

# President's Page

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What engaged many of us that caused us to form a bond with the Aerospace Medical Association and stay with it? Within such a diverse group, where did we find our niche, our comfort zone, while absorbing some of the remaining interests and knowledge outside of our own areas presented at our annual scientific meetings?

Membership and involvement in one or more of our Constituent Organizations is one of the major factors for a large percentage of us. I joined two of them during my first year as a member of the Aerospace Medical Association and three more later, two as a Charter member. They have been my home at our meetings and beyond by providing friendship, great discussion, opportunities for getting involved, and serving with those I admire greatly.

It is within these groups and our Standing Committees where we can provide service to our fields of interest, grow with that experience, and enhance that all-important networking. In this year's President's Pages I hope to highlight the activities and contributions of our 11 Constituent Organizations which support our Mission as stated in the Association Bylaws: "Apply and advance scientific knowledge to promote and enhance health, safety, and performance of those involved in aerospace and related activities." If you haven't joined one of these Constituencies, I believe you may not be receiving the full advantage of your membership in the Aerospace Medical Association.

Thanks to Lex Brown for providing the following description of the International Association of Military Flight Surgeon Pilots (IAMFSP).

The IAMFSP formed in 1987 and, in 1999, became the most recent group to become a Constituent Organization of the Aerospace Medical Association. The mission of IAMFSP is to promote the effectiveness of military aviation through increased understanding of the physical, pathological or psychological factors associated with the flight environment. IAMFSP affirms that this is best accomplished through research, analysis, teaching and the provision of informed operational guidance within the framework of Human Systems Integration (HSI). To that end, IAMFSP sponsors one or two panels at AsMA annual scientific meetings on the application of HSI in flying operations, with the goal of constantly improving human performance in the face of increasingly complex technological systems. Last year, IAMFSP sponsored panels on Aviation in Radiation--Operation Tomodachi in conjunction with the Society of US Air Force Flight Surgeons and the Society of US Naval Flight Surgeons.



**James T. Webb, Ph.D.**

The IAMFSP core membership consists of Flight Surgeons who are qualified as Military Pilots, but we also welcome pilots with other aerospace human factors-related or medical training that share our values of enhancing human performance and safety in the military aviation environment. Approximately 90 strong, we have members from the three US services as well as the UK, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Israel, the Netherlands, Finland, Slovenia, and Mexico. Some notable IAMFSP members are Lt Gen Tom Travis, USAF Surgeon General; Jan Linder, Swedish Gripen pilot-physician; Col (Ret) Pete Mapes; CAPT Kris Belland, USN; and Col (Ret) Malcolm Braithwaite, British Army, Col (Ret). Lex Brown, Col, USAF (Ret), former Director of the Human Performance Integration Directorate in the 711th Human Performance Wing, is the immediate Past-President, and Col (sel) Kathy "Fog" Hughes is the President for 2013-2014.

A new website is under construction at <http://group-spaces.com/IAMFSPorg> to permit national and international IAMFSP members to interact in real-time throughout the year through blogs, discussion forums, and bulletin boards. IAMFSP meets on Tuesday evenings at the AsMA annual scientific meeting for member updates, paying the \$15 per annum dues, planning for the following year's panels, and general camaraderie. IAMFSP sponsors a \$500 scholarship available to a student in the medical sciences for the purpose of defraying the cost of attending the AsMA Scientific Meeting. Eligible students include Masters or Doctorate candidates in the medical sciences and the scholarship is presented in person at the IAMFSP business meeting.

If you are interested in joining IAMFSP, contact us through the website.