systems, procedures, and emergency preparedness for the Dragon spacecraft.


MedAire Provides Medical Support to Delta

Delta has partnered with MedAire’s MedLink service for in-flight medical support. With MedLink, flight attendants now have direct access to the medical team via a secure app on their mobile devices. This enables secure, real-time communication of non-identifiable medical information that will help clinicians more accurately assess a patient’s condition and recommend a course of action to the crew. Each Delta flight attendant receives 6 weeks of initial training along with recurring training every 18 months. During in-flight medical events, the decision whether to request an unscheduled landing is at the discretion of the Commander with the advice of MedLink physicians and in coordination with Delta’s ground operations team.

Please visit https://www.md80.it/2023/08/16/news-brevi-16-08-2023/ to read the section entitled “Delta Migliora La Risposta Alle In-Flight Medical Emergencies” (article in Italian).

Mayo Clinic Examines Hypertension in Pregnancy

A recent Mayo Clinic population-based study found that babies from pregnancies complicated by hypertension were more than two times as likely to develop chronic hypertension as adults. The study supports the recognition of maternal history of hypertension as a potential cause of early-onset hypertension in their children. Additionally, people born from hypertensive pregnancies may need more heart health monitoring and screening and should be provided timely medical advice about diet, exercise and other lifestyle measures to reduce their risk. These findings build on earlier research, which found that the children of mothers with pre-eclampsia during pregnancy—a condition that can include high blood pressure—had an increased risk of stroke and other cardiometabolic disorders later in life. The researchers are actively studying the fetal origins of adult chronic hypertension to understand the underlying mechanisms and developmental origins of the condition. Their goal is to improve the diagnosis of hypertension in all people and to discover targeted therapies.

Please see https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/hypertension-in-pregnancy-poses-measurable-risks-for-babies/ for more on this.

UTMB Study to Help Diagnose Dementia Earlier

A University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) research team recently received an award notification from the National Institute on Aging for their project “Annual wellness visit policy: Impact on disparities in early dementia diagnosis and quality of healthcare for Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer’s Disease and Its Related Dementias.” The three primary investigators of this interprofessional team have appointments in three UTMB schools and an additional two co-investigators are also from UTMB. Early recognition of cognitive impairment and timeliness in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) diagnosis are key to optimal dementia care. No studies have examined the effect of the annual wellness visit (AWV) policy on reducing disparities in ADRD diagnosis and health outcomes among community-dwelling Medicare beneficiaries with ADRD, based on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) 4Ms framework of an age-friendly health system: “what matters,” “mentation,” “mobility,” and “medication.” This 5-year project will use this framework in a convergent parallel mixed-methods study to inform AWV policy and develop a practice guideline to improve the timeliness of ADRD diagnosis and post-diagnosis dementia care, thereby decreasing health disparities and improving quality of life among Medicare beneficiaries with ADRD.


AOPA and FAA Team Up to Help Pilots

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have teamed up to help pilots steer clear of regulatory trouble with their certificate. A three-part video series, entitled “Protecting Your Pilot Certificate,” will cover information that pilots should know and understand when it comes to flying passengers and property safely and legally. FAA Aviation Safety Inspector Don Riley and AOPA Legal Lead Ian Arendt are the two subject matter experts featured in the series, which is hosted by AOPA Communications Director Eric Blinderman and FAA Program Management Analyst Jamal Wilson. The first video, “Cost Sharing your Aircraft,” was published in late July and focuses on the complexity and nuance that pilots should consider in protecting their certificate.

See ‘Corporate News,’ p. N68
IFALPA Condemns Workplace Harassment

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots’ Associations (IFALPA), in partnership with the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers’ Associations (IFATCA) and the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), have condemned all forms of workplace harassment and violence. Workplace harassment happens in all sectors, all global regions, and in all industries. However, in a world shifting rapidly towards total condemnation of workplace harassment, aviation often lags behind other industries. Because women make up fewer than 5% of airline pilots, 3% of aircraft maintenance engineers and technicians, and only about 20% of air traffic controllers worldwide, this supports an environment of exclusion. IFALPA calls on the aviation industry to establish practices in alignment with the International Labour Organization’s (ILO’s) Convention No. 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment at work. They also call on States to ratify both the ILO C190, as well as the ICAO Montreal Protocol 2014 to prevent violence from unruly passengers. Additionally, they urge the international aviation community to actively support ICAO’s Gender Equality Programme promoting the participation of women in the global aviation, and to follow ICAO as it reaffirms its commitment to enhancing gender equality and the advancement of women’s development.

David Clark Co. Releases Smartphone App

David Clark Company has released its first mobile application, DC-ConneX CREW, a flexible group communication solution that connects 10 team members without needing Internet or cell phone service. ConneX CREW provides jobsite groups with a secured smartphone platform where authorized participants access calls and messaging with just a few clicks. The mobile app can be downloaded for free. While jobsite crews commonly use bulky radios or other headset systems that require multiple sets of equipment for each user, David Clark’s ConneX CREW system requires one Audio Gateway on a jobsite to connect team members using their smartphones without any other expensive equipment. The CREW Audio Gateway acts as a portable network on a jobsite, with a case to protect it, to allow reliable conversation amongst team members. It also allows communication without the potential hazard of corded audio systems which can snag on things.

—Please visit https://conneX.davidclark.com/conneX-crew-smartphone-app-connects-workers-on-a-jobsite-for-complete-hands-free-communication/ to read more.

Corporate News Bites

Leidos: Leidos was recently awarded a new task order by Naval Sea Systems Command to manage, operate, and maintain the U.S. Navy’s Overlord and medium unmanned surface vessels (USVs). The single-award task order has a 1-year base period of performance and two 1-year options. Leidos has delivered four operational medium-sized USVs currently in the Navy’s fleet: Ranger, Mariner, Sea Hunter, and Seahawk. This contract will expand Leidos’ experience managing USV operations and maintenance. To read more, please visit https://www.leidos.com/insights/leidos-selected-us-navy-operate-and-sustain-medium-unmanned-vessels.

ALPA: The Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) has appointed a new Director of Engineering and Air Safety. Stacey Bechdolt succeeds Director Keith Hagy, who is retiring. She will oversee ALPA’s department which specializes in aviation safety, security, pilot health, accident investigation, flight training and operations, pilot and aircraft certification, air traffic control, sustainability and environment, and a variety of other disciplines. For more on this, please see https://www.alpa.org/news-and-events/news-room/2023-08-02-alpa-names-eas-director.

KBR Chooses Incoming Class of Tech Fellows

The ONE KBR Tech Fellow Program identifies and amplifies the contributions of accomplished technical leaders in the company in order to foster an environment which thrives on knowledge exchange and cutting-edge ideas. Tech Fellows are experts in science, technology, and engineering, as well as torchbearers of innovation. This is the second year for the program and it saw a competitive international pool of candidates during the application process. Those chosen were inducted at an event in Houston, TX, United States, in July. The gathering offered opportunities to connect and collaborate, and included a reception for the new Tech Fellows, presentations from business segment presidents, and a tour of NASA’s Johnson Space Center. Working sessions were also conducted.