AsMA Makes Recommendations for EMKs to FAA

In June 2019, the Aerospace Medical Association’s (AsMA’s) Air Transport Medicine Committee released a Guidance Document that included a recommendation that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) make some changes to the emergency medical kits (EMKs) carried on commercial airplanes. This work was requested by Dr. Michael Berry, the Federal Air Surgeon, in December 2018. The committee put together a task force consisting of Elizabeth Wilkinson (committee Chair), Paulo Alves (lead), David Powell, Simon May, Rui Pombal, Alex Garbino, Alex Wolbrink, Justin Flatt, Jim Chung, Vincent Feuillie, and Tom Bettels. One of the changes proposed was to add epinephrine auto-injectors to the kits.

In February 2020, after the FAA shared AsMA’s recommendations in an Information for Operators, Senators Tammy Duckworth and Charles Schumer, along with Representative Ro Khanna, sent a letter to Steve Dickson, FAA Administrator, urging the FAA to require airlines to add epinephrine auto-injectors to airplane EMKs. This was based on AsMA’s recommendations, which chose auto-injectors because they reduce the chances of misuse or overdose. The Senators and Representative felt that, given that peanuts and food containing peanuts are available onboard airplanes, it is important to have auto-injectors available. There is an article published in February by RiverBender.com discussing the letter. Please visit https://www.riverbender.com/articles/details/duckworth-to-faa-require-lifesaving-epinephrine-autoinjectors-be-carried-on-every-flight-39701.cfm to read the article.

AsMA Offers Two New Services

The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) is now offering two new services to its members. Members can now save their credit card information in the Impexium vault and use the stored card for all future purchases. Along with save their credit card information in the Impexium vaulting two new services to its members. Members can now

In Memoriam: Inesa Kozlovskaya

Inesa B. Kozlovskaya, a Russian physiologist, researcher at the Institute of Biomedical Problems, and a key figure in spaceflight physiology and sensorimotor function research, died in mid-February. She was involved in research for the International Space Station for the first 20 years and was a critical part of the U.S./Russian Shuttle-Mir science program. She was a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and an Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation. She was also a member of the International Academy of Astronautics.

Kozlovskaya served for the past 34 years as the Head of the Department of Sensorimotor Physiology and Countermeasures at the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Biomedical Problems. During her years of life sciences research, See ‘Kozlovskaya,’ p. N11
she always found time to provide advice, guidance, and opportunities to colleagues both old and new and was considered a mentor, friend, colleague, and critic to all her students, co-workers, peers, and bosses. She had over 300 publications to her name. To read her NASA obituary, please visit https://www.nasa.gov/feature/inesa-kozlovskaya.

KBR Intern Wins NASA Space Apps Challenge

Cory Haralson, KBR’s Government Solutions U.S. Engineering Business Unit intern on the Modeling and Simulation Tools and Software Project, is a member of team StarStruck, the global winner of the 2019 NASA International Space Apps Challenge. NASA selected the team as a local grand prize winner out of more than 29,000 participating coders, scientists, designers, storytellers, makers, builders, and technologists. The NASA-led initiative hosts more than 230 events in 80 countries using their free and open data to address real-world problems. In October, the StarStruck team competed in NASA’s local Build-A-Planet challenge, a 48-hour global hackathon. The 2019 challenge tasked students to create a game allowing players to customize the characteristics of a star and design planets that could reasonably exist within that star system. It also needed to serve as an educational experience. In response to the contest, the StarStruck team—four college friends studying computer science with backgrounds in art, game development, and astrophysics—developed a solar system simulation video game called “Plan-It.” Plan-It is a planet generator allowing players to create a new solar system. Informative pop-ups explain to players how their choices change the planets’ properties, helping to educate users on various astrophysical concepts. After winning locally, StarStruck then went on to compete at the international level and was selected as a global winner in the “Most Inspirational” category. StarStruck is the only U.S.-based team to be selected as a global winner and will now have the opportunity to travel to a NASA site in the Eastern U.S. to present their project to NASA and the Space Apps Global Organizing Team.


AOPA Launches Pilot Information Center

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) recently transitioned from AOPA Hanger to the Pilot Information Center. This new site keeps everything from the AOPA Hangar—dashboard, members area, groups, events, and marketplace—and it enhances the discussion area. AOPA Hangar users can use their existing login. Members who haven’t used the platform can log in to the Pilot Information Center with their AOPA.org username and password. The question-and-answer discussion area is similar to Quora (a popular online platform for people to ask questions and share insights and knowledge) and will allow you to submit your own questions or browse popular categories of questions from other pilots and see the answers and resources that AOPA’s experts provided. Users can connect directly with AOPA and with other pilots, and get answers to any aviation-related question.

—Please visit https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2020/february/12/new-online-pilot-information-center-launches to read more about this.

NIOSH Announces Hearing Loss Prevention Award Winner

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in partnership with the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) and the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC), have the honor of announcing the winner of the 2020 Safe-in-Sound Excellance in Hearing Loss Prevention Award*. This year’s award for innovation in hearing loss prevention goes to the Multilateral Medical Operations Panel (MMOP) Acoustics Sub-Working Group for the International Space Station (ISS). The award was presented at the Annual National Hearing Conservation (NHCA) Conference in late February in Destin, FL. The Acoustics Sub-Working Group wins the innovation award for identifying the unique risk facing ISS crewmembers and developing solutions for reducing noise exposure. They work with the crew stationed on the ISS to monitor noise levels, identify noisy tasks or equipment for their Noise Hazard Inventory, test equipment for noise levels before it is sent up to the ISS, develop and implement solutions to reduce noise levels, recommend hearing protection devices to reduce crew noise exposures, and perform audiometric testing before, during (on-orbit), and after flights. No permanent mission-related hearing changes among American crewmembers have been reported in the almost 20 years of ISS operation. This success is the result of the efforts of the acoustical engineers, audiologists, industrial hygienists, and physicians who comprise the Acoustics Sub-Working Group’s membership from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Russian Space Agency, the European Space Agency, the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency, and the Canadian Space Agency.

—Please see https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-2-18-20.html to read more about this.

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Mayo Clinic Marks 20,000th Transplant

A Mayo Clinic transplant team recently performed the 20,000th transplant at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. This major milestone comes as researchers study the potential for regenerative medicine approaches to dramatically transform how transplants are performed in the future. Regenerative medicine aims to shift the focus from treating disease to tapping the body’s ability to heal diseased cells, tissues and organs. Since 1963, Mayo Clinic’s transplant programs have expanded from kidney and bone marrow to face, hand, heart, liver, lung, pancreas and pediatric transplant programs. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of Mayo Clinic’s William J. von Liebig Center for Transplantation and Clinical Regeneration in Rochester. Researchers are also studying how to use the latest technology and recent medical discoveries to transform how transplants will be performed in the future.

— See https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-marks-20000th-transplant-performed-in-minnesota/ to read more about this.

SAA Flies Miss Universe Home

South African Airways (SAA) was honored to bring Miss Universe 2019, Zozibini Tunzi, back home aboard its brand new Airbus A350-900 from New York on Saturday. Her sparkling presence aboard SA204 added excitement on 15-hour journey between New York and OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg as customers interacted and took pictures with her. Miss Tunzi, who hails from Tsolo in the Eastern Cape, flew SAA to Sao Paolo in December to participate in the Miss Universe contest as arranged by the Miss SA Pageant organizers. She was crowned Miss Universe 2019 after previously being crowned Miss South Africa 2019. She is the third woman from South Africa to win Miss Universe and the first black woman since Leila Lopes was crowned Miss Universe 2011. SAA will fly the homegrown beauty queen back to New York where she will live during her reign as Miss Universe. On her return trip, she will again travel on the state-of-the-art aircraft, of which SAA has four in its fleet.


MEETINGS CALENDAR


March 26-29, 2020: FPA Dixie - Great Lakes Chapters 2020 Spring Meeting; Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL. For more information or to register, visit https://www.fpadr.org/event-3387420.

April 7-9, 2020: FAA Colloquium: Avindy Chaturvedi Colloquium on Postmortem Forensic Toxicology in Aviation; FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma City, OK, USA. For more info, please visit https://cami-colloquium.eventbrite.com/.

Corporate News Bites

UTMB: Two UTMB doctors received the Thayer Award from the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine. This award is given to a resident or fellow who demonstrates sound scientific knowledge, compassion towards patients and dedication to teaching and learning. Please visit https://www.utmb.edu/internalmedicine/news-events/news-article/2020/02/13/congratulations-dr.-josie-rossitto-(pgy-3)-and-dr.-ahmed-chatila-(pgy3) for more on this and to see the photo.

ALPA: The Air Line Pilots Association, International’s (ALPA’s), Jazz Master Executive Council recently re-elected Capt. Claude Buraglia, a 24-year veteran pilot at Jazz Aviation and current CRJ-200/-900 captain, for a historic sixth consecutive term as chairman. Captains Terry McTeer and Tyler Rowe, who both currently serve as officers on the MEC, also retained leadership positions. Please see http://www.alpa.org/news-and-events/news-room/2020-02-05-jazz-mec-re-elects-capt-claude-buraglia-chairman to read more on this.

AFBA: The Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) Board of Directors has named General Larry O. Spencer, USAF (Ret.) as its new President (effective March 2020) and member of the Board (effective February 2020). Also, AFBA’s affiliate 5Star Life Insurance Company (5Star Life) Board of Directors has appointed General Spencer as a member of its board (effective February 2020). Current AFBA Chair and President General Ralph E. “Ed” Eberhart, USAF (Ret.), will remain the chair of the association and of 5Star Life. Visit http://newsnroom.afba.com/press-releases/afba-names-larry-o-spencer-usaf-renew-president/ for more on this.

Envionics: Envionics’ Reduced Oxygen Breathing Device (ROBD) was featured in an article from Robins Air Force Base on training flight crew about hypoxia. The article can be found at https://www.robins.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/206821/combatting-hypoxia-robins-flight-prepares-aircrews-to-recognize-signs/.

IFALPA: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Association (IFALPA) announced that the Montreal Protocol 2014 has gone into effect as of January of this year. They believe this will help ensure a stronger deterrent, welcome its entry into force as an important step in the strategy against unruly behavior onboard aircraft, and fully supports Resolution A40-28 of the 40th ICAO Assembly, which urges all States to ratify this Air Law Treaty. Please see https://www.ifalpa.org/news/20prl02-entry-into-force-of-the-montreal-protocol-2014/ for more.

MedAire: MedAire has released advice for aviation operators amid the coronavirus outbreak. They recommend that carriers defer non-essential flights to mainland China and suspend all flights to Hubei province and Wenzhou. They also recommend that operators pay attention to any changes in travel restrictions from the Chinese or other governments and be prepared for further constraints. Please visit https://www.businessairnews.com/viewer/312/html5/index.html?pn=5 to read more on this.