



Ever Upward

April 2026

Voices of AsMA

Reflections from a Past President: The Future of Aerospace Medicine Is Ours to Build

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Serving as President of the Aerospace Medical Association was one of the great honors of my professional life. As the first osteopathic physician to hold that role in AsMA's first century, I felt both the weight of history and the opportunity of the future.

AsMA has always been more than a professional society. It is a global forum where military, civilian, academic, regulatory, and industry leaders come

together around one shared mission: protecting and advancing human performance in air and space.

Today, aerospace medicine sits at a critical inflection point. Aerospace medicine has rapidly moved from theory to operational reality. Clinicians now address certification in highly automated aircraft, human performance risks in remotely piloted systems, and medical decisionmaking for commercial spaceflight participants beyond the traditional astronaut corps. What was once hypothetical is now encountered routinely in clinics and mission operations.

We are navigating rapid technological change: commercial spaceflight, advanced air mobility, AI-supported operations, novel biosecurity risks, and evolving global regulatory frameworks. At the same time, we are confronting familiar challenges. Few issues underscore the responsibility of aerospace medicine more than mental health and fatigue. Flight surgeons and aviation medical examiners increasingly manage complex cases involving sleep disorders, circadian disruption from longhaul operations, and psychological stressors amplified by economic pressure, global crises, and public scrutiny. These encounters are not theoretical—they occur one pilot, one aircrew member, one difficult aeromedical disposition at a time. Each decision balances compassion, safety, confidentiality, and the public trust that underpins aviation.

The pandemic reinforced aerospace medicine's role at the intersection of public health and transportation. Aeromedical professionals were called upon to guide decisions on crew exposure, returntoflight, and cabin environmental controls. Questions once debated academically became immediate operational concerns. The opportunity before us is significant.

Aerospace medicine is no longer a niche discipline. It is central to global mobility, national security, pandemic pre-

paredness, and human exploration beyond Earth. Our expertise informs International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, FAA policy, military readiness, airline operations, and spaceflight risk models. That influence carries responsibility.

From my vantage point as a past president, I see three priorities:

- **Unify Across Disciplines:** Aerospace medicine must remain a bridge between clinicians, researchers, engineers, regulators, and operators. Silos weaken us; collaboration strengthens us.
- **Lead in Science and Policy:** We must remain grounded in rigorous evidence. The credibility of our specialty is tested when evidence is incomplete, public anxiety is high, and operational pressure is intense. Whether addressing cabin air concerns, evaluating emerging ultraviolet or antimicrobial technologies, fatigue risk management, or human factors in autonomous systems, our credibility depends on disciplined methodology and transparent communication matters as much as technical expertise.
- **Invest in the Next Generation:** Our residents, students, and early-career professionals are not just the future, they are active contributors now. They are supporting fatigue studies, participating in mishap investigations, advising on spaceflight medical standards, and engaging in international working groups. Mentorship, leadership pathways, and global engagement must remain core priorities.

AsMA's strength has always been its people. Volunteers who give their time. Researchers who challenge assumptions. Flight surgeons who advise commanders in deployed environments. Aerospace physiologists who translate science into optimized performance. Allied health practitioners who sustain readiness. Civil aviation medical examiners who safeguard public trust. Industry partners who innovate responsibly.

We do not control every headwind facing aviation and space operations. But we do control how we respond, with professionalism, collegiality, and an unwavering commitment to safety and performance.

The future of aerospace medicine will not simply happen to us. It is being shaped today—in clinics, cockpits, control rooms, laboratories, and classrooms—by professionals willing to engage complexity with humility and rigor. As we remain unified, evidencedriven, and committed to developing those who follow us, the discipline will continue to meet the moment.

I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served, and even more optimistic about what lies ahead.

Blue skies and steady orbits.

Visit Voices of AsMA on LinkedIn:
<https://bit.ly/3NY1kFc>

Send information for publication in this newsletter to: Journal Department, AsMA: rtrigg@asma.org

Changes to the 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

Speaker Ready Room: Plaza Court 6 Monday-Thursday: 7am-6pm

To help the transition between presentations run more smoothly, we are introducing the Speaker Ready Room this year. All presenters will be expected to follow these instructions:

- You are required to bring your presentation to the Speaker Ready Room no later than one (1) hour before your session or panel begins so it can be loaded onto the session computer. This is also your only time to test run your presentation.
- ALL Presentations MUST be in PowerPoint™ (.pptx) 16:9 format. Bring your file on a USB drive or use the upload link provided by Clarity AV if needed (link coming soon). Clarity AV will manage and load all presentations on-site. No exceptions.
- Personal computers will not be allowed. Therefore, it is recommended that video clips be uploaded as separate files as backup.
- Presentations cannot be loaded at the podium so that all sessions start on time and backup copies are secured.
- On the day of your talk, a presentation folder will be placed on the podium desktop of the session computer. A Clarity representative will give you instructions when you check in to the Speaker Ready Room.
- Presentations will be delivered in the order they appear in the program schedule.
- Sessions will be recorded. One AsMA panel room and the UHMS breakout will also be livestreamed.
- At the podium, please do not close PowerPoint or WebEx and remain at the microphone to maintain clear audio and video quality.

For more information and guidelines to preparing presentations, please visit <https://asma-uhms-asm.org/abstracts/scientific-program-presentations-guidelines.html>.

Open Seating at Honors Night

We are excited to welcome all attendees who have purchased tickets to this year's AsMA Honors Night in on Thursday, May 21, 2026. New this year, AsMA Honors Night will feature open seating for all attendees, allowing everyone the flexibility to choose their seats upon arrival. A limited number of tables will be reserved for specific groups. Please note that each table seats 10 guests, and no additional seats may be added to the tables. We look forward to celebrating the outstanding achievements of our awardees and sharing this special evening with the AsMA community.

Corporate and Sustaining Members Small Business Breakfast

The Corporate and Sustaining Members' Small Business Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, in the Grand Ballroom. This event replaces the traditional Corporate Forum Reception. Attendance is limited to and complimentary for AsMA and UHMS Corporate Members, but a ticket is required for the meal. Capacity is limited to 100 attendees. The sponsors for this event include AsMA-UHMS, Blank Slate Innovation, LLC, and AeroClenz.

International Reception and LSBEB Social Combined

This year, the Life Sciences & Biomedical Engineering Branch (LSBEB) Social will be combined with the Reception to Honor International Members at the "Thriving Under Pressure" event

held offsite at the Denver Athletic Club on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 7:15–10:00 pm.

12th Eugen Reinartz Memorial Lecture Will Be a 2-Hour Panel

The 12th Eugen Reinartz Memorial Lecture will be a two-hour panel held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 8:00 am–10:00 am. We hope you'll join us for "Managing Spaceflight-Associated Motion Sickness: Outcomes of the Spaceflight Health Aggregated Research Evidence Database (SHARED) study." Our esteemed speakers will be:

- Rebecca Blue, M.D., MPH
- Serena Auñón-Chancellor, M.D., MPH
- Tom Marshburn, M.D., MPH
- Amy Kreykes, M.D., MPH

New Associate Fellows Announced

The following members of the Aerospace Medical Association have achieved Associate Fellow status and were approved by the Executive Committee: Phillip Brady, Torin Clark, Charles Dukes, Sheyna Gifford, Taania Girgla, Satoshi Hayamizu, Hardeep Hundal, Caleb James, Ben Johnson, Samantha King, Samuel Ko, Ajay Kumar, Craig Kutz, Phil Laird, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Craig Nowadly, Edson Oliveira, Karen Ong, Beatriz Puente, Sidharth Rajput, Isaiah Reeves, Keith Roxo, Christine Schwartz, Marc Shepanek, William David Smith, Alpo Vuorio, Sky Jennifer Wolf, and Julielynn Wong.

News of Members



Charles Dukes, M.D., AsFAsMA, as Aerospace Psychiatrist for Vast Space, is writing the behavioral health CON-OPS for the upcoming private astronaut mission to the International Space Station and launch of Haven 1 next year. Also, at last year's meeting, he became the first president and co-founder of the Aerospace Psychiatric Association. He is the founder, CEO, and medical director of Polaris Aerospace Medicine, which provides general Federal Aviation Administration aviation exams and HIMS specialty exams.

Save the Date!

ICAM 2026, Oct. 2-6, 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye

This meeting is convened by the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine (IAASM) in even numbered years. It is being held in conjunction with the European Society of Aerospace Medicine (ESAM), the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA), and the Turkish Aerospace Medical Association. The program themes this year are human factors and performance; space medicine and clinical/biomedical topics; aeromedical certification and regulation; and airline/operational medicine/travel & evacuation medicine.

For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.icam2026.org/>.

News of Corporate Members

Mayo Residents & Fellows Turn Data into Better Care

At Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education (MCS-GME), the Clinical Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) Academy helps residents and fellows build an entrepreneurial mindset by integrating hands-on innovation, collaboration, and problem solving directly into their training. That was on full display during Platform Experience Day on Dec. 18, where trainees explored realworld scenarios on Mayo Clinic Platform to see how de-identified, large-scale data can inform clinical decisions, accelerate research, and spark innovation in everyday practice. During the immersive experience, trainees rotated through case studies and brainstorming exercises, then tested their own questions on the Platform. They learned to define cohorts, explore associations, check feasibility, and examine population-level outcomes such as hospitalizations and emergency department visits. Residents and fellows who participated in Platform Experience Day are becoming “superusers” who can serve as go-to resources in their departments.

—Please visit <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/residents-and-fellows-step-into-the-platform-sandbox-to-turn-data-into-better-care/> to read more.

KBR Announces Investment in Applied Computing

KBR announced a strategic investment in UK-based Applied Computing, marking a significant step forward in KBR's AI driven growth strategy. As part of the investment, KBR has also secured a board position in the company. The investment strengthens KBR's commitment to delivering advanced, explainable artificial intelligence solutions that improve operational efficiency, safety, and sustainability across the energy, chemical, and industrial sectors. Together, the companies will accelerate the development of new digital products and expand AI capabilities across KBR's global technology portfolio. KBR and Applied Computing have also entered into a multi-year joint development agreement to co-create exclusive AI products for the energy sector. The companies will integrate Applied Computing's proprietary Orbital foundational model with KBR's licensed process technologies, domain expertise in capital projects, and supply chains to deploy and develop new technologies across the full energy lifecycle. This forms a comprehensive, three-pronged approach covering asset operations, capital projects, and the de-risking of next generation technologies.

—Please visit <https://www.kbr.com/en/insights-news/press-release/kbr-announces-strategic-investment-applied-computing-accelerate-ai-driven-innovation-across-energy-and-industrial-markets> to read more.

Corporate News Bites

Aeroclenz: AeroClenz's Chief Medical Officer periodically reviews infectious disease surveillance reports from organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The summaries are in-

tended to provide general awareness of global infectious disease activity relevant to international travel, healthcare systems, and high-traffic indoor environments.

—Please visit the news page at <https://aeroclenz.com/news/> to see these summaries.

ARS Pharmaceuticals: ARS Pharmaceuticals, Inc., recently provided an update on neffy®, their epinephrine nasal spray. They report that progress has been positive and they are focusing on securing unrestricted access with insurance companies. They have launched a new advertising campaign and announced an expansion of their sales force.

—Please visit <https://ir.ars-pharma.com/news-releases/news-release-details/ars-pharmaceuticals-reports-fourth-quarter-and-full-year-2025> to read more.

ALPA: The Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA), issued a statement commending the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) for issuing measures to suspend the use of visual separation rules by planes and helicopters within the nation's busiest airspace near airports. Air traffic controllers are now required to use radar to actively manage separation between the aircraft types. They also called for Congress to strengthen ADSB-Out.

—Please visit <https://www.alpa.org/press-room/2026/03/alpa-welcomes-new-faa-safety-move-urges-congress-mandate-collision-warning-technology> to read more.

UTMB: One of UTMB's M.D.-Ph.D. students, Grayson Jackson, successfully defended his dissertation in mid-March. His dissertation, entitled “Litigating Professional Autonomy: Evidence, Bioethics, and the Boundaries of Expertise,” investigates questions surrounding the politics of knowledge and authority over clinical care. He is returning to UTMB's John Sealy School of Medicine to complete his M.D.

—Please visit <https://www.utmb.edu/spph/about-us/news/article/news/2026/03/24/we-are-indescribably-pleased-to-congratulate-m.d.-ph.d.-student-grayson-jackson-on-the-successful-oral-defense-of-his-dissertation-this-week!> to read more.

AOPA: The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) honored six aviation leaders in mid-March at the annual Hoover Awards ceremony at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. The awards, named for legendary aviator R. A. “Bob” Hoover, recognize individuals whose contributions to general aviation carry on Hoover's legacy.

—Please visit <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2026/march/19/pr-aopa-honors-aviations-finest-at-2026-hoover-awards> to read more and see who the winners were.

2026 FAA AME Seminars

These are offered by the FAA AME Program Office.

April 17-19	Fort Worth, TX, USA*	Refresher
May 18-21	Denver, CO	AsMA
June 8-12	Oklahoma City, OK	Basic
Aug. 7-9	Cambridge, MA (Tentative)	Refresher

*Tentative.

AsMA only takes registrations for the seminar held at our Annual Scientific Meeting. Visit the FAA AME seminar schedule at <https://bit.ly/45GmRID> for more information.

**The Need For
SPEED**
Farther, faster, together.

The Aerospace Medical Foundation is working to accelerate its efforts by empowering the next generation of Aerospace Medicine scientists who will take humans to deep space. In order to achieve these objectives, they are setting a goal in the "Need for Speed" campaign of \$5 million by AsMA's 100th Anniversary! Donations can be in cash or in stock and can be made by credit card or PayPal through the [AsMAFoundation.org](https://www.asmafoundation.org) website. AsMA Members: consider joining the Heritage Society and include the Foundation in your estate planning.

Support the Foundation!

With your help we can accelerate to Mach 10 by 2029!

SUBSONIC
MACH < 1.0

\$680,000

Ditching, Ditching, Ditching by Dr. Christopher Brooks is now available.



After Dr. Brooks died, some of his colleagues collaborated to finish his final book. To order from Friesen Press, scan the QR code or visit the book's website for other outlets: <https://maritimeaviationsurvival.com/ditching-ditching-ditching/>.

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Meetings Calendar

Ongoing: HFACS Workshops; ONLINE. Workshops on the The Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS) are now available online as well as in person. For more information, please visit <https://www.enrole.com/erau/jsp/course.jsp?courseId=HFAC&categoryId=558570F8> for in-person and <https://www.enrole.com/erau/jsp/session.jsp?sessionId=D0226-OHFA-V1&courseId=OHFA&categoryId=558570F8> for online.

May 1, 2026: Care in the Air Symposium; Toronto, Canada. The theme is "Austere Medical Response: Surviving a Bad Day". For more info, visit <https://care-in-the-air.ca/>.

May 3-8, 2026: Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine 2026; San Miguel de Cosumel, Mexico. In collaboration with the Department of Hyperbaric Medicine at Mayo Clinic Rochester. For more info, visit <https://ce.mayo.edu/anesthesiology/content/diving-and-hyperbaric-medicine-2026>.

Sept. 13-18, 2026: 35th Congress of the International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences 2026; Sydney, Australia. Brings together the world's aeronautics experts and the entire international scientific aerospace community to discuss, understand, and compare worldwide scientific and technological advances. For more info, visit <https://icas2026.com/>.

Oct. 2-4, 2026: International Congress of Aerospace Medicine (ICAM) 2026; Istanbul, Türkiye.

Care in the Air Symposium

Presented by Ornge and Department of Medicine, University of Toronto
 May 1, 2026; Vantage Venues, Downtown Toronto

Presented in collaboration with Ornge and the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto, this dynamic symposium explores the multi-faceted nature of providing care in challenging and harsh environments. Content will be relevant for health professionals, air ambulance, paramedic, and critical care transport medicine professionals, and military and civilian aviation medicine personnel.

The theme "Austere Medical Response: Surviving a Bad Day" takes centre stage in 2026. Explore strategies, tools, and innovations for delivering life-saving care when resources are scarce and conditions are unpredictable.

Learn how to adapt to limited resources and leverage technology to facilitate remote healthcare. Gain practical approaches relevant to wilderness and disaster medicine, critical care medicine, emergency medicine, and aeromedical transport.

Visit <https://care-in-the-air.ca/> for more information or to register.