

The Aerospace Medicine Specialist

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As I write this inaugural President's letter, there is every indication that the Orlando AsMA conference will be a tremendous success. What a great time to learn, grow, renew and establish new friendships. AsMA is a family to me, a family I am fully committed to nurture, grow, mentor, and develop to its utmost potential.

This last year was very productive for AsMA with growth on many fronts. I would like to personally thank Past President Dr. Phil Scarpa, the AsMA Executive Committee, the AsMA Council, Executive Director Jeff Sventek, the AsMA Committee Chairs and members, the AsMA front office, the constituents, and the affiliate organizations that make up the vibrant and active Aerospace Medicine enterprise. Through the hard work of many dedicated AsMA members, we have increased AsMA's financial stability, grown our membership, published many influential research papers, and provided subject matter experts for worldwide press requests.

Thanks, in part, to previous presidents Drs. Phil Scarpa and James Webb, ExCOM and Council developed a Strategic Business Plan (SBP). The AsMA SBP provides a business process to guide AsMA forward through the next 50 years. Through the SBP process, we have been able to strategically line up our efforts from ExCOM through Council and provide direction to each of our Committees. We are already seeing many benefits with an aligned strategic vision and supporting efforts.

There is no other Aerospace Medicine organization that better exemplifies the strength in numbers and synergism of diversity than AsMA does. In that light, I would like to focus next year's Presidential theme on the **Aerospace Medicine Specialist**. Attention will be given to who exactly comprises our organization. In future columns, I plan to highlight the contributions to Aerospace Medicine of these outstanding experts involved in our organization.

AsMA as an organization continues to be the Aerospace Medicine industry leader, growing and advancing the art and science of our field. AsMA's future is bright, but there is much to do in order to continue the advancement of Aerospace Medicine. Some of the more timely topics include Pilot Mental Health, Pilot's Bill of Rights, Man-Machine-Interface, Human Performance, and Human Systems Integration. These and more will be Presidential areas of interest.

The upcoming year will include several initiatives, including AsMA Committee efforts to:

- *Grow our membership and enhance the AsMA member experience / return on investment*
- *Increase AsMA financial stability with strong support to the AsMA Foundation*
- *Continue to update our Bylaws / Policy & Procedures manual*
- *Ensure that the nomination process remains transparent and representative*
- *Embrace our international make-up and diversity, celebrate our international strengths, and leverage our worldwide network of Aerospace Medicine Specialists*
- *Emphasize our awards process*
- *Enhance the Corporate & Sustaining relationships*
- *Renew efforts in Aerospace Human Performance, Aerospace Safety, Education & Training, and History and Archives.*
- *Support Air Transport Medicine*
- *Update AsMA communications, with emphasis on social media.*
- *Fully support Arrangements, Registration, and the Scientific Program*
- *Improve the marketing and branding of the AsMA organization.*

Our goals are numerous, but they can be accomplished through the active involvement of all our members. Everyone can contribute to our organization's success in some part. Most importantly, because new members are AsMA's future, it is imperative that every current AsMA member look for young bright individuals who are interested in Aerospace Medicine and invite them into our Aerospace Medicine family. Under the leadership of Dr. Valerie Martindale, VP for Member Services, and Dr. Joe Dervay, the AsMA Chair of the Membership Committee, we have begun to increase our numbers. This is the first year in many where we have experienced an upward turn in overall membership. To truly make headway, we will need each and every member to proactively seek out future AsMA members. Consider going to your alma maters or e-mailing individuals/organizations interested in Aerospace Medicine. Ours is an organization of inclusion. As you travel through and work among the Aerospace Medicine communities, please inform, mentor, and invite young up-and-coming ASM specialists to join our Aerospace Medicine family.

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