

WING NEWS & NOTES

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A Word from the President: From ALOHA to ODLUIHI!

By Susi Bellenkes

My Dear Wing Friends!

For all those, who were not able to attend the New Orleans meeting I have to explain the title of this month's "Report of the AsMA WING President". Throughout the past year, you all might have noticed the many colorful Hawaiian expressions on the Wing Page. Past President Conoly Barker has been living there for the past 3 years. She sent all those wonderful descriptions of Hawaiian life and made us wish, we could one-day travel to that piece of Pacific Ocean paradise. In May the gavel made it's biggest "jump" ever; from Hawaii all the way over two oceans to its resting-place for the next year at the foot of the Tirolean Alps. If it possessed a voice, the WING gavel would have experienced some extreme changes in tone, inflection and dialect - from the lilting ALOHA of the Hawaiian palm tree to the exuberant hard-riding YIPPIEIEE crossing over the Colorado Rockies, and upon it's descent into Europe, becoming a lusty top-of-the-mountain Alpine YODLHUITIRI! But I digress, dear friends, let me harken back to this May's AsMA convention.

Conoly and her team organized the most wonderful meeting in New Orleans!! I remember the days after Katrina, when so many of us had those nagging doubt as to whether we should or would be able to have our meeting there. The News headlines made it all sound so bleak; rampant crime, terrible destruction, horrid suffering; a place neither conducive nor appropriate for fancy luncheons and colorful tours. Yet, in the end, New Orleans was indeed just the right place for us to be! The selfless time, strength and generosity of so many of our members helped physically rebuild a small but no less important part of the city. The AsMA congress itself infused the city with much-needed funds in support of redevelopment, and our just being there told both New Orleans and the rest of the U.S. in no uncertain terms that we do not ignore or abandon those in need...just the opposite; we are there to help them at their greatest time of need. It is therefore my humble opinion that it was indeed the right decision and perfect time to go to New Orleans.

As always, we had our lovely Monday reception where we met old friends and welcomed new members with a little gift from our home countries. AsMA President Dr. Richard Jennings graciously took time from his very busy schedule to visit with us; his being there and kind words of support were very much appreciated!

Attending a class at the New Orleans School of Cooking was a highlight for all who like to "swing the cooking spoon". The fascinating history-filled lesson provided by our very knowledgeable Chef gave many of us a new appreciation for how the unique cultural blend of French, English, Spanish, African, and Native American cultures, laws and languages have come to define the Louisiana, and partic-



NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF COOKING--
Jennie and Chef Michael preparing pralines.

ularly the New Orleans way of life. It was fascinating to hear of the "Arcadians" (later called "Cajun") as well as the "Creole" culture, and how the gastronomic influences of these folk have become the signature 'tastes' longingly sought out by visitors to New Orleans from all over the world. (I never before knew that Cajun cooking is red tomatoes and Creole cooking is brown- beans...or was it the other way around?)

The visit to "Mardi Gras World" surprised me with the artistic quality, beauty and good humor in the varied designs of the splendid floats. The craftsmanship and love put into these creations are couched in age-old sacred and secular celebrations, and reflect the need to continue these treasured traditions despite jaded modernity, natural calamity and ever-changing social whims. This brief but fascinating journey into yet another aspect of America's cultural tapestry showed me that despite popular characterizations of the pre-Lenten festival, Mardi Gras is so much more than just a few rowdy nights and beads thrown in the air to grasping crowds!

Restaurant August was a most pleasant meeting place for our annual WING Luncheon. The tables were decorated with colorful Carnival accessories and the gorgeous menu (fit for framing) all kept us in the festive spirit of Carnival. Good food, good friends, high spirits...what more could one possibly wish? Well, there was even

more yet to come.

Thursday's tour to the Oak Alley Plantation was a journey back in time. Our very knowledgeable tour guide expertly explained how it was to live and work in those old days of "cotton and sugar cane." Such wonderful memories...the still warm air of a gorgeous Louisiana day, visions of the 300-year old oak trees, the manor, and the Mississippi River boat, half way hidden behind the Levy, and on top of this, a luncheon buffet of delicious local food.

So it was...an incredible week of ever-changing experiences for the eye, the hands and the heart. It would not have happened without the very hard work and zealous devotion to the WING by its President, Conoly Barker, and her outstanding team. Please join me in thanking them for making this week such a memorable AsMA congress.

Now, turning to May 2008, for it is not too early to start planning for our upcoming meeting in Boston. What a wonderful City, another center of American culture and history. We will continue our tradition of having two tours, the WING Reception, and our annual Luncheon. The "on-sight visit" team will look for the best rooms for our Hospitality and WING Registration. I have already begun researching the sights and eateries of this "grand old town." What a vast variety of restaurants and tours to choose from! We will, of course, indulge in local delicacies for our reception and luncheon. My very capable Arrangements Chair and her team are already hard at work on all those plans! It is going to be a splendid time indeed!

My husband, Andy, and I will be headed to Vienna, Austria, this coming September where we will be attending the annual congress of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine. Perhaps we will see some of you there. If so, I know where we can go, I know where we can get the very best coffee and torte (cake) in Vienna! I'll write of this journey in a future Report of the WING President.

Hoping you have been having a wonderful summer, and looking so much forward to seeing you all again soon!



MARDI GRAS WORLD--Wing members gather beneath one of the floats.

NEWS OF CORPORATE MEMBERS

Send information for publication on this page to:
Corporate News
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Wyle Teams with ARES to Pursue Nuclear Business

Wyle Laboratories and ARES Corporation, a veteran-owned small business that is the leading nuclear analytical consultant in North America, have signed a teaming agreement to jointly pursue commercial nuclear equipment qualification optimization programs for new nuclear power plant construction and U.S. Department of Energy facilities with the goal of significantly reducing costs to its customers. Cost savings will be achieved through use of historical data contained within proprietary data bases, pre-qualification of equipment vendors, and the use of test planning and engineering experts in their fields. The companies will develop a qualification program applicable to a wide range of equipment; provide analysis services of qualifications and use of commercial grade equipment; and provide time estimates and costs for equipment qualifications. The result will be an easily tailored qualification program that can be plant/equipment/elevation specific, resulting in lower costs to its customers.

ETC's Nastar Division Awarded FAA Contract

Environmental Tectonics Corporation (ETC) recently announced the sale of a GAT-II® Helo General Aviation Helicopter Trainer to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI), Oklahoma City, OK. CAMI is the medical certification, research, and education wing of the

FAA's Office of Aerospace Medicine at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. CAMI studies the factors that influence human performance in the aviation environment, finds ways to understand them, and then communicates that understanding to the aviation community.

According to Dr. Melchor J. Antuñano, Director of CAMI, the FAA will use the GAT Helo to provide helicopter pilots train in the hazards associated with spatial disorientation during flight. FAA statistics show that when spatial disorientation is involved in a mishap, 9 out of 10 of those mishaps are fatal. The GAT Helo is equipped with eight helicopter specific spatial disorientation illusions and a specialized Profile Editor, which gives operators the capability to develop other spatial disorientation illusions.

The GAT-II® product line of fixed wing and helicopter trainers support visual flight rating, instrument flight rating, spatial disorientation, and mishap prevention training. The 3-axis motion platform and visual display responds to pilot input. Other features include selectable meteorological conditions, malfunctions flight and data logging, and various map views of the flight area over the Continental United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Sanofi Division Awarded Contract to Retrofit Vaccine Facility

Sanofi-Pasteur, the vaccines division of the Sanofi-Aventis Group, recently announced that it was awarded a contract by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(HHS) to retrofit its existing influenza vaccine manufacturing facility. The contract covers costs for design, retrofit, and maintenance of the facilities at a state of readiness so the company can switch to pandemic influenza vaccine manufacture at the HHS' request.

The design phase will begin immediately. The retrofit phase will begin when the company's new influenza vaccine manufacturing facility is licensed by the FDA and is operational. The existing facility, which has been modified over the years to produce approximately 50 million doses of vaccine for the U.S. market during the course of the past several influenza seasons, will then be decommissioned for the retrofit. When both facilities are validated, the company's capacity will approximately triple from its current capacity.

This award marks the company's seventh pandemic influenza-related contract with the U.S. government. Previous contracts have covered the production of investigational doses for clinical trials, bulk vaccines for stockpiling, the establishment and maintenance of laying chicken flocks to enable year-round egg production, and speeding the production process for new cell culture influenza vaccines.

Mayo Clinic Reports on Pilot Ginseng Study

North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG) researchers, based at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, have generated preliminary data suggesting that a form of American ginseng provides greater improvements in fatigue and vitality in patients who receive the highest doses tested, compared to lower doses or no treatment. The ginseng study was a collaborative trial of the NCCTG and Mayo Clinic and was supported by a number of Public Health Service grants.

The results of their scientifically rigorous pilot study, the first to evaluate the Wisconsin species of American ginseng as a possible therapy for cancer-related fatigue, were presented in June at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Many cancer patients face extreme fatigue after diagnosis and during treatment. Getting more sleep or rest often does not relieve the fatigue, nor is it related to activity levels.

The investigators enrolled 282 patients in a randomized, placebo-controlled trial, averaging 71 patients per each of 4 arms, with between 39 and 48 patients in each arm completing the 8 weeks of treatment. Treatment arms consisted of placebo and three different daily doses of Wisconsin ginseng—750, 1000, and 2000 mg. Of the four treatment arms, patients receiving the placebo and the lowest dose of ginseng reported very little improvement in fatigue or other areas of physical or psychological well-being. The patients receiving the larger doses showed improvements in overall energy levels, reporting higher vitality levels and less interference with activity from fatigue. They also reported an improvement in overall mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being.



Exhibitors at AsMA's 78th Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans

AsMA would like to thank all those who exhibited at our annual meeting. Pictured above are some of our loyal corporate members who exhibited during the meeting.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

van Zanten New AMDA President

Brinio Veldhuijzen van Zanten is the new president of the Airlines Medical Directors Association.

Dr. Veldhuijzen van Zanten was born in Gouda, The Netherlands, in 1957. He completed his medical studies at the University of Amsterdam in 1982. During this period, he also completed his preliminary studies in Law. He went on to study at the School of Occupational Medicine (CORVU) in Amsterdam, graduating in 1986. From 1989 to 1990, he completed a masters degree in Occupational Safety, Health & Welfare.

After completing his medical studies, Dr. Veldhuijzen van Zanten joined the Coronel Laboratory of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam for a study on long-term health effects of whole body vibration. He joined KLM Royal Dutch Airlines as an occupational physician in December 1984. Since then he has served in aircraft handling, engineering and maintenance, cabin crew, and flight operations.

From 1992 until 1996, he held a seat on the board of the Netherlands Association of Occupational Medicine, serving as chairman for 2 years. He subsequently held a seat on the board of the Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) until 2000. He was closely involved in the establishment of KLM Health Services, a 100% KLM subsidiary, where he held various managerial posts. He has been managing director of KLM Health Services since January 2000.

Focus on Members:

NASA Awards Highest Medal to David Dinges

By Kathy Major, Chief Communications Officer, NSBRI, Houston, TX

HOUSTON--(May 18, 2007)--NASA awarded Professor David F. Dinges the Distinguished Public Service Medal "for outstanding contributions to improving the health, safety, and performance of human space flight in the behavioral health and performance area."



The presentation was made May 10 at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

A NASA website describes the medal "as the highest honor NASA awards to a non-government individual, and that it is granted only to someone whose distinguished ac-

complishments contributed substantially to the NASA mission, and that the contribution must be so extraordinary that other forms of recognition would be inadequate."

Dinges is professor and director of the Unit for Experimental Psychiatry, and chief of the Division of Sleep and Chronobiology in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He currently serves as team leader for the Neurobehavioral and Psychosocial Factors Team of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI).

An expert in the biological limits of human performance relative to sleep and circadian biology, his scientific work for NSBRI and NASA has focused on identifying technologies that improve performance in operational settings and on identifying and preventing neurobehavioral problems in space. He is currently directing an experiment supported by NSBRI involving aquanauts and astronauts participating in the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) 12 project in an underwater research laboratory off the Florida coast.

Internationally renowned, Dinges is a corresponding member of the International Academy of Astronautics and a member of the National Institutes of Health Council. [A long time member of AsMA, Dr. Dinges delivered the 39th Armstrong Lecture at the 75th Annual Meeting in Anchorage, AK in 2004.] He currently serves as president of the World Federation of Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine Societies, and he was the 2004 recipient of the first Decade of Behavior Research Award from the American Psychological Association. He is currently editor in chief of SLEEP, the leading scientific journal on sleep research and sleep medicine. Full press release available at: <http://www.nsbri.org/NewsPublicOut/Release.epl?r=97>

Obituary Listing

AsMA recently learned that **Erich C. Muehlenbeck, M.D.**, a member for almost 40 years, died in March. Born in Germany, Dr. Muehlenbeck earned his M.D. from Goettingen Frankfurt in 1949. He was a Charter Member of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery and an Emeritus Member of AsMA.

New Members

Alvi, Samir, M.B.B.S., Osterley, Middlesex, UK
An, Chang-ho, M.D., Cheongwon City, Chung Buk Pro., ROK
Anbalagan, Ganesh, M.B., B.S., M.D., Singapore
Bahr, Micah, Capt., USAF, MC, FS, Altus, OK
Bahnan, Osama A., M.D., M.P.H., Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Baker, Angela J., LT, USN, MSC, San Diego, CA
Beasley, Charles R., M.D., Lumberton, NC
Berebecar, Simona, M.D., Ph.D., Bucharest, Romania
Cabon, Philippe, Ph.D., Paris, France

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Cook, Donald E., M.B., Ch.B., Tadley, Hampshire, UK
Cushman, James G., M.D., Cantonsville, MD
Dawson, Steven W., Capt., USAF, BSC, Schertz, TX
DiBlasio, Dario, Lt.Col., M.D., IAF, MC, Reschen, Italy
Donnelly, Glenn M., Maj., USAF, MC, FS, San Antonio, TX
Eisa, Mohammed Ibrahe, M.D., Jeddah Western, Saudi Arabia
Flayh, Muntadhar H., Col., IAF, M.D., Baghdad, Iraq
Gribble, Guy D., MBA, Dalworthington Gardens, TX
Guthrie, Richard S., M.D., Ukiah, CA
Hashimoto, Miho, RN, Chofu City, Tokyo, Japan
Huber, Dustin M., LT, MSC, USN, New Bern, NC
Ishtov, Eytan, M.D., Hod Hasharon, Israel
Jarrett, Eleanor C., Lt.Col., USAFR, NC, Longview, TX
Joshi, Sanat K., M.D., Riverside, CA
Karadsheh, Bassam G., Madaba, Jordan
Khalil, Mohammed K., M.D., Amman, Jordan
Kornum, Mogens, Maj., DAF, MC, Viborg, Denmark
Lehman, Robert, Selma, TX
Lieberman, Harris R., Ph.D., Westwood, MA
Mack, Michael D., Capt., USAF, MC, Ames, IA
McBeth, Michael J., Maj., USAF, MC, APO, AE
Meigs, Chris, M.Sc., Tampa, FL
Nikolaou, Vasileios A., M.D., Khania, Greece
O'Neill, Kasie L., Capt., USAF, MSC, Ogallala, NE
Pfennig, Paul L., Capt., USAF, NC, O'Fallon, IL
Robinson, Judith L., Ph.D., Seabrook, TX
Romig, Emma, M.S., B.S., Seattle, WA
Schmidt, John P., M.D., Ann Arbor, MI
Schnell, Thomas, Ph.D., Iowa City, IA
Shimkus, Jeanette F. C., LCDR, MC, USN, Pensacola, FL
Shrimpton, Helen D., Surg.Cdr., RN, M.D., Cornwall, UK
Siefken, Douglas R., B.A., Chicago, IL
Simonet, Luke, M.D., APO, AE
Singh, Bhupinder, M.D., Dip.Av.Med., Golden Grove, Australia
Sonneveld, Jannemiek, O.D., Zeist, Netherlands
Supap, Chatchai, RN, Nonthaburi, Thailand
Takada, Yuko, Koganei-shi, Tokyo, Japan
Tetsuya, Hisada, M.D., Ph.D., Saitama, Japan
Troche, Jose, LCDR, MC, USN, Pensacola, FL
Vardiman, Johnene L., B.S., Denton, TX
Vermeiren, Roland L. M. A., M.D., Brussels, Belgium
You, XuQun, Ph.D., Xi'an, China
Young, Rebecca A., M.D., Juneau, AK

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