



# Ever Upward: October 2018

## Belland Named American's Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Kris Belland, a Past President and Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA), has been named American Airlines Chief Medical Officer. His role ensures the highest quality medical advice while safeguarding patient confidentiality. He will take over immediately for Dr. Jeral Ahtone, who served as American's corporate medical director since 2010.



Working closely with the Safety and People teams, Dr. Belland will provide medical leadership and clinical oversight for all Premise clinics and will work both internally and externally with other teams such as the Go Team. He'll also be in contact with governmental agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Homeland Security, on medical issues affecting our team members and customers.

Dr. Belland recently retired from the U.S. Navy and was one of a small group of flight surgeons who also earned Naval Aviator pilot status. In addition to being awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation and Navy Achievement Medals, he also was awarded a Strike Flight Air Medal for flying 25 combat missions over Iraq. The Society of U.S. Naval Flight Surgeons honored him with both the Richard Leuhrs Flight Surgeon of the Year Award for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in 1994 and the Sonny Carter Memorial Award in 2000. The Aerospace Medical Association bestowed the Theodore C. Lyster Award on him in 2009.

Dr. Belland holds a doctorate degree in Osteopathic Medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, a master's degree in Strategic Studies from U.S. Air Force Air War College, a Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University and a master's degree in Public Health from Uniformed Services University. He served as President of the International Association of Military Flight Surgeon Pilots from 2007–2009 and serves on several of the AsMA's committees.

## New Members

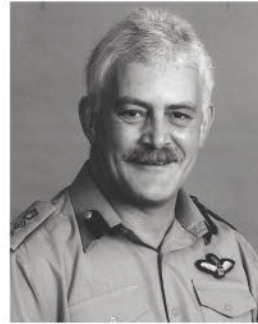
*The Association welcomes 16 new members in October.*

- Babocs, Dora; Szeged, Hungary
- Berneking, Michael; Constantine, MI, United States
- Grimes, Kent; El Paso, TX, United States
- Jordan, Melissa; Phoenix, AZ, United States
- Joseph, Anuoluwapo; Doha, Qatar
- Jung, David; Honolulu, HI, United States
- Komen, Helga; Saint Louis, MO, United States
- Lattimore, Morris, Ph.D.; Ozark, AL, United States
- Richard, Patricia; Fairfield, CT, United States

- Rieglemar, Kelly; Ft. Walton Beach, FL, United States
- Roberson, James; Nashville, TN, United States
- Silvia, Kristin; Palm Bay, FL, United States
- Svensson, Anders; Linka-Ping, Sweden
- Villalobos, Tatiana; Briarwood, NY, United States
- Wada, Shinji; Chiba, Japan
- Wagner, Anushri; Christianburg, VA, United States

## In Memoriam: Col. Malcolm Braithwaite

AsMA was saddened to learn of the death of Col. Malcolm Braithwaite, OBE, in September. He was the recipient of the 2004 Kent K. Gillingham Award from the Aerospace Medical Association for his research and influence regarding the dangers of spatial disorientation. He was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1972 as a medical student. He received his medical degree in 1975 from Birmingham University and then served for 5 years as a Regimental Medical Officer and family practitioner in



the Far East and Germany. He transferred to Army Aviation Medicine in 1981 and following military helicopter pilot training, completed his specialist training in 1989.

While on active duty as a military pilot, Col. Braithwaite became interested in the reasons behind helicopter mishaps blamed on pilot spatial disorientation. He accepted a position as the U.K. Exchange Research Flight Surgeon at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory (USAARL) in Ft. Rucker, AL, from 1995–1997, where he was the Spatial Disorientation Principal Investigator and was the team leader for that activity. While in that post, he developed a standardized in-flight demo of spatial disorientation that is still used today by both U.S. and U.K. aircrews and has been accepted by Turkish and Canadian forces. He was the co-inventor and developer of a new type of cockpit flight instrument display that has been successfully assessed in the UH-60 helicopter and simulator.

In 1998, Col. Braithwaite proposed a new project group on spatial disorientation to the five-nation ASCC Working Party 61. His proposal was accepted, and representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand met to develop aircrew standards related to spatial disorientation training and interoperability issues that have helped reduce the number of mishaps in both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft. In addition, his professional responsibilities included advising commanders and military staff on many aviation medicine operational matters.

Col Braithwaite was a research medical officer at the Royal Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine, Farnborough, UK. He also contributed to the work of the U.S. Triservice Working Group on Situational Awareness and Spatial

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Disorientation. He taught the Diploma in Aviation Medicine course, the U.K. Operational Aviation Medicine course, and was a frequent presenter at national and international medical and technical meetings. He had over 15 presentations at the annual Aerospace Medical Association meetings since 1995 and 6 articles in *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*, as well as contributing to a new textbook entitled *Spatial Disorientation in Aviation*.

Col. Braithwaite was an examiner for the Diploma in Aviation Medicine of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians. He was a past president of the International Association of Military Flight Surgeon Pilots, which attained constituency status within AsMA during his tenure. In 1998, he was appointed as the Consultant Advisor in Aviation Medicine to the Director General Army Medical Services.

### In Memoriam: G. Frederick "Fred" Kelly, M.D.

AsMA was saddened to hear of the death of Glenn Frederick "Fred" Kelly, M.D. A native of Baton Rouge, LA, he trained in Aerospace Medicine in Naval pre-flight training and in courses preparing for an aeronautical engineering degree from 1945-1946. He left the Navy in 1946 to study medicine and earned his M.D. at the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA, in 1951. From 1951-1952, he served a rotating internship at U.S. Naval Hospital in Pensacola, FL, and then undertook more training and research at the U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine in Pensacola in 1952. He became a Flight Surgeon in late 1952 at Mobile RASRON 121 Vieques in Puerto Rico and also opened a General Practice.

In 1955, he took the position of Flight Surgeon at Hickam AFB, HI, and then became a Student Naval Aviator in 1957 in Pensacola. From 1958 to 1961, he served as Head of the Biomedical Division, Life Sciences Department, at the Naval

Missile Center, Pt. Mugu, CA. In 1961 until 1963, he was a Flight Surgeon/Aviator at CVG-4 in Jacksonville, FL. He was transferred to the USS *Lexington* in 1963, where he served as Senior Medical Officer. In 1964, he became Supervisory Aerospace Medical Officer at NASA in Houston, TX, where, in 1967, he was one of the physicians who dealt with the aftermath of the Apollo 1 fire. During his career, he also served the Royal Saudi Air Force. He later became an author, writing "The Fourth Generation," and "Indestructible." He also served as a consultant to the Aeromedical Training Wing of the Egyptian Air Force for Krug International.

Dr. Kelly was certified in Aerospace Medicine in 1968 by the American Board of Preventive Medicine. He was an Aviation Medical Examiner and became a Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association in 1959. He published over 12 papers, 2 abstracts, and had 5 unpublished reports. His honors included the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and he twice received the NASA Group Achievement Medal.

### Perlan 2 Breaks High-Altitude Flight Record

On the heels of AsMA's meeting in Dallas and the Bauer Lecture, "High Altitude Physiology Without an Engine," comes the success of the Perlan 2 flight. The Perlan 2 is an experimental glider which, on September 2, reached 76,100 ft (~23,195 m; more than 14 miles up). This flight marks the first time an unpowered aircraft, or any aircraft other than a spy plane, has reached this altitude. It breaks the record set by a previous Perlan 2 flight, which reached 65,600 ft (~19,995 m). Morgan Sandercock, the Bauer Lecturer this past May, works on the Perlan project in all aspects, from initial configuration and design to the construction of the life support systems and piloting the glider in Argentina. To read the complete article about the Perlan 2 flight, please visit <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/experimental-glider-smashes-record-high-altitude-flight-ncna907586>.

## NEWS OF CORPORATE MEMBERS

### NIOSH Seeks Nominations for STC

The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program, administered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), is requesting nominations for candidates to serve on the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). Members from the following categories are being sought: environmental medicine or environmental health specialist; occupational physician who has experience treating WTC rescue and recovery workers; physician with expertise in pulmonary medicine; representative of WTC responders; and representatives of certified-eligible WTC survivors. Appointments to the STAC are for up to 3 years. Nominations are due by November 16, 2018. Further information on how to submit nominations is available in the [Federal Register announcement](#).

—Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-09-13-18.html> to read more on this.

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### KBRwyle Employees Honored with NASA Awards

NASA recently recognized numerous KBRwyle employees during 2018 Honor Awards ceremonies at its Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, TX, on Aug. 28 and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL, on Aug. 22. These various awards are amongst the highest recognition available to a contractor. At the JSC ceremony, five KBRwyle employees were presented with NASA's Exceptional Public Service Medals. These medals are presented to non-government employees for sustained performance and multiple contributions to NASA programs, projects or initiatives. Other employees were awarded the Exceptional Public Achievement Award, the Exceptional Scientific Achievement Award, and the Silver Achievement Medal. One of KBRwyle's teams won the Group Achievement Award.

—For the full announcement of the awards and honorees, please visit <https://kbr.com/about/newsroom/articles/kbrwyle-employees-honored-at-nasa-center-award-ceremonies>.

See 'Corporate News,' p. N65

## Mayo Clinic Reports Widespread Resident Physician Burnout

Resident physician burnout in the U.S. is widespread, with the highest rates concentrated in certain specialties, according to research from Mayo Clinic, OHSU, and collaborators. The findings appeared in the September issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Physician burnout is a dangerous mix of exhaustion and depersonalization that contributes to physicians making mistakes while administering health care. The study found 45% of respondents experienced at least one major symptom of burnout, with those in urology, neurology, emergency medicine, and general surgery at the highest risk. Regardless of specialty, high levels of anxiety and low levels of empathy reported during medical school were associated with burnout symptoms during residency. Other burnout studies have focused on physicians-in-practice. This was the first national study to longitudinally follow medical trainees from the beginning of medical school into residency to explore predictors of burnout.

—Please see <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/nearly-half-of-resident-physicians-report-burnout/> to read the full article.

## SAA Partners with NetFlorist

South African Airways (SAA), announced a new partnership for SAA Voyager, a frequent flyer loyalty program, with NetFlorist, South Africa's largest floral gifting service. Voyager members can now use their SAA Voyager Miles to pay for that next bunch of flowers, quirky personalized gift, or box of chocolates off the e-commerce platform. For as little as 5000 Voyager miles (equivalent to R200 or ~\$14.00 U.S.), members can surprise loved ones with flower arrangements, bespoke jewelry, scrumptious hampers, personalized gifts including gowns and wine, or even cupcake treats from the NetFlorist Bakery. SAA Voyager is Africa's first revenue-based airline loyalty program that offers members miles based on the ticket price purchased, rather than the distance travelled.

—Please visit <https://www.flysaa.com/about-us/leading-carrier/media-center/media-releases/newsroom#> for more.

### MEETINGS CALENDAR

**Oct. 1-5, 2018;** 69th Annual Astronautical Congress; Bremen, Germany. Please visit <https://www.iac2018.org/> for more. For more on the open 'public day' on Oct. 3, see <https://www.iac2018.org/program/public-day/>.

**Oct. 17-18, 2018;** 9th International Conference on Epidemiology & Public Health; Las Vegas, NV. For more, please visit <https://epidemiology-publichealth.conferenceseries.com/>.

**Oct. 17-19, 2018;** 1st International Congress on Issues of Aviation Medicine; Sheremetyevo airport, Aeroexpress terminal, Corporate University AO, Moscow. For more information, please visit [www.avam-avia.ru](http://www.avam-avia.ru).

**Nov. 7-9, 2018;** Australian Aviation Psychology Association (AAvPA) 2018 Symposium; Crowne Plaza Hotel in Coogee, Sydney, Australia. For more information, please visit <http://www.aavpa.org/read/2254/2018-aavpa-symposium-november-2018-sydney.html>.

## Corporate News Bites

**UTMB:** One of UTMB's doctors has been chosen to receive the Texas Chapter of the ACP's Laureate Award. Additionally, several of their faculty are the co-authors of chapters in the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of "Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine." For more on these, please visit <https://www.utmb.edu/internalmedicine/news-events>.

**AOPA:** The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) has removed two airports from its Airport Access Watch List. Both Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport and Heber Valley Airport have been removed from the watch list after making improvements. To read more on this, please visit <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2018/september/19/two-airports-turn-to-competition-to-temper-prices-and-improve-service>.

**ALPA:** The Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA, Int'l), sent a letter in mid-September to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation detailing their plan to inspire young people to become airline pilots and provide air service to small and rural communities while maintaining the extraordinary level of aviation safety that U.S. passengers and shippers expect and demand. ALPA's policy solutions include making it easier for veterans to become pilots, encouraging women to become pilots, and ensuring that students can afford to become pilots. To read more on this, please visit <http://www.alpa.org/news-and-events/newsroom/2018-09-12-alpa-unveils-plan>.

**APA:** The Allied Pilots Association (APA) recently cited the need to bolster the pilot profession to attract future aviators. The importance of maintaining the current minimum first officer training and qualification requirements was also emphasized. To see the complete press release, please visit <https://www.alliedpilots.org/News/ID/6304/Allied-Pilots-Association-Bolster-the-Pilot-Profession-to-Attract-Future-Aviators>.

**AMAS:** Dr. Quay Snyder of the Aviation Medicine Advisory Service (AMAS) attended the ALPA Air Safety Forum in late July. He participated on two panels. To read more, please visit <https://www.aviationmedicine.com/amas-notams/latest-amas-news/>.

**MedAire:** MedAire was the focus of an article in *Professional Pilot* in mid-September. The article discusses Joan S. Garrett, who founded MedAire, and talks about how training laypeople in providing initial medical care could help save lives. The article can be found at <http://propilotmag.com/emergency/>.

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**LinkedIn:** [https://www.linkedin.com/company/2718542?trk=tyah&trkInfo=tarId:1404740611720,tas:Aerospace Medical,idx:1-1-1](https://www.linkedin.com/company/2718542?trk=tyah&trkInfo=tarId:1404740611720,tas:Aerospace%20Medical,idx:1-1-1)

### Submit an abstract for the annual meeting!

The NEW abstract submission site is open. Visit the [Abstract Submission page](#) for more information.

**Deadline is November 1, 2018. NO EXCEPTIONS!**