President’s Page

“Go not where the path may lead,
but go where there is no path
and leave a trail.”

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our leadership is in place. It’s time to execute the vision.

As the international leader in aviation, space, and environmental medicine, our vision is to see what others don’t and create a pathway for a desired future, one we can’t even begin to imagine. Our mission is to apply and advance scientific knowledge to promote and enhance the health, safety, and performance of those involved in aerospace and related activities. It is truly an exciting time to be at the threshold of such a dynamic mission.

Before I say more, I want to acknowledge our immediate past president, Dr. Bob Weien, and all former leadership for cultivating a solid platform of excellence from which we can now proceed. As you know, we just completed the 81st Annual Scientific Meeting in Phoenix. It was truly a robust networking event, featuring international experts, offering leading edge sessions on a wide variety of topics for anyone interested in furthering the quality of human performance and health in the aerospace environment.

Going forward now, our efforts will launch four key goals related to governance, membership, representation and advocacy, and education and research. Each Vice President will formulate key results areas and strategic objectives for their respective areas of responsibility. Our 14 Committee Chairs will create their operational action plans, complete with metrics that will flow from the broader strategic goals.

These action plans will flow from priority issues that are targeted for immediate action. Together we will:
1. Increase membership, all types, including general, corporate, international, students and residents;
2. Increase revenue and reduce expenses for sound financial and timely fiscal management;
3. Enhance the value in member services and add relevance for our students--they are our future;
4. Leverage contacts with environmentally and occupationally focused market segments;
5. Be proactive and act timely on priority issues for the scientific program;
6. Refine information technology and web-based communication systems;
7. Project a future direction for space medicine.

As for the space program, the challenge here is for us to lead without knowing the answers. We must employ bold strategies, and trust in the power of intellectual argument to generate answers and discover solutions.

In order to ensure operational alignment so that all work efforts contribute meaningfully to the overall mission and goals of AsMA, we need a mechanism that will act as a beacon of light, emitting razor sharp direction, so all can clearly see where we are going, to make sure that we are on track, making progress, and producing results. That mechanism will be a Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC). The committee will begin as an appointed working group and will subsequently be submitted through proper channels to become an official AsMA committee.

It is truly a privilege to work with all returning colleagues and home office staff, who have performed superbly in leadership roles over the years. In addition, I enthusiastically welcome our new journal editor, Dr. Fred Bonato, and our Executive Director, Jeffrey Sventek, who bring new energies and high-level motivations to this outstanding association.

As we begin our work together, I plan to communicate regularly with Council, in brief, informal e-mail messages on issues of relevance to our work efforts. I ask that all members read the monthly President’s message in the Journal. I am writing to each of you, with the intention of fostering your interest and desire to actively participate and contribute to our collective efforts. It is our goal to further the aerospace discipline locally, nationally, and internationally. We will do this with courage, desire, and pride.

Whether you are an active member, a once-upon-a-time member, or not yet a member, you are important to us and we welcome you. Shortly, you will receive a survey via e-mail. It will be our latest official initiative to find out how we can better serve you as members and how we can enhance the value of your membership. I look forward to working with each of you this year. It is truly a privilege to be your President.

You may reach me at president@asma.org or call me at 847-899-8349.

Marian B. Sides, Ph.D.
Meetings Calendar


June 3–5, 2010, Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Tradewind Grand Island Resort, St. Pete's Beach, FL. Info: http://uhms.org

June 5–9, 2010, Associated Professional Sleep Societies LLC, San Antonio, TX. Info: broberts@aasmnet.org; http://www.sleepmeeting.org

July 11–15, Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology Inc., New Orleans, LA, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Info: gwhitaker@apic.org; http://www.apic.org


October 7–9, 2010; CAMA Annual Scientific Meeting; Pensacola, FL. To be held at the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel. Info: http://www.civilavmed.com/Meeting_Events.htm

October 10–14, 2010; 58th International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine; Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. Info: www.icasm2010.com


October 24–28, 2010; American Osteopathic Association's OMED 2010; Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco, CA. Info: http://www.do-online.org/ or contact glapin@osteopathic.org

October 27–30, 2010; XXVII International Meeting of Aerospace Medicine; Dorado Pacifico Hotel, Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico. Info: Luis Amezcua lamezcua@prodigy.net.mx or visit http://www.amma.org.mx


SAFE Call for Papers

48th Annual SAFE Symposium November 8-10, 2010 Town & Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA

Deadline for Abstract Submissions is June 25, 2010.

All 200-word abstracts in the fields of safety, survival, and life support must be submitted electronically in MS Word format to the SAFE Office at safe@peak.org using the form available on the website http://safeassociation.com. The SAFE office will coordinate all review and acceptance.

For further information contact: SAFE Association, Post Office Box 130, Creswell, OR 97426; Phone (541) 895-3012; FAX (541) 895-3014; e-mail safe@peak.org; web site www.safeassociation.com

November 6–10, 2010; 138th Annual Meeting & Exposition of the American Public Health Association; Denver, CO. Info: http://www.apha.org/meetings/

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Jarrett Leads Nurses

Lt. Col. Eleanor (Carolyn) Jarrett, USAFR, NC, was installed as the President of the Aerospace Nursing Society at their annual meeting in Phoenix, AZ, last month.

Lt. Col. Jarrett is Chief, Clinical Operations, Joint Transportation Reserve Unit/954 Reserve Support Squadron, Scott AFB, IL. She has 32 years’ experience as a nurse. She started her career as an LPN at St Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City, MO working for 9 years on Medical-Surgical and Neuro-Surgical Units. While in Kansas City she obtained her 2-year Nursing Degree in 1984 and her BSN from Graceland University, Lamoni, IA, in 1987. Commissioned to faculty position that same year, Lt. Col. Jarrett’s first assignment was at Sheppard AFB, TX, where she was a staff nurse in the Labor and Delivery Unit for 6 years. Then Captain Jarrett served as a primary member on several hospital nursing committees, taught childbirth classes, was a certified instructor for both cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and neonatal resuscitation programs and was selected as eve/night shift supervisor. Her next assignment was as a Flight Nurse at Scott AFB, IL, beginning in 1992. While there she was qualified on the C-9 Nightingale as a medical crew director and logged over 1000 flying hours. Her ground job during this assignment was working as a Flight Clinical Coordinator in the Patient Airlift Center, now known as the Global Patient Movement Requirement Center (GPMRC).

After flying for 4 years, she left active duty and transitioned to the Air Force Reserves in 1996. Lt. Col. Jarrett has been a member of the Joint Transportation Reserve Unit/954th Reserve Support Squadron since 1996, and is the Chief of Clinical Operations. She has deployed in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM twice as a Patient Movement Clinical Coordinator at the Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center (JPMRC) and served 4 years in stateside roles for Operation NOBLE EAGLE coordinating the redistribution of wounded warriors to their homes.

In her civilian life, she taught for 6 years at Penn Valley Community College, Kansas City, MO, in the Nursing Skills Lab, and has also been a traveling nurse for 5 years as well as working in multiple facilities in the San Francisco Bay area. Currently she is serving on active duty at Scott AFB, IL in the GPMRC in support of Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM.

Albano Begins 2-yr Term as USAAMA President

COL, John P. Albano, MC, USA, is the incoming president of the U.S. Army Aviation Medicine Association. He is a U.S. Army flight surgeon with an M.D. from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, an MPH from the University of Texas School of Public Health at San Antonio, and Aerospace Medicine Training at Brooks AFB, TX. COL Albano has over 23 years of combined clinical, research, and academic experience in U.S. Army aerospace medicine. His clinical experience includes general medical practice, air medical evacuation of critical patients, occupational medicine in the aviation environment, aeromedical fitness determinations, and helicopter accident investigations. His research management experience includes aircrew protection, aeromedical device testing, Army systems health hazard analyses, aero-medical policy promulgation, and advanced technology applications in medicine.

He received his BA in biology from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD in 1981. He received a Bachelor's of Medicine in 1983 and his Medical Doctorate in 1985 from University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD. He did his residency in internal medicine at the VA Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD in 1986. From 1987-91 he was a clinical flight surgeon, Aviation Medicine Dept., U.S. Army Medical Center, Ft. Rucker, AL. In 1994 he became a Research Flight Surgeon and served as the Director of the Aircrew Protection Division at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Ft. Rucker.

CAPT Albano was assigned to the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, MD, from August 1998 to July 2001 where he became Chief, Clinical Applications Division. In 2001 he was assigned as Operational Flight Surgeon, 18th MEDCOM, US Army 18th Medical Command, YongSAN, Republic of Korea. Following his international duty as the Regional Aviation Medicine Consultant in the Republic of Korea, he was the Chief of the Aeromedical Education Branch of the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine at Fort Rucker, AL.

Currently, he is the Army Associate Director for the Navy Aerospace Medicine Residency at Pensacola, FL. He is also Army Liaison Officer for AMEDD C&S Student Detachment; Academic Flight Surgeon, Aerospace Medicine Residency; and Army Liaison Officer for USA School of Aviation Medicine. COL Albano’s participation in local, regional, and national activities include: Adjunct Professor at Andrews Paulos Research and Education Institute, University of West Florida, Masters in Public Health, and University of Texas Medical Branch, Masters in Public Health; University of West Florida, Masters in Public Health Steering Committee; and School of Allied Health and Life Sciences Advisory Committee.

His awards include the 2007 Order of Military Medical Merit and the Army Aviation Center Flight Surgeon of the Year for 1989. He is a member of the American Professional Wound Care Association, Aerospace Medical Association, Society of U.S. Army Flight Surgeons, 38TH Parallel Medical Society of Korea.

Northrup to Lead ASAMS

Susan E. Northrup, M.D., M.P.H., is the incoming president of the American Society for Aerospace Medicine Specialists (ASAMS). She is currently FAA Southern Regional Flight Surgeon and the Commander of the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Dobbins ARB in Georgia. She received a B.A. with Honors in Chemistry in 1985 and an M.D. in 1989 from Ohio State University. From 1989 to 1990, she served a 1-year internship in Family Practice medicine at the Ohio State University Hospitals. In 1994, she earned an M.P.H. at the University of Texas, Health Science Center in Houston. Following that she went through residency in aerospace medicine from 1994-1995 and then a Residency in Occupational Medicine from 1995-1996 at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. In 2003, she became an Outstanding Graduate of the Air War College Jump Start Program.

Dr. Northrup joined the U.S. Air Force in 1990, starting as a Flight Surgeon at Moody AFB, GA, from 1990-1993. In 1991, she also served as Chief of Aeromedical Services at AI Kharji AB and Dhabran AB and in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. From 1996-1998, she was the Chief of Aerospace Medicine at Pope AFB, NC, and then became the Chief of Operational Medicine at Bolling AFB, DC, from 1998-2001. From 2001-2009, Dr. Northrup served as Reserve Consultant for the Chief of Clinical Services at HQ AFRC/SGP. She also served as Chief, Reserve Line of Duty Board, from 2005-2009. From 2001 to 2005, Dr. Northrup served as Regional Medical Director, Air Crew and Passenger Health Services, at Delta Air Lines, Inc. She then became a Medical Consultant for the National Pilots Association from 2005-07. Dr. Northrup was also a member of the Air Transportation Association Medical Committee from 2003-2005 and a member of the American Medical Association, the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, and the International Academy of Air and Space Medicine. She is a trustee of the American Board of Preventive Medicine and on their Aerospace Medicine Exam Committee. She was the Education Committee Chair of ASAMS from 2009-2010 and has served on the Executive Council of the Airline Medical Directors Association since 2005-2006. She has also served on the Executive Committee of the Civil Aviation Medical Association from 2003-2008, was the President-Elect and Editor from 2005-2007, and President from 2007-2009. In the Society of USAF Flight Surgeons, she has served on the Reinhartz Committee, the Awards Committee (1995-1997), the Resolutions Committee (1998-2001), and been the Flightlines Editor (1994-1995). She has also been very active in the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA), serving on the Ellingson Award Committee, the Air Transport Medicine Committee, the Leverett Award Subcommittee, and the Space Medicine and

See NORTHRUP, p 618.
Tripp is Next AsHFA President

Lloyd Tripp is the 2010-2011 president of the Aerospace Human Factors Association. Dr. Tripp is an Engineering Research Psychologist at the 711th Human Performance Wing, Air Force Research Laboratory, and Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. He is currently the Scientific Technical Advisor to the Biosciences and Performance Division, responsible for the overall scientific research programs within the Division. Research spans across several disciplines including Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Cognitive Neuroscience. Dr. Tripp is involved with Division level strategic planning that will impact the Air Force’s future warfighting capability. He is the Biosciences and Performance Division lead for the Cognitive Performance Enhancement thrust area and involved with the development of a 30-year research plan and associated product demonstrations. Additionally, he is member of the AFMC/SG Human Performance IPT and is the technical consultant for the acquisition of a Dynamic Flight Simulator Facility (centrifuge). Dr. Tripp is a member of the Technology Protection Working Group and the Human Effectiveness Directorate representative to the AFRLOne Thermal Steering Committee and the Thermal Management STT.

Dr. Tripp has over 25 years of research experience in the area of sustained acceleration. His research focus has included human physiology in hypergravitational environments, G-induced loss of consciousness recovery, G-protection and cognitive performance. This research has culminated in over 90 publications and 5 U.S. Patents. Dr. Tripp has also acted as a consultant to NASA’s Orion program in the areas of human factors and sustainable acceleration. Dr. Tripp has earned a Masters and Ph.D. in Human Factors Psychology from the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Aerospace Medicine Program, Wright State University, Dayton, OH. He is a Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association and Aerospace Human Factors Association. Dr. Tripp has served on the AsMA Program Committee for the past 10 years. He is Past President of the Life Sciences and Biomedical Engineering Branch, Former Secretary Treasurer of the Space Medicine Branch. His awards include the Space Medicine Association’s Young Investigator Award in 1988, Life Sciences Biomedical Engineering Branch’s, Research and Development Innovation Award in 1999, Aerospace Medical Association’s Eric Liljencrantz Award in 2002, Aerospace Physiologist Society’s Paul Bert Award in 2007, and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society’s Jerome H. Ely Award in 2007.

Wheaton Leads AsPS

CDR Thomas J. Wheaton, MSC, USN is the president of the Aerospace Physiology Society for 2010-2011. He currently serves as the Aerospace Safety Officer for Chief of Naval Air Training, Corpus Christi, TX. CDR Wheaton is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO (B.S. in Zoology) and holds a Masters of Science in Community Health from East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

CDR Wheaton entered naval service reporting to Aviation Officer Candidate School, Naval Aviation Schools Command, in Pensacola, FL. He was commissioned into the Medical Service Corps and reported to the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) where he was designated a Naval Aerospace Physiologist in 1984. He served his initial tour at the Aviation Physiology Training Unit (APTU) NAS Cecil Field, FL until 1986. He attended the Naval Postgraduate School Aviation Safety Officer Course prior to reporting for duty at NAS Key West, FL, as Aeromedical Safety Officer (BMO) and the Air Station Aviation Safety Officer. He was recognized as the Outstanding Naval Aerospace Physiologist for 1988.

LT Wheaton then served with the Marine Aircraft Group 12 in Iwakuni, Japan, and served two follow-on Marine Corps tours as AMSO Second Marine Aircraft Wing where he deployed to Norway. His other duty stations include Department Head for ASTC Cherry Point, Detachment East Officer in Charge in Norfolk, VA, and as lead systems engineer for Aircrew Systems at PMA-202, Naval Air Systems Command.

Commander Wheaton has been a member of Aerospace Medicine and the Aerospace Physiology Society since 1986. He was Board Certified in Aerospace Physiology in 2001, and is an Associate Fellow of AsMA. He served the Aerospace Physiology Society as chairman of the Awards Committee, Partnership in Education Committee, and the Social Committee. He served the AsMA committee for Board Certification in Aerospace Physiology for 5 years and chaired it for two years, 2008-2009. He was an AsMA Fellow Group Membership Committee, and currently serves on the AsMA Corporate-Sustainability Committee.


Morgan Leads LSBEB

Thomas R. Morgan, Ph.D. is the 2010-2011 president of the Life Sciences and Biomedical Engineering Branch. He is currently Chief, Aircrf Equipment Development, in the Human Performance Directorate of the 711th Human Systems Wing, Brooks City-Base TX. Dr. Morgan is a graduate of Loyola University of Los Angeles (BS Biology, 1967), earned a Master’s from Creighton University (1969) and a PhD in Physiology from the Medical College of Georgia (1973). He returned to the Medical College of Georgia in 1979-82 for a Post- Doctoral degree in Ophthalmology.

His Air Force career spans more than 36 years of active duty, reserve and (since 2003) civil service. It includes an Exchange Officer posting with the RAF, post-doctoral study under an NIH Research Service Award, and assignments with the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, former Armstrong Laboratory, and currently the Air Force Research Laboratory.

His work in altitude and acceleration research has led to widespread use of new protective means: He shares patents on the first full-coverage anti-G suit (ATAGS), a pressure breathing aircrew respirator (COMBAT ACE), and the first widely used aircrew respirator (AR-5). He received the Aerospace Physiology Society’s Paul Bert Award for research into the protection afforded by positive pressure breathing during G (PBG), and the LSBEB’s Innovation Award for his role in design and development of a system to provide PBG in F-15 and F-16 aircraft (COMBAT EDGE). He subsequently served on life support design teams for the F-22 and F-35, and assisted European teams in development of systems for the Typhoon, Rafale, and Gripen fighters. He is an active member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and is currently teamed with two other members of the LSBEB in building a Zenith CH-701 two-place STOL aircraft.

Jex Heads SUSAFFS

Col. Timothy T. Jex, USAF, MC is the newly appointed president of the Society of US Air Force Flight Surgeons (SUSAFFS). He currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Surgeon General, Healthcare Operations, Office of the Surgeon General, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC. Healthcare operations is responsible for providing oversight of health care programs and provides care to more than 43,100 Airmen and 75 fixed medical treatment facilities, as well as overseeing nearly $5.1 billion of AFMS funding and all AFMS deployed operations.

See JEX, p 619.
A native of Buffalo, NY, Col. Jex attended Brigham Young University where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with a double major in Zoology and Japanese. He entered the Air Force in June 1983 as a distinguished R.O.T.C. graduate. He then earned his medical degree from The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1987 and has served in a variety of command and leadership positions beginning with his first operational tour in 1988 at Wurtsmith AFB, MI. He completed the USAF Residency in Aerospace Medicine in 1997, where he also earned his Master’s Degree in Public Health and dual board certification in Aerospace Medicine and Occupational Medicine. Serving as the USCEN TAF Surgeon from 2001 to 2004, he was the AFFOR Surgeon for Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, and was responsible for the planning and execution of all Air Force medical operations in the CENTCOM AOR during that period.

Colonel Jex is a Chief Flight Surgeon with over 1200 flying hours. His decorations include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, and the Aerial Achievement Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters.

CicconeIncoming SUSNFS President

CAPT Charles A. Ciccone, MC, FS, is the incoming president of the Society of U.S. Naval Flight Surgeons (SUSNFS). He is currently the Director of the Human Performance Directorate at the Naval Operational Medicine Institute. He is a graduate of St. Francis College with a B.S. in Medical Biology (Cum Laude) and the University of New England with a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine. He was selected for Flight Surgeon training, earning his Wings of Gold in February 1986.

CAPT Ciccone next completed his Family Practice Residency at Pensacola Naval Hospital from 1988-1991. He served as SMO and Station Flight Surgeon to NAS Bermuda from 1991-1994, where he performed numerous critical “at-sea” medical evacuations and successful Helicopter Search & Rescue (SAR) missions. He left active service from 1994-1997 and practiced as a Family Physician for a top-rated HMO, the Fallon Clinic. However, he continued as an active drilling Reservist serving with MEDMAG-49 when he was selected as Chief Resident, Aerospace Medicine, and is an ASO graduate of the School of Aviation Safety.

In 2002, CDR Ciccone reported aboard as Senior Medical Officer (SMO) of the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) during Combat Operations for Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2004, he returned to the Naval Hospital Pensacola as the Medical Director of the Branch Health Clinics. He successfully integrated with Escambia County and the State of Florida for contingency operations as Emergency Branch Hospital Emergency response during Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina. He now sits as the Military Representative to the State of Florida for the Strategic Planning Oversight Team (SPOIT) responsible for allocation of federal grants in excess of $100 million. In 2006, he transferred to the Naval Operational Medical Institute in July 2006. In 2008, he deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Director, Branch Clinics for Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF-K), Kuwait.

CAPT Ciccone’s decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Marine Commendation Medal (3 awards), Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2 awards), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service medal, and the Humanitarian Medal. He also has been awarded many Service Ribbons including Navy Unit Commendation and Meritorious Unit Commendation (6 awards).

He is both a Family Medicine and Aerospace Medicine Specialist and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice (FAAFP) and Diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine (DABPM). He is a member of several medical associations, including the Aerospace Medical Association.

Stepanek Leads SMA

The incoming President of the Space Medicine Association (SMA) is Jan Stepanek, M.D. Dr. Stepanek was born in Czechoslovakia. He speaks and reads many languages, including German, French, English, Czech, and Italian. He is currently Medical Director of the Aerospace Medicine Program, and Vice Chair, Division of Preventive, Occupational and Aerospace Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, AZ. In addition, he is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Aerospace Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, an Executive Health Program Physician, an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN, and a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Dr. Stepanek earned his M.D. at Universitaet Basel in Switzerland in 1992, then served in a residency in the Department of Pathology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center from 1993–1994. He also undertook a residency in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, from 1994–1997. From 1997 until 1999, he served a 1-year residency in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine as the Chief Medical Resident. From 2000 until 2002, he was in another residency, this one in Aerospace Medicine, at the University of Texas Medical Branch, UTMB/NASA Preventive Medicine & Community Health. He earned an M.P.H. at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas Medical Branch, in 2002.

Dr. Stepanek served in the Swiss Army from 1989-1993, and in the Swiss Air Force from 1998-2001. When he left the army in 1993, he was Medical Chief of Infirmary at Airolo Mountain Infantry Army Base in Switzerland. From 1998-2002, his service as a Mayo Foundation Scholar, Division of Preventive and Occupational Medicine, at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. From 1998-2000, he was also Head of Aeromedical Research at the Institute of Aviation Medicine, and a Scientific Consultant, Flight Surgeon, for the Swiss Air Force in Duebendorf, Switzerland. From 1998-2005, he served as a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner for the Joint Aviation Authorities, the Swiss Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine, and the Mayo Clinic. 

Dr. Stepanek is an associate member of the Airline Medical Directors Association and the American College of Physicians. He is also an Affiliate Fellow in the Aerospace Medical Association, where he has served as Chair of the Education & Training Committee, a member of the Air Transport Medicine Committee, the Scientific Program Committee, and the History & Archives Committee. Additionally, he is, until 2010, a member of the Air Transport Safety Committee, Chair of the Arrangements Committee for the Annual Scientific Meeting in Phoenix, and a member of the Awards Committee for selection of the Tuttle Award. He served as a Supplement Associate Editor in 2003 for Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine and is currently a member of the Editorial Board and an Associate Editor, Clinical Aerospace Medicine.
From The President's Desk: 
by Nevonna Schroeder

The first Wing function I attended was in Montreal. I arrived on Wednesday afternoon and walked into the registration area when they were closing up the room. Someone (and I really wish I remembered who) took my information and signed me up to attend the Thursday tour. The tour was fun and interesting. While on the tour I was impressed with the friendship apparent among the participants. I was also impressed by the efforts to include me, a new member, into the group. I’ve been privileged to attend all of the meetings since Montreal, and have had the opportunity to make many new friends. These friendships grew primarily through my involvement with Wing activities as a board member. My first “job” with Wing was in Orlando as Hospitality Chair. This responsibility meant I needed to be in the Registration and Hospitality Room as members arrived, giving me the privilege of meeting many new people. My next challenge was as Luncheon Chair in New Orleans. And it was a challenge when the hotel cancelled our plans and we had to start over just months before the meeting! In my role as secretary during Suzie Bellenkes’ presidency, I learned about keeping the Wing organized. Being Arrangements Chair as well as second vice-president in Los Angeles gave me a good lesson in how the Wing Board actually works to put on a great meeting. And now I am your president. I have been under the expert tutelage of Peggy Trumbo & Dale Orford for the past 2 years, and thankfully they will both be available for consultation as we plan for the next meeting which will be in Anchorage, Alaska. As I reflected on my experience with the Wing I became aware of how much I gained by being involved with the planning and execution of meeting activities. One of my goals for my year as president is to increase involvement among new members and among members who have not yet had the opportunity to participate on the board. I believe it is through the active involvement of each member that the organization will grow and prosper.

The Wing is a social organization to promote friendships among spouses of the members of AsMA. Since we become friends as we learn to know one another, I will tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in rural Oklahoma. I met Dave in college and we married after graduation. I worked as a social worker while he attended graduate school. After he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma, we moved to Nebraska for his internship. His clinical work with the Veteran’s Administration took us to Tennessee and then to Kansas. While we were in Tennessee I completed my Master’s in psychology. While in Kansas I completed my basic nursing education, and began working as a psychiatric nurse. During Dave’s graduate school years he had worked for Dr. William Collins at the FAA in Oklahoma City. He maintained his contacts and research there after completing his Ph.D., and eventually returned to work at the FAA in the early 1980’s. We have lived in the Oklahoma City area since. After moving to Oklahoma City I completed my Master’s in nursing and worked as a clinical specialist in psychiatric nursing until retirement 3 ½ years ago. Of course, our life has been more than career. We have two daughters: Taryn, a jewelry designer in Rogers, Arkansas; and Anita, an attorney living in Longare, Italy. We’ve been blessed with seven grandchildren; Keely, Kaity, Bridget, Zoe, Ellie, Sara and Maya, and we enjoy spending time with them whenever possible. Both Dave and I have retired from our career positions, however we find ourselves as busy as ever. Dave likes to keep current in his field, so we continue to enjoy attending professional meetings such as AsMA and ICASM. We have been able to travel quite extensively, not only to attend these meetings, but also to visit places on our “bucket list.” We enjoy traveling with our grandchildren to introduce them to the world. We have also become involved as volunteers in our local community, particularly with the Metropolitan Library System and the United Way. This year I anticipate focusing on organizing our meeting in Anchorage for 2011.

This will be AsMA’s second meeting in Anchorage. Those of us who attended the first meeting there in 2004 remember a great experience. Personally, I am excited about the honor of being your president for our meeting in Anchorage. In 2004, as your honorary president, I had the opportunity to learn something about Anchorage as a meeting site, and about the friendly citizens who welcomed us to their city. Plans are already underway for the site visit in July. We are lucky to have Zulene Simmons, a resident of Clugnak (a suburb of Anchorage) as our Arrangements Chair. She will be our contact person for our subcommittee chairs arranging tours, luncheon, hospitality and reception. Zulene knows the Anchorage area well, and is acquainted with people in the hospitality industry. We have a great group of members who have agreed to serve on the board for the Anchorage meeting, and I am looking forward to working with them to make Anchorage 2011 an outstanding meeting. Zulene and I will participate in the site visit to identify ideal locations for our various activities.

For those of you who have not been to Alaska before, let me encourage you to add some time before or after the meeting to travel beyond Anchorage. We will be there in early May just before the start of peak tourist season. You may want to check out the possibility of flying into Anchorage for the meeting, then cruising south through the Inside Passage and flying home from Vancouver or Seattle. Cruise season usually starts mid-May. Temperatures during this time are often mild, with highs in the 50’s & lows in the high 30’s. Anchorage is the largest city in Alaska with a population of about 283,000. While it is much smaller than many cities in which we hold our meetings, Anchorage has much to offer. Hotels for our meeting will include the Anchorage Hilton, the Captain Cook, and the Marriott. Other quality hotels and B & B’s are also available in the area. Anchorage boasts a number of quality restaurants, and the preparation of fresh, locally caught seafood can’t be beat! Anchorage is located in a spectacular setting boasting acres of parks and miles of trails. The Tony Knowles Coastal Trail follows the Anchorage coastline from downtown to a local park. It is part of a trail system throughout Anchorage. Just be cautious if you encounter one of the 1,600 moose who live in the city of Anchorage. Midway down the trail is Point Woronzof, a great bird-watching area. The trail ends at Kincaid Park, a wooded area with 36 miles of trails, and populated with many animals indigenous to Alaska – be Bear Aware! Anchorage is also a shopper’s paradise, especially if you are looking for a unique fur, native art or jewelry. For an exotic and unusual (okay, expensive) garment, why not buy something made of quiviet (Quiviet is wool gathered from the underbelly of the musk ox, sometimes called the “cashmere of the north.”)

Planning for the meeting in Anchorage has just begun. More details will be provided throughout the year. I am already excited, and I hope you are too! Plan to join us in Anchorage, May 8-12, 2011. See you there!
Inomedic, Inc., Is Newest Corporate

AsMA welcomes Inomedic, Inc., as its newest Corporate Sustaining Member. Inomedic was established in 1994 and provides a range of services, including medical exams, workplace screenings, training, employee assistance programs, and Worker’s Compensation case management.

Inomedic is committed to providing support in the fields of occupational medicine, aerospace medicine, industrial hygiene, sanitation and public health, health physics, and hazardous waste consultation. They have provided programs for NASA’s Langley Research Center and the Kennedy Space Center. In 2007, they received OSHA’s Voluntary Protective Program Star Award for the second time. Inomedic also provides urgent and primary care to Virginia’s Norfolk State University and Civilian Assistance Program services to Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

—For more information on Inomedic, please visit their website at www.inomedic.com.

NASTAR Receives FAA Safety Approval

In April, George Nield, Associate Administrator for the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation, officially declared NASTAR as the first to ever receive FAA Safety Approval designation for their Space Training Programs featuring the STS-400 Space Training Simulator. NASTAR’s Safety Approval benefits the entire Commercial Space Industry by having a pre-approved program to that meets the Crew Qualification and Training Requirements rather than requiring those in the industry to invest time and cost involved in doing it themselves. It also paves the way for other organizations in obtaining launch license approvals quicker. NASTAR FAA Safety Approval approves manned profiles that are within the following parameters: up to 12 Gz and 8 Gx; onset rates up to ± 8 G per second; currently all spaceflight profiles published to date fit within these limits.

—For more info, visit the press release at www.atcusa.com/corp/pressreleases/NR041210.html

NSBRI Develops Shift Work Scheduling Software

Researchers funded by the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) have developed software that uses mathematical models to help astronauts and ground support personnel better adjust to shifting work and sleep schedules, especially for International Space Station astronauts, whose situation is complicated by the fact that they often face schedules that are not uniform. Outside the space program, the software could help people who do shift or night work or who experience jet lag due to travel across time zones.

The software has two components. The Circadian Performance Simulation Software (CPSS) uses complex mathematical formulas to predict how an individual will react to specific conditions. CPSS also allows users to interactively design a schedule, such as shifting sleep/wake times. The second component, the Shifter, then “prescribes” the optimal times in the schedule to use light to shift a person’s circadian rhythm in order to improve performance and predict sleep/wake times during the schedule.

With the basic software program complete, the researchers are now working to individualize the model. They want to determine what personal data are needed in order to provide recommendations for individuals. The software can easily be adapted for use in many occupations. Workers outside the industry that could benefit directly are medical personnel, security or police officers, firefighters, those working in transportation such as long-haul truckers, and power plant operators.

—To find out more, see the press release at www.nsbri.org/NewsPublicOut/Release.ep?r=132

Mayo Awarded Major Grant

The Mayo Clinic has been awarded a major health information technology grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They are one of four institutions to receive a significant research grant as part of the Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects (SHARP) program. Mayo will receive $15 million as part of an overall $60 million awarded. Other awardees include Harvard University, the University of Texas Health Science Center, and the University of Illinois.

Mayo’s role will be to research and advance methods for using electronic medical records for such additional purposes as medical research, while also “maintaining privacy and security.” Mayo has been a pioneer in adopting the electronic medical record (Mayo has had paperless records since 2007) and an innovative leader in using medical records to advance research. The government announcement says the research will involve interdisciplinary efforts among researchers, health care providers, and the technology industry. The goal is to integrate findings into medical practice quickly across the nation.

—More information can be found at www.mayoclinic.org/news/2010-0rst/5728.html

Baxter Announces Data from Gammagard Study

Baxter International Inc. and New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center today announced results of an 18-month Phase II clinical study of Gammagard liquid and Gammagard S/D [Immunoglobulin Intravenous (Human)] (marketed as Kiovig outside of the U.S.) for mild-to-moderate Alzheimer’s disease. This marked the first announcement of clinical trial results measuring function and cognition in patients who received untreated Gammagard. The study involved 78 patients for a period of 18 months. The study measured function using the Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study-Clinical Global Impression of Change rating (ADCS-CGIC) and measured cognition using the Alzheimer’s Disease Assessment Scale-Cognitive Subscale score (ADAS-Cog).

After 18 months, patients (N = 14) who received Gammagard continuously declined by approximately 9.15 fewer ADAS-Cog points than patients (N = 6) who initially received placebo (approximately 6 point decline vs. 15 point decline, P = 0.013). The data are being presented at the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) annual meeting in Toronto by the principal investigator for the trial.

Baxter plans to initiate a second, concurrent Phase III study of Gammagard for mild-to-moderate Alzheimer’s disease to confirm the Phase II results in more patients. The Phase II results represent the first study in Alzheimer’s disease where all three measures—cognitive, functional and neuroimaging—had positive data and were statistically significant. In addition to the ongoing Phase III trial studying Gammagard liquid in Alzheimer’s disease, Baxter is currently enrolling patients into a Phase III trial studying Gammagard liquid in chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) planned to begin later this year.

—For more information, please visit www.baxter.com/press_room/press_releases/2010/04_13_10_gammagard.html

Wyle Supports New Training Platform

The U.S. Naval Test Pilot School is integrating an important airborne systems training tool into a new aircraft platform expected to significantly reduce cost and increase mission success with help from Wyle engineering and technical experts. Wyle, as a subcontractor to Calspan, is providing engineering and software expertise and aircrew support for incorporation of the Airborne Systems Training and Research Support (ASTARS) system into a new aircraft delivered to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in February. The ASTARS system is an integral and unique tool in the test pilot school’s airborne systems curriculum. The training is designed to expose test pilots, naval flight officers and test engineers to avionics mission systems and hands-on instruction for test and evaluation.

The aircraft, which will be flown by Wyle and Calspan pilots, will first undergo instructor familiarization flights before student flights take place. Wyle has supported the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School for more than 30 years, providing as many as seven flight instructors and supporting all three of the school’s curricula including fixed wing, rotary wing, and airborne systems. Wyle’s flight instructors currently perform in-flight, classroom, and laboratory instruction.

—To read more, please visit www.wylelabs.com/news/2010/04-22-10.html
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AME class 1
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Aviation Medicine/Travel Medicine
Diploma course 19 – 27 March 2011

FAA-Refresher 26 – 29 August 2010

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ECAM

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Susan P. Baker has been awarded the 2010 Frank A. Calderone Prize from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, its highest honor. She was recognized as a pioneer in injury prevention and for bringing injury prevention to the forefront of public health and policy. She is currently a professor of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is one of the founders of the Center for Injury Research and Policy there. Her research was central in the establishment of child passenger protection and graduated driver licensing laws. She also focuses on areas such as aviation, motorcycle, and heavy truck fatalities, carbon monoxide poisoning, drowning, falls in the elderly, and fatal occupational injuries. She is a Fellow of AsMA and has received the 2005 John Paul Stapp Award and the 2010 Harry G. Moseley Award.

Michael A. Berry, M.D., M.S., was installed as the President of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine at the International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine, held in Zagreb, Croatia, in September 2009. His father was also President of the Academy from 1973 to 1975 and this is the only time a father and son have been President. Dr. Berry’s current position is Manager of the Medical Specialties Division at FAA Headquarters in Washington, DC. He is a Past President and Fellow of AsMA and has received its Julian E. Ward Award and the John A. Tamisiea Award. He is also a member of the Space Medicine Association, the Society of U.S. Air Force Flight Surgeons, and the Society of NASA Flight Surgeons.

Laura M. Drudi, an M.D. candidate at McGill University, was recently selected to participate in the 2010 NASA Academy at Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, CA. She was 1 of 11 students chosen out of about 620 applications.

CAPT David Shively, USN, of Hanford, CA, formerly the XO at Quantico Naval Health Clinic in Quantico, VA, has transferred and is now the CO at Naval Hospital Lemoore at the Naval Air Station in Lemoore, CA.

New Members
Arnold, Richard D., Ph.D., Pensacola, FL
Avila Borjas, Samuel E., M.D., Fairborn, OH

Deroose, Patrick, R.N., Trevoise, PA
Fleischer, Helmut, Lt.Col., M.D., Litchfield Park, AZ
Glushak, Cai, M.D., Chicago, IL
Gould, Ryan K., LT, MC, USN, Oak Harbor, WA
Gray, Jon R., M.D., M.P.H., Pensacola, FL
Harji, Rayaz G., M.D., Calgary, AB, Canada
Jackson, Andrea, M.D., Greenwich, IL
Langille, Heather I., M.D., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Lipsett, Mark A., M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D., Fort Alberni, BC, Canada
Litch, Brian M., D.O., Mount Clemens, MI
Otto, Christian A., M.D., Houston, TX
Reddix, Michael D., Cdr., USN, Colorado Springs, CO
Rehner, Lucas, Fleet, Hampshire, UK
Ruel, Kelly, M.D., San Antonio, TX
Takahashi, Hajime, Ota-Ku, Tokyo, Japan
VanPerbandt, Henning, Maj., GAF, M.D., Schweabmunchen, Germany
Zhang, Jianzhong, Lt.Col., USAF, El Segundo, CA

AMSRO Scholarship Winner
Sasirajan Jeevarathinam, M.B.B.S., M.D., is the 2010 recipient of the Aerospace Medical Students and Residents Organization (AMSRO) Scholarship which offers a travel stipend to students and residents for attending an aerospace medicine meeting of their choice.

Dr. Jeevarathinam plans to use the award to attend the 58th International Conference of Aviation and Space Medicine (ICASM) 2010 to be held in Singapore from 10-14th October, 2010.

Currently a postgraduate student seeking a Diploma in Aviation Medicine, King’s College, London, he earned his M.B.B.S. from Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital, Chennai, India, and his M.D. (Aviation Medicine) from Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bangalore, India.

In addition to the AMSRO award, Dr. Jeevarathinam has also received the President’s Gold Medal 2009, presented by the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine for securing first rank in M.D. (Aviation Medicine) at the university level; International ISSLS (The International Society for the Study of Lumbar Spine) Fellowship Award 2009; International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine (IAASM) Aviation Medicine Award 2008; and the A-MERIT (Aerospace Medicine Education and Research Initiative) Award 2008 for the best scientific paper including sponsorship to present the paper at the 79th AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, MA in May 2008.

He is a member of the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM), Aerospace Medical Association, Aerospace Medicine Student and Resident Organization, and Association of Aviation Medical Examiners (AAME).

In Memoriam:
David G. Simons
David G. Simons, M.D., who held the free balloon flight record of over 10,000 ft, died in April. A native of Pennsylvania, he earned a B.S. degree from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, in 1943 and an M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1946. He completed the advanced course in aviation medicine to become a flight surgeon at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine in 1950 and became a Diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, Aviation Medicine, in 1957. Dr. Simons entered the U.S. Air Force in 1947, serving at the USAF Aeromedical Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. From 1950-1952, he was Flight Surgeon, Fort
East Air Force, and Base Surgeon at Yakota AFB. In 1953, he became Chief of the Space Biology Branch at the AF Missile Development Center at Holloman AFB, NM, where he was part of the Man High Project, during which he made a historic flight into the upper atmosphere to 101,516 ft. During that flight, he conducted experiments, made observations, collected data, and took pictures. He remained aloft for more than 32 hours. He later described that flight in “Man High,” a book co-written with Don A. Schanche in 1960. Later he developed methods of measuring physiological responses to stress which lead to portable multi-channel personal telemetry systems that could record brain waves, respiration, heart beat, and skin resistance changes.

In 1959, he became the Chief of the Department of Biodynamics, Space Medicine Division, at Brooks AFB, TX. He then served as Chief of the Biocommunications section, Biosystems Research Division, at the School of Aerospace Medicine from 1961-1962. In 1962, he was made Chief of the Flight Medicine Branch, Aerospace Medical Sciences Division, at Brooks AFB. He retired from the Air Force in 1965 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

From 1965 to 1971, Dr. Simons served as Program Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for the Veterans Administration in Washington, DC. He also served as Director of Physiometrics Research Laboratory at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, TX, an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and as a member of the Consultant Staff at the Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research in Houston. From 1972-1974, he was a resident in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and earned an M.S. degree there in 1974. In that same year, he became an active member of the American Association of Electromyography and Electodiagnosis. In 1974, he became a member of the staff at the Rehabilitation Medicine Service at the VA Hospital in Long Beach, CA, and also served as an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of California in Irvine. Along with Janet G. Travell he co-authored “Myofascial Pain and Dysfunction: The Trigger Point Manual” (1983), which became a standard work on the subject.

Dr. Simons awards included being co-recipient of the Arnold D. Tuttle Award from the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) in 1954, the Distinguished Flying Cross from the USAF in 1957, the Lighter-Than-Air Achievement Award for 1957 from the Wingfoot Lighter-Than-Air Society, the Melbourne W. Boynton Award of the American Astronautical Society in 1958, the John J. Jeffries Award of the Institute of Aeronautical Science in 1958, an Aerospace Medicine Honor Citation from the American Medical Association in 1962, and the Hubertus Strughold Award from the Space Medicine Association in 1968. He was a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine and the AsMA and a member of various professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the New York Academy of Science, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Obituary Listing: George Zinnemann

George Zinnemann, Col.(ret.), USAF, MSC, died in March. A native of Austria, he came to the United States in 1938 and joined the U.S. Army in 1941, shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After World War II, he was an assistant administrator at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York until he re-joined the military 3 years later as a member of the Air Force Medical Service Corps. He served in a variety of positions including Executive Officer of the U.S.A. Typhus Commission, Assistant to the Director of Research at the USAF School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph AFB, and as Executive Officer of the Aerospace Medical Panel of AGARD.

Zinnemann retired from active duty in 1975. His last assignment was as administrator of the Malcolm Grow USAF Medical Center at Andrews AFB, MD.

His awards included the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the U.S.A. Typhus Commission Medal.

He was a Fellow of the Aerospace Medicine Association and was one of the local members who would come to AsMA headquarters to “count ballots”. He also served on the AsMA Exhibits Committee, the International Reception Committee, and the International Activities Committee. He was also a member of the American Medical Writers Association and published numerous articles on aerospace medicine in a variety of journals such as Aerospace Medicine, the USAF Medical Service Digest, and Military Medicine.

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