President’s Farewell

Since our 2005 AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting in Kansas City, so much has been done by so many of you in the Society. At the culmination of what I have termed “year of the Society By-Laws revision,” I am pleased to have been Society President and served with and become closer friends with such top-quality individuals. Many of you have provided sterling support for a multitude of noble causes, including support for the Global War on Terrorism and sorely needed humanitarian relief efforts in support of victims of natural disasters, at home and abroad. You have served not only as scholars and leaders, but as exemplary patriots and responsible citizens. What you have done as aerospace physiologists and as human beings truly has made a difference.

I hope you enjoyed your association with your fellow Society members throughout the year and, particularly, at the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando. The Society’s impact was evident through its sponsorship of the superb two-session Education and Training Day panel presentations on Incorporation of Science and Technology to Counter Physiological Threats in Operational Environments, the traditionally outstanding Society Luncheon, Society Awards presentations (including presentation of our own Society-sponsored Partnership in Education Award), and the Smith-Ames Lecture. I appreciate the professionalism, expertise, and selfless contributions of our Society officers, committee chairs and committee members, as well as session chairs and presenters. I would like to thank all those members who volunteered to take on expanded roles in the Society this year and congratulate our newly elected officers to the Society’s Board of Governors. Details of the awards winners and Society officer elections will be published in future editions of Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine. Also, I express my deepest gratitude to those who were responsible for the Society Social, providing us with the opportunity to renew associations and friendships and partake of good food and even better fellowship.

I heartily applaud those who achieved Certification in Aerospace Physiology - wear your pins proudly - and appreciate the hard work of those who chaired and served on the Certification Board. I also congratulate our members elected as new AsMA officers, AsMA committee members, Associate Fellows, and Fellows. Lastly, I express my deep-felt appreciation for those who are the corporate sponsors of our Society awards: David Clark Company, Inc. (Smith Ames Lecture), Gentex Corporation (Wiley Post Award), International ATMO, Inc. (Fred A. Hitchcock Award), and Wyle Laboratories (Paul Bert Award). The Society is forever indebted to your support of our awards program.

Finally, without reservation, I hand the Society President’s gavel to our new President and my long-time acquaintance and personal friend, Mr. Joe Zellers. Joe’s Air Force and corporate experience and his long-standing service to AsMA and the Society assure the Society is in good hands for the coming year.

Intruder out.

James W. Dooley, Col, USAF, BSC, CAsP
President, AsPS, 2005-06

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Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine • Vol. 77 No. 6 • June 2006 673
Special Issuance Medical Certification Process

At a recent meeting at FAA headquarters in Washington attended by government, AsMA and CAMA members, industry, and general aviation representatives, the newly appointed Federal Air Surgeon Dr. Frederick Tilton announced significant developments in the processing of Special Issuance medical certifications. Special issuance medical certification is required when an aviator does not meet the published medical standards, but is judged safe to fly with adequate documentation of a medical condition and implementation of appropriate follow-up requirements. The FAA’s visionary leadership and its willingness to consider certification in previously disqualifying conditions, including insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, has resulted in a processing load of approximately 25,000 Special Issuance medical certificates annually. This certification burden has taxed the limited resources of the Aerospace Medical Certification Division (AMCD) in Oklahoma City, affecting timely processing of certificates. Dr. Tilton put forth steps being planned and implemented to remedy the situation including consideration of changes in periodicity of examinations (potentially extending the certifying validity), increased delegation of authority for well qualified aviation medical examiners (AMEs) to render aeromedical decisions, rule changes to allow AMEs to make special issuance decisions (authority is now limited to the FAA by rule), and an expanded list of AME Assisted Special Issuance (AASI) conditions. The list of conditions has recently been expanded from 20 to 35. The AASI program allows the AME to authorize recurrent medical certification of Special Issuance medical certificates for periods of up to 6 years following initial certification by AMCD. Dr. Tilton invites the support of CAMA, AsMA, and others in bringing awareness of the AASI process to AMEs. Collectively, the measures put forth by Dr. Tilton should greatly enhance the timely processing of Special Issuance medical certificates for U.S. civil aviators. CAMA applauds Dr. Tilton and his staff!

The AME Assisted Special Issuance, or AASI, allows AMEs to provide interim certification of selected disqualifying conditions. The initial special issuance package must be submitted and approved by the FAA. If granted an AASI, the airman and AME of record will receive an instruction letter with specific requirements to permit the AME to continue issuing medical certificates. In general, the airman will need to provide interim reports annually to the AME either during the mid-portions of their examination cycle or in conjunction with his or her medical examination. The interim reports are submitted as usual to AMCD who will perform oversight of the program. AASIs are time limited. The FAA will re-certify the case every 6 years stipulated in the initial special issuance. The current list of AASI allowable conditions for any class is:

- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Bladder Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Colitis (Ulcerative or Crohn’s)
- Colon Cancer
- Diabetes on oral medication
- Glaucoma
- Heart Murmur
- Hepatitis C
- Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- Hyperthyroidism
- Hypothyroidism
- Lymphoma
- Melanoma
- Migraine syndrome
- Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation
- Paroxysmal Atrial Tachycardia
- Prostate Cancer
- Renal Cancer
- Sleep Apnea
- Testicular Cancer
- Urolithiasis

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The next group is for Third-class medical certification only:

- Angina Pectoris
- Myocardial Infarction
- Coronary Artery disease with PTCA, Stent, Brachtherapy, Rotablation, Atherectomy, CABG
- Mechanical and Tissue Valve Replacement

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FAA-AME Seminar 2006 Schedule

AME Seminars are offered by the FAA. The following is the schedule for the rest of 2006. N/NP/P = neurology/neuropsychology/psychiatry, AP/HF = aviation physiology/human factors, O/O/E = ophthalmology/otolaryngology/endocrinology.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 12-16</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>Basic*</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14-16</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>N/NP/P+</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4-6</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>AP/HF+</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11-15</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>Basic*</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22-24</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>O/O/E+</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 11-15</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>Basic*</td>
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* This is a 4-1/2 day seminar which prepares physicians to be designated as Aviation Medical Examiners. Contact your Regional Flight Surgeon for more information (to find your Regional Flight Surgeon, visit http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/medical_certification/rfs/index.cfm).

† This is a 2-1/2 day AME seminar consisting of 12 hours of AME-specific subjects plus 8 hours of subjects related to a designated theme. For more information or to register, call the AME Programs office in Oklahoma City at 405-954-4830 or 4258.

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- Tony Evans, M.D., ICAO
- Clayton Cowl, M.D., Mayo Clinic
- Frederick Tilton, M.D., U.S. Federal Air Surgeon
- Douglas Ivan, M.D., U.S. Air Force Aviation Ophthalmologist
- John Hastings, M.D., FAA Neurology Consultant
- Mike Muhm, M.D., Boeing Corporation
- David Bryman, D.O., CAMA President
- AND MANY MORE

There will also be a full social agenda!
Please Join Us!

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