



# Ever Upward: August 2020

## AsMA Cancels 2020 Annual Meeting

For the first time since 1945, near the end of World War II, the Aerospace Medical Association has cancelled its annual scientific meeting. Concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic led the Council to discuss this difficult decision out of an abundance of caution and the need to keep our members safe. Atlanta, GA, started its five-phase reopening plan on April 24, 2020. Phase 1 metrics were met and the city entered Phase 2 on June 1, 2020. However, Atlanta was not able to maintain the Phase 2 metrics and the Atlanta Mayor returned the city to Phase 1 (Stay at Home) on July 10, 2020. According to the Atlanta Reopening Plan, small public gatherings with appropriate physical distancing is allowed in Phase 3, medium public gatherings with appropriate physical distancing is allowed in Phase 4, and large public gatherings with appropriate physical distancing is allowed in Phase 5.

A few weeks ago, Pam Day sent out a survey on behalf of the AsMA Scientific Program Committee to all with accepted scientific abstracts for the May 2020 meeting. Authors were asked if they would: (1) present their paper at the October meeting in Atlanta; (2) record their presentation prior to the October meeting and upload for presentation during the meeting in Atlanta; (3) resubmit their abstract for the 2021 AsMA meeting in Reno, NV; or (4) withdraw their scientific abstract. As of July 28, 2020, approximately 40% of the abstract authors had responded. Here are the results:

- **Posters: 48 responses from 68 possible**
  - 10 willing to present in Atlanta
  - 23 resubmit for 2021
  - 5 withdrawn
- **Slides: 72 responses from 147 possible**
  - 32 willing to present in Atlanta
  - 10 willing to record their presentations
  - 27 resubmit for 2021
  - 3 withdrawn
- **Panels: 87 responses from 251 possible**
  - 46 willing to present in Atlanta
  - 21 willing to record their presentations
  - 23 resubmit for 2021
  - 7 withdrawn

Based upon this information, the AsMA Council met via Zoom on July 28, 2020, to discuss how to proceed in these unprecedented times. The Council's top priority was to ensure the health and safety of anyone who participates in the October Annual Scientific Meeting. The fact that on July 28, 2020, the city of Atlanta was still in Phase 1 of the reopening plan did not provide Council members with solid evidence the city would be in Phase 3, 4, or 5 by early October. Another major concern discussed by the AsMA

Council was the contract the association had with the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, GA. The contract called for financial penalties for AsMA should the contract be cancelled. One way to avoid these stiff penalties was to reschedule the Atlanta meeting to May 2025. Thanks are due to Walt Galanty of Aim Meetings & Events and our Executive Director, Jeff Sventek, for their efforts in renegotiating the contract. AsMA and the Hyatt Regency Atlanta have finalized the 2025 contract. Now that the 2025 contract has been approved and signed, AsMA has cancelled the October 2020 meeting in Atlanta without penalty.

The Annual Awards, normally presented at during Honors Night Ceremonies at the Annual Meeting, will now be presented during the meeting in Reno, NV, in 2021. The biographies of those remarkable individuals who will receive awards for 2020 will be published in September.

Many of the Constituent Organizations within AsMA have already held their business meetings virtually and have either decided to keep their current leadership or have transitioned to the new incoming president and leadership. Biographies of the incoming presidents of the constituent organizations can be found in the July newsletter ([https://www.asma.org/asma/media/AsMA/pdf-journal/pdf-news-2020/july-2020\\_news-opt.pdf](https://www.asma.org/asma/media/AsMA/pdf-journal/pdf-news-2020/july-2020_news-opt.pdf)) or in the July issue of the journal on pp. 616-618.

The Aerospace Medical Association thanks you for your patience as we worked through this in a very deliberate fashion. We wanted to make an informed decision on this important matter. We will be in contact with sponsors, exhibitors, and participants who had previously registered for this year's annual meeting. In the meantime, we hope you all remain healthy and safe!

## News of Members

**Air Vice-Marshal Tracy L. Smart, AO**, retired from the role of Surgeon General, Australian Defence Force, in December 2019, and from the full-time Air Force in March 2020. She continues service as a Reservist in the Royal Australian Air Force, but also took up the position of Professor, Military and Aerospace Medicine at the Australian National University, Canberra, in May 2020. She is long-term AsMA member and Fellow.

### Visit Us on Social Media!

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/aero\\_med](https://twitter.com/aero_med)

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## New Members

AsMA welcomes 21 new members in August.

- Almadani, Sakhaa; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Butterfield, Brian; Rochester, MN, United States
- Chartier, Marc; Tallahassee, FL, United States
- Clodfelder, Christian; Greenwood Village, CO, United States
- Collins, Joanne; Hazelton, BC, Canada
- Delain, Luke; Grand Forks, AFB, ND, United States
- Evans, Spencer; Stamford, CT, United States
- Garside, Nicholas; Durham, NC, United States
- Hardy, Krisandra; Orlando, FL, United States
- Korst, Genevieve; Galveston, TX, United States
- Lamba, Ashley; Los Angeles, CA, United States
- Litevich, Aaron; Forest, VA, United States
- Maki, Lance; Indialantic, FL, United States
- Martin, Jeffrey; Riverside, CA, United States
- Nagle, Lillian; Temple Terrace, FL, United States
- Nguyen, Julie; Nashville, TN, United States
- Parker, Louisa; Lincoln, United Kingdom
- Sabaner, Eda; Samsun, Turkey
- Sams, Woodrow; Blue Ash, OH, United States

## Read Current News Online!

The AsMA, Member, & Industry News are updated as we get news. Visit AsMA's website to see what's new! Members: check the Job Fair each month.

- Squire, Timothy; Garran, ACT, Australia
- Stephenson, Samuel; Norfolk, VA, United States

AsMA welcomes back the following members:

- Coombs, Heather; Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Geraci, Vincent; Stony Brook, NY, United States
- Williams, Felicity; Forrest, Australian Capital Territory, Australia

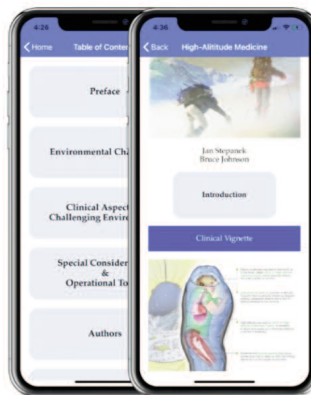
## Obituary Listing

AsMA has just learned that **James W. Ralph, M.D.**, a Life Member of AsMA, died in 2018. He earned his pre-med degree at Stanford University in 1958 and graduated from Duke Medical School in 1962. He enrolled in the U.S. Army shortly afterward, serving in Vietnam, where he earned the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, 11 Air Medals, the Army Commendation for Valor, and many other recognitions across 3 tours of duty. He also earned a Purple Heart after a crash in the Mekong Delta. After his stint in the Army, he began a civilian career with a private otolaryngology practice in New Jersey. He also worked as a surgeon in the Naval Reserve, as active duty in the Air Force, and back to private practice. In 1990, he served in the Iraq War, after which he rejoined the Army. He spent 3 years in Europe and on return to the United States, he was assigned a post at UCLA. He then served at Fort Rucker until his retirement and was awarded the Legion of Merit. An online obituary can be found at <https://baldwincremation.com/obituaries/james-walker-ralph/>.

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The purpose of this app is to impart practical, evidence based, multi-specialty medical knowledge to both medical professionals and interested individuals who desire to enter adventure activities or believe that they may need to know about these topics for their travels. Our focus is to provide useful information in a dynamic, affordable, hand-held App format. This App may also be useful for the sophisticated adventurer both for planning and while en route. This work is a product of the tireless contributions by many practitioners in their respective areas of expertise. All of us on the editorial team are profoundly grateful for their willingness to share their passion, enthusiasm, and wisdom with our readers, who will appreciate the practical guidance provided. As editors we are grateful for the support of our colleagues, friends and most importantly the patience of our families, who have been supportive as we worked on this project over many weekends and evenings.

The advent of devices and systems that allow for effective presentation of video, text, and image content in a highly portable electronic form has been the incentive to embark on the project to assemble the wide breadth of this work. The work before you encompasses areas of Wilderness Medicine, Aerospace Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, key concepts of Survival, Psychology and many other clinical specialty areas of expertise in the civilian and military realm. We hope this reference will serve the provider and interested public as a resource at the point of need in challenging environments.

This reference application will be updated on a regular basis and content will be added in future releases of the App as user need dictates. The app is organized into three main sections, comprised of standard chapters and a keyword search capability for retrieval of pertinent information. We are very interested to hear from our users, so we can continually improve the content to best serve the needs of our readers.

[www.medicineinchallengingenvironments.com](http://www.medicineinchallengingenvironments.com)

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## AMHP Continues in Top 20 for Ingenta

AMHP ranks in the top 20 out of more than 11,000 titles on Ingenta Connect for number of full-text downloads.

For the period June 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020:

- *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance* ranks 7th with 2,546 downloads.
- *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine* ranks 15th with 1,712 downloads.

## Future AsMA Annual Scientific Meetings

Oct. 10-15, 2020: Hyatt Regency Atlanta; Atlanta, GA  
May 23-27, 2021; Peppermill Resort Hotel; Reno, NV  
April 3-7, 2022; Sheraton Denver Downtown, Denver, CO  
May 21-25, 2023; Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, LA  
May 5-9, 2024; Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago, IL

# NEWS OF CORPORATE MEMBERS

## NIOSH Presents Science and Service Awards

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has awarded several NIOSH researchers and partners for their significant contributions to the field of occupational safety and health. The 2020 NIOSH Science and Service Awards include the following: the James P. Keogh Award for outstanding service by an individual in the occupational safety and health field; the Alice Hamilton Award for scientific excellence of technical and instructional materials by NIOSH scientists and engineers; the Bullard-Sherwood Research-to-Practice Award for exceptional efforts by NIOSH researchers and partners in applying occupational safety and health research to the prevention of workplace fatalities, illnesses, or injuries; the Plain Language Award, for NIOSH communication products that exemplify the content and design principles of the Plain Writing Act of 2010; the Service Excellence Award for staff who demonstrate excellence in administrative and managerial support to the Institute; and the Director's Intramural Award for Extraordinary Science for outstanding contributions by intramural scientists and support staff to scientific excellence at NIOSH.

—Please see <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-06-24-20.html> for more information about the NIOSH Science Awards, including the winners.

## Corporate News Bites

**MedAire:** MedAire's MedLink is now available on VistaJet, an international private jet charter operator, through a tablet device developed by RDT. The device can transmit voice and data communications to provide MedLink doctors with clinical-quality information so they can make the best decisions possible. The connection to MedLink is through a secure onboard link. Please see <https://www.aviationtoday.com/2020/07/07/vistajet-brings-tempus-ic2-telemedicine-onboard-global-fleet/> for more.

**AFBA:** The Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) and the 5Star Life Insurance Co. have named a Chief Distribution Officer effective immediately, consolidating the sales organizations for both entities. Appointed was Michael K. "Kimo" Wong, who has been with AFBA since 1977 and is responsible for setting strategic direction for AFBA's membership enrollments for the active duty, first responder, and National Guard markets. Please visit <http://newsroom.afba.com/press-releases/afba-and-5star-life-insurance-name-kimo-wong-chief-distribution-officer/> to read more about this.

## AOPA Wins Publishing Awards

The EXCEL Awards recognize excellence and leadership in association media, publishing, marketing, and communications. The AOPA Media department has been a frequent recipient of recognition, and this year Association Media and Publishing also lauded the work of the AOPA Air Safety Institute. The AOPA Media department had three finalists for the EXCEL awards. *Hangar Talk*, a podcast created by AOPA Senior Content Producer Ian J. Twombly and co-hosted by AOPA Associate Editor *Web/ePilot* David Tulis, was awarded a Gold in the Podcast category, appropriately winning the award just as the podcast recorded its 100th episode. AOPA was awarded a Gold for Feature Article Design for the "Eating Local" design in the July 2019 issue of *Flight Training* magazine by AOPA Digital Asset Manager and Graphic Designer Leigh Caulfield, and was recognized with a Bronze award in the Video category for the *Flying the American Dream* video covering the P-40 Warhawk by AOPA Senior Photographer Mike Fizer. Three bronze medals were awarded to the AOPA Air Safety Institute. Recognized as outstanding video courses are the *Weather or Not Thunderstorm Challenge*, the institute's Electronic Flight Instructor Refresher Course (eFIRC), and the *Real Pilot Story: Powerless Over Paris* video.

—Please visit <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2020/july/16/aopa-media-air-safety-institute-win-association-publishing-awards> to read more about this.

## Serco Accepting Nominations for Grant Program

Nominations are now open for Serco's Healthy Communities grants program, which supports not-for-profit organizations to deliver health and wellbeing activities in Western Australia. Managed by the Serco team at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) as part of its corporate social responsibility strategy, the program offers grants of up to \$1,500 to not-for-profit organizations, schools, and community groups based in Perth's South Metropolitan region. Serco FSH Contract Director, Helen Robinson, said the Healthy Communities grants can make a tangible difference for community groups that are feeling the effects of COVID through increased demand on their services and declining donations. The Healthy Communities grants program is open to not-for-profit organizations that deliver services in the South Metropolitan region, which incorporates Melville, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham, Canning, Fremantle, Baldivis, Warnbro,

See 'Corporate News,' p. N39



Jandakot, Willetton, Willagee, Victoria Park, Cannington, South Perth, Southern River, Riverton and Bateman. Nominations close August 14.

—Please visit <https://www.serco.com/aspac/news/media-releases/2020/nominations-now-open-for-sercos-healthy-communities-grants-program> to read more about this.

## Mayo Clinic Finds Phages May Treat Prosthetic Joint Infections

Bacteriophages, or phages, may play a significant role in treating complex bacterial infections in prosthetic joints, according to new Mayo Clinic research. The findings suggest phage therapy could provide a potential treatment for managing such infections, including those involving antibiotic-resistant microbes. The research is published in the July issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (CID). Phages are naturally occurring viruses found throughout the earth that target and kill specific bacterial cells, including those that have grown resistant to multiple antibiotics. Although phage therapy is new to Mayo Clinic, the bacterial predators were discovered more than a century ago, predating antibiotics. The usual treatment for prosthetic joint infection is antibiotics and surgery. When those fail, there can be suffering, loss of the limb, or even death. Phage therapy promises to change that. The first phage

treatment at Mayo Clinic was in June 2019 and saved the limb of a male patient who had been facing possible amputation. He is now asymptomatic and has experienced no adverse effects.

—Please see <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/phage-therapy-shows-potential-for-treating-prosthetic-joint-infections/> for the full discussion of this.

## KBR Awarded Contract for Plinke Technology

KBR has been awarded a contract for its proprietary Plinke Adiabatic Nitrobenzene solutions by Kutch Specialities Pvt Ltd, India. Under the terms of the contract, KBR will provide basic and detailed engineering design, equipment, and related advisory services to Kutch Specialities for its grassroots nitrobenzene project in India. KBR's process, equipment design, and material selection ensure plant availability and reliability to produce a high purity nitrobenzene with a focus on high energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. Amongst other products, nitrobenzene is used for the production of polyurethane foams, rubber chemicals, dyes and pharmaceuticals.

—Please visit <https://www.kbr.com/en/insights-events/press-release/kbrs-proprietary-plinke-technology-selected-kutch-specialities-pvt> for more on this.

### MEETINGS CALENDAR

Due to the coronavirus, please check the websites of meetings listed here to see if they have been postponed/cancelled.

**Aug. 9-11, 2020**, Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine - Humans in Space: Challenges for Exploration; University of Tasmania, Hobart. **CANCELLED**. Visit [www.asam.org.au/](http://www.asam.org.au/) for more info.

**Sept. 17-20, 2020**; Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine Conference, Hobart Grand Chancellor, Tasmania. **CANCELLED**. Visit <https://event.icebergevents.com.au/asam2020> for more info.

**Sept. 24-26, 2020**; 1st International Conference of Aerospace Medicine (ICAM 2020); Paris, France. **POSTPONED** until 2021. For more information, please visit <https://www.icam2020.com/>.

**Sept. 28-29, 2020 (Rescheduled)**; 18th EuroSciCon Conference on Immunology; Stockholm, Sweden. For more, please visit <https://immunology.euroscicon.com/>.

**Oct. 12-14, 2020**; CyberSpace IAC 2020 (71st International Astronautical Congress); **to be held ONLINE**. For more info, please visit <http://www.iafastro.org/>.

**Oct. 27-29, 2020**; SAFE Association 58th Annual Symposium; Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, VA. **CANCELLED; to be held ONLINE**. For more information, please visit <https://www.safeassociation.com>.

**Oct.-Nov. 2020**; 73rd Annual International Air Safety Summit (IASS 2020); **to be held ONLINE**. For more information, please visit <https://flightsafety.org/flight-safety-foundation-virtual-iass-2020/>.

**Nov. 11-15, 2020**; International Congress on Hyperbaric Medicine; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. **MEETING POSTPONED**. For more info, contact [angela.mesquita@amsbn.com.br](mailto:angela.mesquita@amsbn.com.br) or [ichm@ichm2020.rio.br](mailto:ichm@ichm2020.rio.br).

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### SAVE THE DATES: GLEX 2021 and GLOC 2022

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is pleased to inform you that the time schedule for the IAF Global Conferences for the years 2021 and 2022 has been settled. You are invited to save the following dates:

#**GLEX2021**; 14–18 June 2021; St. Petersburg, Russia. The third Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX) is to take place in June 2021 in St. Petersburg. The Conference, co-organized by the IAF and ROSCOSMOS, will bring together engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, educators, agency representatives, and policy makers to discuss recent results, current challenges, and innovative solutions.

#**GLOC2022**; 31 May–2 June 2022; Oslo, Norway. Following its mission to promote international development and share knowledge, the IAF and its member the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) are pleased to announce that the 2022 Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2022) in Oslo in May 2022. GLOC 2022 will contribute to the global efforts to better understand and battle climate change through the use of space-based services and applications, and will address topics of interest in relation to space and climate change.

For more information, visit [www.iafastro.org](http://www.iafastro.org).