With Fall in the air, we look forward to new color in the leaves around our Association’s Headquarters. We also look for new subjects for our November Scientific Program Committee review of abstracts for slide, panel, and poster presentations for next May in San Diego. Several panels are forming to address the 2014 meeting theme “Exploring the Frontiers of Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance.” Sustained, optimal performance of humans is frequently very difficult for those involved in the stressful activities of aerospace endeavors on Earth, above the Earth, and below sea level. To better address the issue of safety in improving human performance, this past May the Aviation Safety Committee became the Aerospace Safety Committee. This will increase its scope to include involvement in space safety where the performance of humans is, indeed, critical to safe, sustained operations.

The cooling weather in Texas means it’s nearly time to pour concrete for our new home’s foundation. Waiting until the temperature is lower allows curing with fewer cracks, like waiting until the last day to submit your abstracts can sometimes result in published abstracts with more complete data. Just remember that waiting until the last day means the submission process may be a bit slower.

This month’s Constituent Organization input is from the Aerospace Human Factors Association (AsHFA) and was composed by 2013-2014 AsHFA President, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Cynthia E. Brown, USAF, currently serving in the Air Force Research Laboratory.

AsHFA was chartered by Dr. Henry “Hank” L. Taylor and founded as a Constituent Organization of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) in 1991. The mission of AsHFA is to further the goals of AsMA and serve as AsMA’s human factors voice on matters relating to aviation, space, undersea medicine, human performance, and their allied sciences. AsHFA’s purpose is to provide a forum where individuals interested in Aerospace Human Factors and Human-Systems Integration (HSI) can exchange ideas, network with colleagues, recognize exceptional work in the field, and sponsor panels in the annual AsMA scientific program. At the 2013 meeting, AsHFA sponsored a two part panel on HSI Developments in RDT&E to Operational Communities; a panel on Sensorimotor Evaluation and Countermeasures for Space Exploration Missions; and a two part panel on Color Vision in Adverse Conditions, Disorders, and Disease and The Latest on Color Vision Testing and Standards.

When AsHFA was formed, we started with 88 charter members. Today, 20 of the charter members remain active as part of the approximately 156 current members. AsHFA members hail from three U.S. military services, the FAA, NASA, and academic institutions. Our 26 international members hail from many countries, including Canada, Mexico, Europe, the Far East, Australia, Africa, and South America. Our membership represents a multi-disciplinary range of talented individuals, including pilots, physicians, physiologists, psychologists, scientists, engineers, and nurses. A few notable AsHFA members include current AsMA President Jim Webb, Ph.D., a Charter member; Past AsMA Presidents Drs. David Schroeder, Melchor Antuñano, Michael Bagshaw, Fanancy Anzalone, Andy Bellenkes; a host of AsMA Vice-Presidents; and current AsMA Secretary Carol Manning, Ph.D. The AsHFA President Elect for 2014-2015 is Lt. Col. Dwight Holland, M.D., Ph.D., USAFR, a Senior Reservist/Instructor at the USAF Test Pilot School, and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Valerie Martindale, Ph.D., USAF, currently serving at Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH), is the immediate Past President, 2012-2013.

AsHFA welcomes those AsMA members who are interested in bettering human factors in aerospace systems and offers several opportunities to participate throughout the year. At each AsMA annual scientific meeting, AsHFA hosts a luncheon/business meeting on Mondays and honors those who have achieved excellence in the field of aerospace human factors through four awards, each with an honorarium. On Wednesday afternoons of the annual scientific meetings, we welcome the new president and officers and plan for the upcoming year. Wednesday evenings, we’ve routinely celebrated with a social at a local venue. Then in November, during AsMA’s midyear meetings in Alexandria, VA, we meet to ensure our plans are on track for the next annual scientific meeting.

We are a fun group, intensely passionate about Human Factors, and are always interested in welcoming new members. Membership dues are $15 per year and we provide Directory and Newsletter mailings several times during the year. If you are interested in joining AsHFA, please contact our membership director, Dr. Thomas “Tom” Nesthus, (405) 954-6297; tom.nesthus@faa.gov, or President, Ms. Cynthia Brown, (937) 904-8402; cynthia.brown2@wpafb.af.mil.

San Diego—What a Great Location for a Scientific Meeting!

By Jeffrey Sventek, Executive Director

Each summer, prior to the next scientific meeting, a small group of AsMA and FAA leaders visit the meeting location for that meeting. The 85th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association will be located in the beautiful city of San Diego, California. I had never been to San Diego before, so I did not know what to expect for our site visit. I can now see why so many people flock to the San Diego area to live and play! I was only in San Diego for one day, but I became a fan of this beautiful city!

Traveling from the east coast to San Diego required about 10 hours of time. I landed at the San Diego International Airport at 6:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (9:30 p.m. EDT). I immediately noted the cool and comfortable temperature for a July evening. I also noticed the wonderful light breeze coming off the San Diego Bay waters. I grabbed a taxi and 10 minutes later I was dropped off at the front entrance to the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel.

The Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel is a modern structure and built with lots of glass to offer visitors tremendous views of the San Diego Bay and surrounding areas. The hotel is located right on the San Diego Bay with a beautiful boardwalk along the bayfront for walking, jogging, or spending some quiet time.

Immediately upon entering the hotel, I was struck by the modern design and amenities. The West Lobby and Registration areas offer wide and open public spaces with plenty of room for gathering with friends or conducting business.

I checked in at the Registration Desk and took the elevator to my room on the 24th floor. I was fortunate to be placed in a room with a view of the San Diego Bay. The rooms are again furnished with new and modern amenities. The bathroom was extremely well appointed and spotless.

Dropping my bags in the room, I set out to find Walt and Phil Galanty of AIM Meetings & Events to discuss the plan for the next day’s site visit with the hotel staff. We met on one of the outdoor terraces and took in the beautiful scenery and evening air.

After a short discussion, I suggested we find a restaurant for dinner. So, we set off for a walk to the San Diego Gaslamp Quarter. The walk to the Gaslamp Quarter is an easy walk across an elevated walking bridge that spans the East Harbor Drive highway. Immediately across the walking bridge, you are standing next to Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres professional baseball team. Let’s hope the Padres are in town during our meeting so some of us can take in one of their games.

The Gaslamp Quarter in San Diego is a waterfront town with a colorful past. The San Diego Gaslamp Quarter is said to have gotten its name from the gas-lamps that commonly lined the streets of the town during the late 19th and early 20th century. Since its early days as a red-light district, the Gaslamp Quarter has since transformed into a city of rich history and current entertainment. Tours of the 94 historic Victorian buildings are now offered, including a tour of the house of William Heath Davis. Davis is responsible for originally founding the town in 1850, and his house is the oldest wooden structure in the area.

The modern day Gaslamp District is a popular place for shopping, dining, and spending a night out on the town. The Gaslamp District offers more than 200 restaurants, nightclubs and music venues in addition to various popular shops and local boutiques. There is something for everyone to enjoy at any time of the day in the Gaslamp District as it offers both day and night activities. By day visitors can shop at their favorite national brand stores and browse the local merchants, and by night they can cheers at an authentic Irish pub or dance the mamba at a salsa club. The district is especially known for its nightlife scene, as it is the home to numerous rooftop bars and lounges where live music and comedy shows perform nightly. Visitors should check out live entertainment at the well-known Hard Rock Cafe, or visit Osetra the Fishhouse, which has a three-story wine tower where servers suspend harnesses and wires to retrieve your wine selection.

The meeting spaces in the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel are also beautiful and plentiful.
InoMed Employee Awarded NASA Medal

One of InoMed’s employees, Chris Cromwell, received the NASA Exceptional Bravery Medal in August from Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana for “exhibiting exceptional bravery through his selfless and conspicuous actions providing medical assistance to a complete stranger.” Mr. Cromwell was the medical technician providing emergency medical assistance to a flight crewmember. Mr. Cromwell is an Environmental Engineer for InoMed and a recognized expert in hazardous waste management, spill prevention, and control and countermeasure programs. He is responsible for ensuring the integrity and environmental compliance of NASA storage tanks at Kennedy Space Center.

—Adapted from a note on InoMed’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/IHAMedical) and from information supplied via e-mail.

Gentex Receives Silver Boeing Performance Excellence Award

Gentex Corporation, a provider of personal protection and situational awareness products and systems for defense and security personnel, announced recently that it has received a 2012 Boeing Performance Excellence Award. The Boeing Company issues the award annually to recognize suppliers who have achieved superior performance. Gentex’s California facility maintained a Silver composite performance rating for each month of the 12-month performance period, from October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2012. This year, Boeing recognized 594 suppliers who achieved either a Gold or Silver level Boeing Performance Excellence Award. Gentex is one of only 441 suppliers to receive the Silver level of recognition. As part of their comprehensive portfolio of personal protection and situational awareness solutions, Gentex currently supplies vest valve assemblies to Boeing for the F-22 Vest Valve Improvement program and a number of aircrew life support systems. Gentex has been a supplier to The Boeing Company for over 23 years.

—For more on this, please visit http://www.gentexcorp.com/default.aspx?pageid=5281.

Cobham Wins U.S. Army Contract

Cobham has been awarded a contract by the U.S. Army to overhaul and upgrade Nitrogen Inerting Units (NIUs) for the AH-64 Apache helicopter. The work will be performed by Cobham Life Support in Davenport, IA. In September 2012, Cobham received a 5-year Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract to manufacture OBISS GS NIUs for U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopters. The award reflects Cobham’s decades of experience in the design, development, delivery, and support of fuel tank inerting systems, ranging from depot repair to equipping and training customers to fully maintaining products at their own facilities.

Meetings Calendar

October 6-10, 2013; 61st International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine (ICASM); Jerusalem, Israel. For more information, please visit http://www.icasm2013.org/.

October 10-13, 2013; Flying Physicians Association Great Lakes Chapter Fall Meeting; Morris Inn, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN. Please visit http://www.fpadrs.org for details and registration information.

October 14-16, 2013; SAFE Association 51st Annual Symposium; Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, NV. Info: http://www.safeassociation.com; Email: safe@peak.org

October 17-20, 2013; Flying Physicians Association Dixie Chapter Fall Meeting; Perdido Beach Hotel, Orange Beach, AL. Please visit www.fpadrs.org for details and registration information.


October 31 - November 3, 2013; Flying Physicians Association Western/Southwest Chapters Joint Fall Meeting (tentative); Fort Worth, TX. Please visit www.fpadrs.org for details and registration information.

November 4-6, 2013; Advanced ATM Symposium and Workshops: Today’s Opportunities for Saving Fuel and Reducing Emissions; Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Run by ICAO in partnership with ACI, CANSO, and IATA. For more information or to register, please visit http://www.icao.int/Meetings/AdvancedATM/Pages/default.aspx.

December 10-12, 2013; Multi-Crew Pilot Licence Symposium; ICAO Headquarters, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For more information or to register, please visit http://www.icao.int/meetings/mlp.

January 23-26, 2014; Flying Physicians Association Winter Board Meeting open to all; Cape Coral, FL. Please visit www.fpadrs.org for details and registration information.

April 1-3, 2014; Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI) colloquium on Postmortem Forensic Toxicology in Aviation; Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma City, OK. For more information, please visit http://www.faa.gov/go/toxmeeting.

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European School of Aviation Medicine

Training courses 2014 for EASA/FAA - Aero Medical Examiners

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Advanced course 23/2

AME class 2
Basic course 24

AME class 1
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Venue: Lufthansa Aeromedical Center
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For Details and Information: www.eregonline.com/WINTER-14

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