President’s Page

Utterly Gobsmacked*

I began this month’s President’s Page while traveling to the magical land “Down Under.” Our Australasian colleagues were hosting the 60th International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine (ICASM) in Melbourne. Having never had the opportunity to visit Australia, Deb and I added 10 days at the beginning of our travels to visit many of the customary tourist locations. After 3 days in Sydney, we headed north to the Cairns to visit the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Tropical Rainforest, then headed south to Kangaroo Island, near Adelaide. Our final stop was Melbourne, site of the 60th ICASM.

We had an incredible visit! Australia is truly a land of wonder. We received warm welcomes everywhere we traveled, and our only question was why we waited so long to visit such an incredible land.

As with most international travel, it was not without its challenges. Although English is one of the most widespread languages in the world, we still heard and learned words and phrases not common to the United States. By the end of the trip we had incorporated some of those new words into our conversations, which was especially true during our visit to Kangaroo Island.

We stayed at a delightful lodge on Kangaroo Island’s southern coast, where the staff raised the “Australian hospitality” we had come to appreciate to new heights. The lodge’s staff picked us up at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island’s regional airport, and for the next 48 hours we placed ourselves in their extraordinary hands. The staff anticipated our every need, and without cell phone, television or internet to distract, we were quickly returned to a simpler time when electronic devices did not dominate our lives. It was a truly magical visit… and then the “mishap” occurred.

After 48 hours of a carefree stay, it was time to bid adieu to the lodge’s staff and head to Melbourne for the Congress. Deb and I boarded the lodge’s van for the hour-long drive to Kingscote for our return flight to Adelaide before catching our connecting flight to Melbourne. Being a smaller regional airport, they delivered us to Kingscote 25 minutes before our flight was scheduled to depart. Watching our driver hand each guest his or her luggage, I realized a “mishap” was about to occur. Looking into the back of the now empty van I quickly grasped that we were at the airport and our luggage was still at the lodge – more than an hour away!

Like any flight surgeon worth his or her salt, I immediately felt the need to conduct a “mishap investigation.” The mishap chain of events began the evening before when the lodge requested our luggage. The porter also served as a tour guide. He had a tour that averaged. No harsh words were exchanged and our luggage arrived at our hotel in Melbourne later that evening. Still, it did serve as a reminder as to how quickly a situation can go from normal operations to a mishap, even in the most extraordinary of organizations. As aircraft accident investigations have revealed, humans are most vulnerable when they become complacent, and in a short 48 hours I had become supremely complacent. I put my brain in neutral, allowed the staff to do all my worrying, and failed to double check that our luggage made it into the van. I started the chain of events by running late, but complacency on the staff’s part combined with communications lapses resulted in our “mishap”.

At the end of the day, Deb’s and my “mishap” was a non-event. Still, I wanted to share this as a reminder that even in the most idyllic of locations, things can go unexpectedly wrong. As aerospace experts, we need to maintain our vigilance to protect our colleagues as they go about their duties.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all of our colleagues in the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ASAM), especially Drs. Greg Chaffey (President) and Gordon Cable (Program Chair) for the outstanding Scientific Meeting they put together. It was an extraordinary meeting! I’m starting to save my pennies so I can attend your next meeting in Hong Kong in October 2013.

To all who have provided feedback to previous President’s Pages, thanks! I have taken your suggestions to heart and many are already being incorporated into the Association’s operations. As always, I eagerly solicit your ideas, thoughts and criticisms. Together we can help AsMA achieve the goal of being the world’s premier Aerospace Medicine organization.

*Gobsmacked: being totally speechless; unable to think of anything to say.

P. Glenn Merchant, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
The Society of U.S. Army Flight Surgeons, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Aviation Medicine Association, announced and presented its annual awards during the USAAvMA luncheon on 14 May 2012. This was part of the 83rd Aerospace Medicine Association Scientific Assembly in Atlanta, GA, and are as follows:

2011 Spurgeon Neel Flight Surgeon of the Year:
MAJ Brock A. Benedict, 1 BN-160th SOAR (A), Fort Campbell, KY

2011 Theodore Lyster Award:
MAJ John W. Strain, HHC 1-171 GSAB, 40th CAB, 25th ID, Schofield Barracks, HI

2011 Army Aerospace Medicine Specialist of the Year:
COL Eric W. Olins, 2-227th AVN REGT, 1st Air CAV BDE, Camp Marmal, Afghanistan

2011 Order of Aeromedical Military Merit:
COL Joseph F. McKeon, Aeromedical Consultant to the Surgeon General, Director, U.S. Army Aeromedical Activity, Fort Rucker, AL

2011 Aeromedical Outstanding Achievement Award
MAJ Patrick T. Birchfield
101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY

CPT Nathan K. Cornwell
2-227th AVN REGT, 1st Air CAV BDE, 1CAV DIV, Camp Marmal, Afghanistan

COL Regina M. Curtis
USARIEM, Fort Belvoir, VA

CPT Lisa M. Harris
HHC, 122 AVN SPT BN, 82nd CAB, 82nd ABN DIV, Fort Bragg, NC

LTC Daniel T. Johnston
1st CAB, 1ST INF DIV, Fort Riley, KS

LTC Samuel W. Sauer
Program Director, Occupational Medicine and Chief, Residency Branch, Pensacola NAS, FL

CPT Vern Alan Wagner
HHC 82nd CAB, 82nd ABN DIV, Fort Bragg, NC

The U.S. Army Aviation Medicine Association was proud to present its annual award for excellence in rotary wing published writing (research or article). The 2011 award was presented for the article titled, “Whole body vibration in helicopters: risk assessment in relation to low back pain.” Lead author was Dr. Jan Ivar Kasin, with coauthors of Dr. Neil Mansfield and Dr. Anthony Wagstaff. The article was published in the August 2011 issue of Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine. The Society of U.S. Army Flight Surgeons awards are presented annually at either the Operational Aeromedical Problems Course or, as done more recent years, at the Annual Aerospace Medical Association Meeting. The purpose and meaning behind each award is as stated below from the bylaws:

a. Spurgeon H. Neel U.S. Army Distinguished Flight Surgeon. This award shall be presented to a Flight Surgeon or Aeromedical Physician Assistant who has personified the traits and characteristics of the ideal Army Flight Surgeon as determined by the Awards Committee. It will normally be awarded for outstanding accomplishment as an operational unit level Flight Surgeon or Aeromedical Physician Assistant.

b. Theodore Lyster Flight Surgeon of the Year. This award shall be presented annually to the Flight Surgeon or Aeromedical Physician Assistant in the Active or Reserve Component who has made the most significant contribution to Army Aviation Medicine during the year as observed by his or her fellow Flight Surgeons, Aviators, or Chain of Command.

c. Army Aerospace Medicine Specialist of the Year. This award will be presented annually to the Specialist in Aviation Medicine who has been selected by the Awards Committee amongst all those currently serving in the U.S. Army, as the Aerospace Medicine Specialist who has made the most significant contribution to Army Aviation Medicine during the year. This individual may be assigned to any command within the Army, but must be certified as a Specialist in Aerospace Medicine. Recommendations from fellow Flight Surgeons, Aviators, or Chain of Command are encouraged, but need not be received for consideration for this award.

d. Outstanding Achievement Award. This may be presented to any Army Flight Surgeon, Aeromedical Physician Assistant, or Associate Member, at any time when the Awards Committee feels it is justified. It may be used to recognize a specific action or achievement. More than one presentation may be made during the year, and there shall be no requirement to make the award during any year.

e. Aeromedical Order of Merit. The purpose of the Aeromedical Order of Merit is to recog-
Associate Fellows Group News
By Brian Musselman
Associate Fellows Group Chair

We’ve begun another busy year with the Associate Fellows Group and I need to send a big thank you to all who made the past year such a success. I hope you all enjoyed the Atlanta meeting as much as I did. The lectures and social events were absolutely fantastic!

Before I get too far along, I would be remiss without thanking Lance Annicelli for his outstanding leadership and devotion throughout the past year and continued involvement in the AFG. Our accomplishments this past year would not have been possible without his commitment and hard work.

For those that were unable to attend our Tuesday morning breakfast meeting, we welcomed over 100 new Associate Fellows this year! We presented the Annual Ellingson Award to Gordon G. Giesbrecht for his ASEM article, “Exit Strategies and Safety Concerns for Machinery Occupants Following Ice Failure and Submersion.” The annual AFG reception was very well attended and we once again partnered with the AsMA Fellows on a joint event, which gave current and prospective Associate Fellows a great opportunity to socialize and network.

Our 2012-2013 AFG Officers are: Brian Musselman, Chair; Donald Ross, Chair-Elect; Ernest Prochazka, Secretary; and Shannon Phares, Treasurer. Matt Hoefer is the Membership Committee Chair, Brian Swan is the Ellingson Award Committee Chair, Donald Ross and is the Reception Committee Chair, Lance Annicelli and Volker Damann are Informatics Committee Chairs, Thomas Smith is the Program Committee Chair, Heath Clifford is the Nominations Committee Chair, and Don White is the Scholarship Committee Chair. I am forever grateful to these individuals for stepping forward to accomplish the work of the AFG. If you are interested in supporting one of the committees, contact these individuals or email: associatefellows@gmail.com.

Do you want to join the Associate Fellows Group? The deadline for receipt of new Associate Fellow applications is 30 November 2012. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, encourage them to apply. Application is easy! If you are not yet an Associate Fellow and you have been a member of AsMA for 5 or more years, simply send your CV to the AFG Membership Committee at associatefellows@gmail.com or the Membership Committee Chair, Matt Hoefer.

Would you like to make a significant difference in the future of the Associate Fellows Group? Become an AFG Officer. It is an easy and worthwhile way of becoming engaged in AsMA activities and networking with Fellows and Associate Fellows. Please consider running for office and make a difference in AFG and AsMA! Nominate yourself or another worthy candidate to this year’s ballot. All AFG members are eligible! Nominations are being sought for Chair-Elect (2013-2014) and Treasurer (2013-2015). Please send your nominations no later than 31 December 2012 to associatefellows@gmail.com or the Nominations Committee Chair, Heath Clifford.

Additionally, the AFG website provides a plethora of information. Please visit it at http://www.asmaafg.org. I’m looking forward another successful year with the Associate Fellows Group!

ARMY, from p. 1112
nize individuals who have selflessly contributed to the advancement, growth, or maintenance of U.S. Army Aviation Medicine. This award may be presented to any individual who has, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, met the purpose of the award. More than one presentation may be made during any year. The Order of Aeromedical Merit shall consist of a medallion with neck ribbon and will normally be presented to selected individuals, if any, during the OAP General Membership Meeting. The medallion may be worn only when attending U.S. Army Medical Department, Society, or AsMA social occasions requiring formal or informal attire.

In other news from both societies, Dr. John S. Crowley was elected as Vice-President/ President Elect of the U.S. Army Aviation Medicine Association and will take the reins from MAJ Nicole Powell Dunford with the completion of her term. COL John Smyrski is the Association Secretary.

The Society of U.S. Army Flight Surgeons announced that it was solvent and regrouping after the sudden cessation of organizational relations with TRUE Research Foundation in 2011. Monies were secured successfully, but much of the membership data along with any data on the web was lost.

Future AsMA Meetings
May 12-16, 2013
Chicago Sheraton
Chicago, IL

May 11-15, 2014
San Diego Hilton
San Diego
NSBRI Continues Long-Term Relationship with NASA

NASA has agreed to fund the third 5-year extension of its cooperative agreement with NSBRI (National Space Biomedical Research Institute). For the past 15 years, NSBRI has been a leader in the effort to protect the health of astronauts in long-duration space missions. NSBRI has recently opened a new state of the art Consolidated Research Facility increasing its capabilities and moving the institute into a new era of scientific discovery and educational innovation that will have a positive impact on health care in space and on Earth. They have added 15 new projects in scientific research and development.

"NSBRI is looking forward to continuing its productive relationship with NASA," said Jeffrey P. Sutton, M.D., Ph.D., NSBRI President and CEO, and AsMA member. "The additions to our research portfolio include projects that will allow us to aggressively pursue solutions to serious health risks facing space explorers. The new facility builds on the nation's pre-eminence in space biomedical research and medicine, and paves the way for new advances."

NSBRI was established in 1997 with seven consortium members: Baylor College of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Morehouse School of Medicine, Rice University and Texas A&M University. The consortium expanded to 12 in 1999 with the addition of Brookhaven National Laboratory, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the University of Pennsylvania Health System and the University of Washington.

Link Between Sleep and Health Reinforced

A study by researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston reinforces previous findings that an increased risk of diabetes and obesity could be linked to too little sleep and inconsistent sleep patterns. This study, which examined humans over a period of time in a controlled laboratory environment, altered the timing of sleep by simulating the schedules of shift workers and international travelers. The results support previous epidemiological studies. The Brigham and Women’s press release is available from: http://www.brighamandwomens.org/about_bwh/publicaffairs/news /pressreleases/PressRelease.aspx?sub=0&PagedId=1117

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.

Deutsche Akademie für Flug- und Reisemedizin

European School of Aviation Medicine

Scientific Award 2013

The European School of Aviation Medicine Award recognizes work that demonstrates excellence in clinical practice, education and/or administration in the field of aviation, aerospace, travel medicine and related scientific areas. Eligible candidates should have accomplished the scientific work in an EASA member state. Only manuscripts in English or German language can be accepted.

The award includes:

- Honorarium of 10 000 €
- Certificate as recognition of the award

The application form should contain:
- Three carbon copies of the scientific work.
- A two page curriculum vitae including a short bibliography.

Candidates should be aware that
- Only one manuscript per candidate will be considered.
- An individual may not apply for other awards with the same work submitted herein.

Award applicants are encouraged to send their work to the Scientific Board of the European School of Aviation Medicine, Lufthansa-Base, 60546 Frankfurt (DAF.Frankfurt@t-online.de).

Deadline for application will be 28 February 2013
Cam Lock Introduces Emergency Breathing Mask for Submarines

Manufactured by Cam Lock Limited in the UK, the Cam Lock FAST-ResQ breathing mask has been designed for use with the emergency air breathing system installed on the latest designs of diesel electric and nuclear powered submarines. The FAST-ResQ positive pressure breathing mask uses the automatically activated quick donning system used in FAST-Mask escape breathing apparatus, originally developed for the oil / gas exploration industry to provide protection against highly toxic hydrogen sulphide (H2S) gas. Cam Lock offers the FAST-ResQ for both new submarine buildings and for retro-fit programs.

—To read more, please visit www.camlockuk.com/news/cam-lock-introduce-emergency-breathing-masks-for-submarines.

MedAire Releases Global MedKit 2013

MedAire has released the latest edition of the MedAire Global MedKit for the luxury yacht market. MedAire released the new edition of the Global MedKit to coincide with the Monaco Yacht Show in mid-September. As a first responder to remote medical events at sea, crew need to provide assistance quickly and accurately. The MedAire Global MedKit includes equipment and medications for responding to both common medical concerns and life threatening incidents. The latest version improves on its logical assembly with a refined bag design and internal components to aid in finding medications and materials as quickly as possible. Medication upgrades include improved onboard antibiotic therapy and additional options for intraosseous devices.

Crew receive assistance with inventory management and helpful medical information via the companion software, MedAire Medical Management System (MMS). MedAire MMS is fully integrated with MedAire’s MedLink, the world-renowned telemedicine center staffed by doctors available to assist yacht crew and guests at sea and ashore. MedAire’s MedLink is the same service relied on by the world’s premier airlines for medical advice and assistance while in flight. The integration provides MedLink doctors visibility into the medical equipment onboard a vessel, saving valuable time when administering assistance to a patient.


ETC Awarded Contract for ADMS Training Simulator Delivery

Environmental Tectonics Corporation’s Simulation Division, located in Orlando, FL, has been awarded a contract to supply a premier Special Forces Organization in Asia with an Advanced Disaster Management Simulator (ADMS™).

The ADMS Training Simulator is designed to facilitate realistic, multi-level command and control training. Individual rooms will be outfitted with simulation training systems specifically designed for the level of command participation, including field units, incident command, and command post levels. ETC will develop virtual reality simulated safety and security operation scenarios, including Hostage Situations, VIP Convoy, Public Order, Active Shooters, and CBRNE incidents.

—For more information, please visit http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=106827&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=17304206highlight...

QinetiQ Exhibits at National Science Week

QinetiQ recently exhibited at the Australia National Science Week Modelling and Simulation careers showcase in Canberra. Visitors experienced QinetiQ’s hazardous environment virtual reality simulator, including facing a disaster in an underground mine and/or a fire in a ship’s engine room. The Canberra Modelling and Simulation Forum, of which QinetiQ is actively involved, showed how important modeling is to keeping Australia at the forefront of technology and allowing organizations to adapt to changing conditions. Many students and the general public were introduced to the fascinating world of modeling and simulation and the careers available. The showcase was an opportunity for QinetiQ to share its expertise, technology, and vision with a much wider audience.


Wyle Wins Grant to Support NIST

Wyle has been awarded a $25,000 one-year grant to provide support for the development of test cases and test suites for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for use in the Election Assistance Commission voting systems certification program. The tests are designed for use by voting system test laboratories to ensure that hardware and software testing of voting systems is accurate and repeatable no matter which laboratory performs the testing.

Wyle will help develop detailed testing protocols for certain sections of the 2005 Voluntary Voting System Guidelines. In addition, Wyle will assist National Institute of Standards and Technology developers in creating automated review tools for source code. The work is being completed by Wyle’s Test and Engineering East facility in Huntsville, AL.

Wyle provides conformance testing to all functional and technical requirements of the Election Assistance Commission voting system standards including hardware and software testing. In addition, Wyle provides consulting services to state election entities which can help strengthen their election processes and procedures as well as develop state-level voting system testing requirements and procedures.

—To read more, please visit www.wyle.com/News/Pages/09-14-2012.aspx.

Spectrum Aeromed Makes INC’s 5000 Fastest Growing List Again

Spectrum Aeromed announced recently that, for the second consecutive year, they have been listed on the INC 5000 Fastest Growing Companies list. Last year the company was named to INC’s list for 799.3% growth in 3 years. The Inc. 500 15000 list ranks privately held, for-profit U.S. based companies that have a revenue of more than $2 million in 2011 by overall revenue growth over a 3-year period.


Baxter Announces Licensing Agreement

Baxter International Inc. and Onconova Therapeutics, Inc., recently announced that they have entered into a European licensing agreement for rigosertib, a novel targeted anti-cancer compound currently in a Phase III study for the treatment of a group of rare hematologic malignancies called Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) and in a Phase II/III study for pancreatic cancer. Under the terms of the agreement, Baxter will obtain commercialization rights in the European Union and other countries in Europe. Baxter will make an upfront payment to Onconova, which will be recorded as a special pre-tax income process research and development charge in the third quarter of 2012. In addition, Onconova may receive money for pre-commercial development and regulatory milestones for the MDS and pancreatic cancer indications in addition to sales milestones and royalties. Baxter has the option to participate in the development and commercialization of rigosertib as well.


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Benefits include:
• Link from our website to yours
• Subscription to AsMA’s journal
• Advertising discount and special news section in this journal
• Exhibit space discount and registration discount at AsMA’s Annual Scientific Meeting

For info on becoming a Corporate Member, call Gloria Carter at (703)739-2240, ext. 106, gcarter@asma.org; or Dr. Marian Sides at msbides3@myexcel.com.
Dwight Holland, M.D., Ph.D., FAsMA was named a Fellow of the Aerospace Human Factors Association (ASHFA) at their annual meeting in May 2012. Dr. Holland was also promoted to Lt. Col. in the USAF Reserve as a Line Officer effective 1 October 2012. The project for the test pilot school he co-managed and paper he co-authored with the full coverage anti-G suits with physiological monitoring during in-flight profiles received the “best paper” award at a recent Test Pilots convention. He was nominated for the prestigious Kelly Johnson Award from the Society of Flight Test Engineers for significant contributions to flight test engineering as well. He was named the Air Force Test Center IMA Field Grade Officer of the Year in Feb 2012. Dr Holland is currently serving on the AsMA Council as the representative for the AshFA, and recently upgraded his professional ski instructor certificate at Mt. Snow, VT.

In Memoriam

Halford R. Conwell, M.D.

AsMA was saddened to hear that Halford R. Conwell, M.D., passed away early Saturday, September 1. A native of Cincinnati, OH, he earned a Bachelor’s degree from the College of Wooster, OH, in 1948, a Master’s degree from the University of Louisville in 1950, and an M.D. from the University of Cincinnati in 1955. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, was honorably discharged in 1946, and started practicing aviation medicine in 1944. He became a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner in 1966. He was also a Senior Medical Examiner for the Civil Aviation Administration-United Kingdom, the Civil Aviation Administration-Australia, British Caledonia Airways, and a medical advisor to Aeromexico. He began practice as a family physician in 1972 and was the first doctor to have an integrated waiting room. He later became Chief Flight Surgeon for Continental Airlines, where he also served on the Pilot Selection Board.

Dr. Conwell served as President of Walker-Trinity-Madison Counties Medical Society, Chief of Medicine at Huntsville Memorial Hospital, and was on the Board of Trustees. He also edited a column on aviation medicine for a local newspaper. He was Past President of the Civil Aviation Medical Association, a medical advisor to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, a member of the Airline Medical Directors Association, the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine, the British AME Association, the Scottish AME Association, the Latin American Aviation Medical Association, Quiet Birdmen, and the Friends of the Royal Airforce Museum. He was also a Charter and Life Member of the Confederate Air Force, Honorary Captain of Texas International Airlines, and a Founding Member of the RAF Bomber Museum. He was a Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association.

Dr. Conwell received the John A. Tamisea Award from AsMA in 2000 to honor his outstanding contributions in the application of the art and science of aerospace medicine to general and commercial aviation. He was a member of the medical committees of the Airline Transport Association and the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association, and was a medical sponsor for the alcohol rehabilitation programs for the Airline Pilots Association, International (ALPA), and the Federal Aviation Administration. He was honored by ALPA with a lifetime achievement award in 2008 for his “rigorous aviation medical standards,” quick wit, and outstanding office staff. He earned his pilot’s certificate in 1944 and later added a commercial license. In 1989, he earned an airline transport pilot rating and had logged over 3000 flight hours.

New Members

Ashworth, Ryan, Columbia, SC
Benton, Ruffin, M.D., Brevard, NC
Bushby, Alaistair, Dr., Salisbury, UK
Cozmuta, Ioana, Dr., Moffett Field, CA
Cross, John S., Newport Beach, CA
Descartin, Karina S., M.D., Dayton, OH
Deren, Trenton L., Berkeley, CA
Fotopoulos, Mikael, M.D., Frederiksebro, Denmark
Harvey, Kelly, M.D., Suffolk, VA
Kennedy, Dan F., Maj., D.O., USAF, Fair Haven, NJ
Lamb, Justin, Capt., Columbia, MO
LaVan, Joseph T., CAPT, USN, Pensacola, FL
Murray, Brian P., M.D., Del Rio, TX
Oliveira Silva, Rodrigo, Prof., Vale de Cambra, Portugal
Shea, Steven J., Capt., USAF, Dayton, OH
Thrasher, James, Baltimore, MD
Tiu, Griselda E., Lt.Col., USAF, Bonita, CA
Thompson, Moriah S., B.S., Dallas, TX

Send information for publication on this page to: News of Members, Aerospace Medical Association, 320 S. Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3579. pdy@asma.org