

Aerospace Medical Association



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August 2, 2007

Dear Fellow,

At its meeting in New Orleans, the Fellows Group passed a motion approving the Election Process Reform Initiative of 2007. We are entering the first phase of the new process by which we will elect the 2008 Class of Fellows. This process is in accordance with bylaws Article IV, Fellowship, Section B.4, "Fellows will be elected annually through a published process developed by the Fellows and approved by Council."

The features of this process include the building of a slate of nominees by a Fellows Nominating Committee, the management of evaluation criteria by a Fellows Evaluation Committee, election by vote on the slate of nominees at the annual Meeting of Fellows, and voting by proxy for those who can not attend. The process is based on the *Fellows Election Process Assumptions document of March 18, 2007* and the *Fellows Group Organizational Structure and Fellows Election Process Milestones document of March 23, 2007*. These documents are available at the Aerospace Medical Association web site. You may access them by going to (www.asma.org), logging in at **Members Login**, and scrolling to **Fellows**. Additionally, the *Aerospace Medical Association Policy Procedures* document is being changed to describe the new election process.

This letter outlines the sequence of election process actions according to the milestones of the new election process. Doctor Pete Mapes chairs the Fellows Evaluation Committee. This Committee is now reviewing and fine tuning the "points system" by which candidates for nomination will be scored. Candidates for nomination will come from individual Fellows, the Associate Fellows Group, and the Fellows Evaluation Committee as described in the governing documents and flow charts.

It will be easier for Fellows to identify candidates for election to Fellow. Each Fellow may recommend up to two candidates by providing a name and an e-mail address of a potential nominees. You may do this by sending an e-mail message to Gisselle Vargas at (gvargas@asma.org) or a letter addressed to the Association home office through the mail. Please be sure that the Association receives your recommendations for candidates not later than **October 26th, 2007**.

These candidates for nomination will be invited to provide current professional and biographical information to the Fellows Evaluation Committee. Fellows will no longer be responsible for completing a lengthy nominations form. Candidates should be made aware that they are being considered because they will be requested by e-mail message to provide personal and professional information. Valid data from candidates is essential to ensure a fair and balanced election process. Throughout the election process, we must guard the privacy and confidentiality of those providing the data.

Doctor Jim Vanderploeg chairs the Fellows Nominating Committee. This Committee will review and evaluate the candidates for election to Fellow using the "points system" and information on the candidates. The Fellows Nominating Committee will build a slate of nominees for election to Fellow. This first slate will be given to the Chair of the Fellows Group for distribution to the Fellows. Careful communicating will ensure confidentiality.

Early in 2008, I will send a letter or message asking you to review the first slate of nominees, comment on the nominees, and recommend other potential candidates. Information on all nominees to include a biographical sketch and points score

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will be sent as part of this communication to the Fellows. The Fellows Nominating Committee will review comments on the proposed nominees and add new candidates for consideration in response to the recommendations of Fellows. This nomination pathway remains open for an exceptionally well-qualified candidate, who is not an Associate Fellow.

Well ahead of the annual meeting in May, the Fellows Nominating Committee will complete its review of all of the candidates that have been proposed and will provide the Chair of the Fellows Group with a final slate of nominees. I will then send a letter or message to the Fellows asking them to review the final slate of nominees and to send a proxy vote in favor of the slate if they can not attend the Fellows meeting. Information on all nominees to include a biographical sketch and points score will be sent as part of this communication to the Fellows.

At our meeting in Boston, I will preside over the annual meeting of the Fellows Group and orchestrate the election of new Fellows as one agenda item of that meeting. The Chair of the Fellows Nominating Committee, Jim Vanderploeg, will present the slate of nominees for election to Fellow. I will ask for any final discussion of individual nominees in the spirit of ensuring that any final reservations about the nominees are expressed. The Fellows Group retains the right to amend the slate of nominees by addition or elimination during the annual meeting. A motion to approve the slate of nominees for Fellow will be made, a second to the motion will be accepted, and voting will be accomplished according to due process with attention to any proxy votes cast.

Information about the agenda of the annual meeting of the Fellows Group and dinner will come to you with my next letter. We will eventually communicate all information related to the activities of the Fellows Group via e-mail and the Association web site. Please go to the Association web site and ensure that your e-mail address listed there is correct. Also, review the election process documents and be ready to participate in the election of the Class of 2008. We expect the new process to allow us to better reach the objective of electing the best possible new Class of Fellows.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George".

George K. Anderson, MD, MPH, FAsM
Chair, Fellows Group
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