

## Where We've Been and Where We're Going

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As I write this page in January 2021, we have postponed the Annual Scientific Meeting until August 29 – September 2, 2021 and moved the meeting location to Denver. This should allow more U.S. citizens to be vaccinated, and additional relaxations on travel and large gatherings, enabling us to have the successful in-person meeting we have all been hoping for and working on for so long. March would normally be the Annual Meeting Program and Abstract Issue, but because we are moving the meeting, that issue will be published in June, instead.

The important thing is that AsMA has remained viable throughout the pandemic because of the foresight and unselfish hard work of our members. While we are planning for a successful in-person meeting in 2021, we are also looking into the possibility of a virtual meeting, if it becomes necessary. The Scientific Program Chair, Vivienne Lee, and her Committee, working with Pam Day and OpenWater, virtually reviewed 448 abstracts, accepting 429 of them. Coordination is underway with Podiumcast to record presentations and make them accessible for a virtual meeting, with CME credits available for an additional registration fee.

During the pandemic, AsMA was able to take advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program through the efforts of our Executive Director, Jeff Sventek. Under the program, AsMA received \$94,215, which was used for payroll and utility expenses. An application sent to Bank of America requesting loan forgiveness was approved and forwarded to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for review. At the time of this writing, we are awaiting the decision of the SBA on loan forgiveness.

Other Association business also continues to be well managed in spite of the pandemic. The transition to the 2020–21 AsMA Slate of Officers went smoothly. The 2020 awards were announced on time with a decision to present them at the 2021 meeting. The Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine was welcomed as an affiliate organization. Two AsMA subject matter experts were provided to ICAO. The AsMA Air Transport Medicine Committee collaborated with the International Air Transport Association and the International Airline Medical Association to develop a patient

information page, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). As a result of that interaction, the JAMA editorial staff committed to submitting their future aerospace medical submissions to AsMA for review. Resolution 2020-01, "Vital Nature of Board-Certified Specialists in Aerospace Medicine," was approved by Council and posted for membership comment on December 1, 2020. Invitations have been accepted for the 2021 meeting Plenary Sessions. These are only a few examples of how our Association has pulled together. It would take the entire President's Page to list all of them.

In addition, AsMA has adapted to the pandemic by providing additional sources of CME. In December 2020, AsMA offered two online CME courses, the *Impact of COVID-19 on Aviation and Space Operations* (sponsored by the AsMA Foundation), and *Dilemmas of an Ethical Nature in Aerospace Medicine*. In March 2021 two additional online courses will be offered, Part 1 and Part 2 of *COVID-19 Clinical Impacts and Aeromedical Implications for Aircrew Health and Performance*.

These achievements demonstrate that AsMA continues to be a major contributor in all areas of aerospace medicine. It is no accident that our Association remains vibrant during these difficult times. It could only happen with a dedicated and innovative membership who have been generous with their time and talents. I want to extend a hearty thanks to all of you for your continued service to AsMA and aerospace medicine. Hopefully, by the time you read this, plans will be well under way to hold our 2021 meeting in Denver in August.



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