

# Association News

## Merchant Becomes President of AsMA; Webb Chosen as President-Elect

**P. Glenn Merchant, M.D., M.P.H. & T.M., FAsMA**, was installed as President of the Aerospace Medical Association during Honors Night ceremonies of the AsMA 83rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Merchant is currently President of DOD-MERB Consultants, LLC, of Colorado Springs, CO. [A full biography was printed last year (ASEM 2011; 82:840) and is available on the journal page of our website.]

**James T. Webb, Ph.D., CAsP, ATP, Major, USAF(Ret)**, was elected to succeed Dr. Merchant as President-Elect of AsMA. Dr. Webb is currently owner of Scientific Aerospace Research Consulting (SARC), LLC, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern. He is certified by the AsMA in Aerospace Physiology and is a scuba Divemaster and enjoys scuba diving, photography, and fishing among other pursuits.



Dr. Webb received his B.S.

in Food Science from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, in 1965. Upon graduating, he entered the United States Air Force to attend pilot training as a 2nd Lieutenant and following receipt of his pilot wings in 1966, he flew F-4Ds with the 336th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Seymour Johnson AFB, NC. During 1970, he flew F-4Ds at Phu Cat AB, Vietnam, as an aircraft commander and flight lead, for which he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and nine Air Medals with oak leaf clusters. At the end of 1970 he left the USAF and returned to Seattle to pursue graduate degrees from the University of Washington. During graduate work for his Ph.D. (biochemical ecology), he also flew C-141A heavy transport jets as a pilot and aircraft commander with the 97th MAS, USAF Reserve (ASSOC), at McChord AFB, WA. After completing graduate work and 4000 hours of operational flying time, he resumed extended active duty with the USAF in the Department of Biology faculty, USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, in 1979. There he taught biology, aerospace physiology, and comparative animal physiology, and served as Director of Research. In 1984, he was assigned to the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) at Brooks AFB, TX, as a research physiologist.

At USAFSAM he worked with crewmembers of Space Shuttle mission 51C in an attempt to quantify fluid shifts during launch and early phases of adaptation to weightless-

ness. He was also responsible for the High-G Centrifuge Training program for Tactical Air Command fighter pilots.

In 1987, he joined KRUG International (which became KRUG Life Sciences and then Wyle Laboratories) as a Senior Scientist. From September 2006 to September 2010, under contract with Eagle Applied Sciences, LLC, Dr. Webb wrote curricula and instructions for USAFSAM's Aerospace Physiology personnel while continuing his research on hypoxia and decompression sickness.

His awards are numerous, many from constituent organizations of AsMA, including the President's Award for outstanding service to the Aerospace Physiology Society (AsPS) in 1992 and again in 2008, the Fred Hitchcock Award in 1996, and the Paul Bert Award in 2003 from AsPS. Few if any other members have received both of these prestigious awards. The Life Sciences and Biomedical Engineering Branch (LSBEB) presented him with the Professional Excellence Award in 2004 and the Space Medicine Association gave him the Journal Publication Award in 2012. From AsMA he received the Leverett Award in 1999 and the Ernsting Award in 2011. He also received the AsMA President's Citation in 2012 for chairing the *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine* Editor-in-Chief Selection Committee.

Dr. Webb has been a very active member and Fellow of AsMA for many years. He has presented over 25 papers at annual meetings, published some 30 research articles in *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*. He has been a member or chair of AsMA committees, past chair of the Aerospace Physiology Certification Board, twice a Member-at-Large, and twice Vice President for Education and Research of AsMA. He is a past president of both the AsPS and LSBEB, and is also a member of the Space Medicine Association, Aerospace Human Factors Association, and International Association of Military Flight Surgeon Pilots. He is also an Academician of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine, a member of Sigma Xi (The Scientific Research Society), and a life member of the Order of Daedalians (The National Fraternity of Military Pilots).

### Other AsMA Elected Officers:

The newly elected Vice President is David P. Gradwell, B.Sc., M.B., Ph.D. (Multi-National Services), while **Philip J. Scarpa, Jr., M.D., M.S.**, (Representation and Advocacy) was re-elected to a second term, and **Mark Campbell, M.D.** (Education and Research), and **Charles Fischer, M.D.** (Member Services) continue as VPs. The elected members at large with terms through 2015 are: **Kris Belland, D.O.**, **Genie Bopp, Gabor Hardicsay, M.D.**, and **Walter W. Dalitsch III, M.D.** The Secretary is **Estrella Forster, Ph.D.**, and the Treasurer is **Hernando Ortega, M.D., M.P.H.** **Jeffrey Sventek, M.S.**, continues as Executive Director.



**INTERFLY2012**—(left to right) U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles B. Green, along with Air Vice Marshal Aroop Mozumder, the Director General Medical Services Chief of Staff with the Royal Air Force Great Britain, Air Commodore Tracy Smart, the Director General Air Force Health Services with the Royal Australian Air Force, Commodore Hans Jung, the Canadian Forces Surgeon General signed an international "Interfly" Proclamation of Understanding on May 14, in Atlanta, GA. At the podium, Gp. Capt. Donald Ross reads the proclamation, which is intended to promote and support mutual cooperation and interoperability of the aeromedical evacuation assets between nations. Since 2009 there has been an informal agreement to clear medical equipment on each other's similar aircraft; however, the formal proclamation will allow the nations' medical teams to use aircraft and work alongside each other for the years to come, officials said.

Information from Jon Stock, Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs; photo by Pamela C. Day.

# Minutes of the Aerospace Medical Association 83rd Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2012, Atlanta Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, GA



Fanancy Anzalone



Jeff Sventek

**1. Call to Order (Anzalone):** Dr. Fanancy Anzalone, President, called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM (Executive Director confirmed a quorum was present).

**2. Recognition of Past Presidents:** Dr. Anzalone recognized all past AsMA Presidents in attendance.

**3. In Memoriam:** A moment of silence was given in memory of AsMA members who passed away during the preceding year.

**4. Report of the President:** Dr. Anzalone thanked all those who supported him during his year as President and gave a brief overview of accomplishments. He specifically cited success in updating the Association website, achieving corporation status with the Commonwealth of Virginia, conducting an audit of the Association finances and internal processes, and completing the arduous application process with the Internal Revenue Service for recognition as a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization.

**5. Report of the Executive Director (Sventek):**

Mr. President, officers, and members of the Aerospace Medical Association, it is my pleasure to report that the previous year was very active and highly successful. Much of the success is due to the incredible spirit of volunteerism across the Association. Thank you for your continued strong support. I'd also like to thank the outstanding Association Headquarters Office staff. They work hard to provide outstanding customer service and administrative support to our 2,250 members every day.

I am pleased to announce that this year's meeting will be a successful one for the Association. As of this morning, we have registered a total of 1,275 attendees for the meeting. Of that total, 1,113 were registered in advance of the meeting and 162 attendees registered here on site. To reduce the lines and wait times, we opened advanced registration in January 2012 and left it open all the way up to this meeting. The new registration process allowed for on-line registration and payment and resulted in no lines and essentially no waiting for those that registered on-site. I am very pleased with the results.

There are 38 companies exhibiting with us this year using 42 exhibits booth spaces. We very much appreciate our exhibitors and corporate members. They provide our attendees with great insight into the latest technologies and processes to improve the delivery of Aerospace Medicine. We held the AsMA Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall again this year and I've received very positive comments for that event. We plan to continue this process next year.

Finally, I am required to report the Aerospace Medical Association financial status for 2011. I will leave the details to our Treasurer to explain but on December 31, 2011 the Aerospace Medical Association reported a revenue surplus of \$19,067. This represents the first fiscal year since 2008 with a revenue surplus. However, I must also report we hired an outside accounting firm to conduct a full audit of our 2011 financial activities. The auditors identified a few necessary accounting adjustments to our processes. One of those was an accounting adjustment for "Unrealized Gains/Losses" from the Association's investments. Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) require Unrealized Gains or Losses to be applied to the fiscal year balance sheet. This had not been accomplished for many years in the Association accounting practices. As a result, a significant accounting adjustment was required on the 2011 balance sheet resulting in the Aerospace Medical Association reporting a financial loss of \$47,872.

**6. Report of the AsMA Foundation (Vanderploeg):** Dr. Vanderploeg reported total assets for the Foundation at \$233,000. This total includes 2011 donations of \$134,672 and 2012 donations of \$7,100. A large portion of the 2011 donations was a result of a \$100,000 bequest from the Walter and Sylvia Goldenrath estate. The endowment is designated for

the annual Walter and Sylvia Goldenrath Award for Aerospace Physiology.

The Foundation funds the Fellows Group scholarship through a committee led by Dr. Melchor Antuñano. There was no scholarship winner for 2012. However, there were 15 applicants for the 2013 scholarship with several of the applicants' scientific manuscripts already accepted for publication in *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*. The Fellows Group scholarship award was increased to \$2,000 and since there was not a winner in 2012, there will be two scholarships awarded in 2013.

The Foundation's Board of Directors met on Sunday, May 13, 2012, and elected Dr. George Anderson as the new Chair, Dr. Jeff Davis as the new Vice-Chair, and Dr. George Peach Taylor as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Vanderploeg announced Dr. Jennifer Law as the winner of the Foundation's Mohler Endowed Fund Scholarship and Dr. Stanley Mohler presented the award to Dr. Law. Dr. Vanderploeg encouraged all to consider donating to the Foundation.

## 7. GOVERNANCE (Merchant)

### • Committees

o Nominating (Weien): Dr. Weien read the proposed slate of officers. A motion to approve the slate of new officers passed: President-elect: James T. Webb; Vice-Presidents: David Gradwell and Philip J. Scarpa, Jr.; Members-at-Large – 2015: Kris Belland, Genie Bopp, Walter Dalitsch, Gabor Hardicsay.

o Bylaws (Webb): Dr. Webb reported the proposed changes to the Bylaws were published in the March issue of *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*, p. 378-380, and on the AsMA website. Each proposed change was presented, discussed, and voted upon by the members. All proposed changes were passed with no abstentions.

o *Federal Tax Exempt Application (Sventek):* The Executive Director reported the IRS Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, was submitted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in early November 2011. The application was approved by the IRS on April 25, 2012, with an effective date of tax exemption of August 26, 2011. The Aerospace Medical Association is now classified as a public charity for scientific and educational purposes as described in Section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. According to the Internal Revenue Code:

"Organizations claiming IRC § 509(a)(2) status must satisfy two tests:

- It must normally receive more than one-third of its support from any combination of gifts, grants, contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from permitted sources, and
- It must not receive more than one-third of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business income less tax imposed by IRC § 511."

o Finance (Ortega): Dr. Ortega explained the multiple factors that resulted in the \$19,067 revenue surplus for the Association in 2011. Dr. Ortega then provided details on the audit adjustments to the 2011 Association balance sheet that resulted in a final 2011 loss of \$47,872. Even with the audit-directed adjustments that resulted in a financial loss for 2011, this still represented a significant improvement over the losses experienced in 2009 and 2010. Dr. Ortega congratulated the Association Headquarters Office staff for their continued efforts to reduce operating expenses.

## 8. REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY (Scarpa)

### • Committees

o Resolutions (Boyd): The new electronic processes for reviewing and approving resolutions was presented as part of the Bylaws changes approved during the meeting. The Resolutions Committee is reviewing a template for submitting and processing future resolutions.

o Air Transport Medicine (Hudson): The committee is working on improving the three travel medicine publications currently posted on the AsMA website. Two of the three publications will be merged into a document that will be more useful for travelers. The document titled "Medical Guidelines for Airline Travel" will be updated and redesigned to facilitate future revisions and currency. Committee is sponsoring two panels at the 2012 meeting: Pilot Fatigue and the Management of the Fear of Flying.

o Communications (DeVoll): Significant work has been accomplished on updating the Association website. The Council approved \$30,000 for this action. A new branding design coupled with enhanced functionality of the website should significantly improve the website experience for members and visitors. The Association Staff will be trained on using the Content Management Software (Kentico) in June. They will

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**MINUTES, from p. 823.**

then populate the webpage templates and plan to “go live” with the new website in August. The Content Management Software offers a bulletin board function that will be used to facilitate the “Ask and Expert” section of the new website.

**9. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (Campbell)**

- *Committees*
  - o Aerospace Human Factors (White): Two panels were sponsored at this meeting. Planning has now begun for panels at the 2012 meeting in Atlanta. Working with several Constituent Organizations on plan to align Association human performance activities.
  - o Aviation Safety (Campbell): Sponsored panel on Aviation Safety Year in Review at this meeting. Completed draft of Tips for Airline Travel: Child Safety Devices. Planning has begun for panels at the 2012 meeting in Atlanta.
  - o Education and Training (Boudreau): The committee developed a structured process for evaluating and approving enduring continuing medical education materials. The enduring materials evaluation/approval process was approved by the Council. The committee is sponsoring the annual Medical Ethics panel at this meeting. This panel is critical for some physicians to meet their state licensure requirements. The committee also sponsored a panel on the Dreyfus Model of medical education.
  - o History and Archives (Dalitsch): Dr. Jennings was thanked for providing a historical movie for this year’s meeting. Rather than continue to offer historical movies during the lunch period on each day of the scientific meeting, a historical movie will only be offered on Thursday this year. The committee continues its efforts acquiring, preserving, and maintaining items of historical significance that represent the achievements of the Association and its members.
  - o Science and Technology (Shender): The committee sponsored a student panel for the first time. The committee solicited abstracts from students attending universities in the Atlanta area. Several Georgia Tech students submitted abstracts and we accepted to present their research during this unique panel. The student panel proved to be a success and the Science and Technology Committee will continue this panel concept

at the 2013 meeting in Chicago. Dr. Barry Shender will be stepping down as the committee chair and will be replaced by Dr. William Fraser. The committee has published 123 S&T columns in the AsMA journal.

**10. MEMBER SERVICES (Northrup)**

- *Committees*
  - o Awards (Belland): Awards will be presented at Honors Night. The inaugural awarding of the Walter and Sylvia Goldenrath Award for Aerospace Physiology will be made at Honors Night.
  - o Corporate and Sustaining (DeBois): There are 49 members. The Corporate Forum is being held in conjunction with the Annual Scientific Meeting again this year in an effort to broaden the audience and educate prospective corporate members.
  - o Membership (Heil): Membership is currently at 2,259. The decrease from 2011 can be attributed to a careful cleaning of the membership database and implementation of the Emeritus member requirements. Many duplicate records were removed and all Emeritus members that did not respond to the new membership requirements were removed from the active member list. The reported membership number more accurately reflects the number of active members in the Association.

**11. INTERNATIONAL SERVICES (Fisher)**

- *Committee*
  - o International Activities (Hardicay): Committee reported on the activities of a working group to evaluate the possibility of a joint AsMA-ESAM scientific meeting in Europe. Global economic conditions are not favorable for conducting a joint scientific meeting in Europe. The AsMA Council approved the financial support for an AsMA panel to participate in the 2012 European Congress on Aerospace Medicine (ECAM) to be held in London, UK. The committee reported that more than half of the registrants at the 83rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta were non-U.S.

**12. Unfinished and New Business: None**

**13. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jeffrey C. Sventek, M.S., CAsP, Executive Director**  
**Estrella Forster, Ph.D., Secretary**



**NEIL ARMSTRONG ADDRESSES SOCIETY OF NASA FLIGHT SURGEONS**

Members of the Society of NASA Flight Surgeons and other AsMA meeting attendees were treated to a very special lecture by former astronaut Neil Armstrong during the society’s luncheon on Wednesday, May 16, 2012. Mr. Armstrong was a charismatic and energetic speaker who harked back to the days of the Apollo Moon landing and noted that the nation came together because there was a specific goal which unified scientists and engineers. He said that we still need to find common goals to work towards to revive the U.S. space program. Picture above, Armstrong (left) receives a plaque commemorating his lecture from Richard Scheuring, M.D., a past president of the Society of NASA Flight Surgeons.



**ASMA FELLOWS’ MOHLER SCHOLARSHIP--** Jennifer Law, M.D., M.P.H. (left), receives the scholarship from founder Stanley R. Mohler, M.D., for her presentation and manuscript “An Emergency Medical Planning Guide for Commercial Spaceflight Events.” The manuscript will be published in *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine* later this year.

**NEW!!!! Abstract Submission site to open September 1, 2012!**



**AMSRO AWARD--**Dick Leland (left) presents Eric Stevenson with the Aerospace Medicine Students and Residents Organization (AMSRO) Scholarship Award.



**ELLINGSON AWARD--**The Associate Fellows Group Ellingson Award winner was Dr. Gordon G. Giesbrecht. Col. Ernest Prochazka (Ellingson Award Committee Chair 2011-12) presented the award and Lt. Col. Brian Musselman accepted on behalf of Dr. Giesbrecht. The article is “Exit strategies and safety concerns for machinery occupants following ice failure and submersion” [*Aviat Space Environ Med.* 2011; 82(1):52-7]. The Ellingson Award is co-sponsored between the Associate Fellows Group and Wyle.