

# Congratulations, American Board of Preventive Medicine: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

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The American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) has reached the 75<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary milestone! Many congratulations.

As shared by ABPM Chair, Dr. Wendy Braund, "ABPM has expanded from a small group of certified Public Health physicians to a diverse community of well over 10,000 physicians certified in three specialties and four subspecialties. ABPM owes its growth to the talented, thoughtful, and hard-working physician leadership it has enjoyed through its history."

ABPM has striven with a collective commitment and goal to create a healthier world through the practice of Preventive Medicine. The three specialties are: Aerospace Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and Public Health & General Preventive Medicine. The four subspecialties include: Addiction Medicine, Clinical Informatics, Medical Toxicology, and Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine. The breadth of care indeed ranges from the sea to space.

Our Executive Director Jeff Sventek and I were invited by ABPM to represent the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in Chicago this August. We were also joined by five AsMA Past Presidents who were able to attend the celebration and who previously served on the ABPM Board of Directors: Drs. George Anderson, Jeffrey Davis, Richard Jennings, Glenn Mitchell, and Joe Ortega. Three of those attending, Drs. Anderson, Davis, and Ortega, also served as a prior Chair of ABPM. Current AsMA members serving on the ABPM Board of Directors include Drs. Brent Klein, Tim LaVan, Joanna Nelms, David Miller, and recent Vice Chair for Aerospace Medicine Dr. Cheryl Lowery. *We thank and honor all prior AsMA members who served ABPM over the years for their dedicated service and contributions. You have all truly made a difference for our specialty!*

Dr. Duncan Hughes, AsMA member and Virgin Galactic Chief Medical Officer, served as the keynote speaker. He shared insights into the Virgin Galactic flight program and highlighted some very recent flight activity. As Dr. Braund noted, "Dr. Hughes provides a unique perspective, not only on the value of ABPM Certification, but also on the exciting work of Space Medicine that so many of our Diplomats engage in today."

I had the opportunity to share some remarks at the celebration, on behalf of AsMA, and thanked ABPM for their longstanding

professionalism, collegiality, and hard work over the years supporting the specialty of Aerospace Medicine. As a token of gratitude and congratulation from AsMA upon their anniversary, Jeff Sventek and I presented ABPM with a lovely, engraved crystal glass gift for display at their Home Office. The gift and acknowledgement from AsMA were very much appreciated by ABPM.

Preceding the ABPM event, the AsMA Executive Committee (EXCOM) held its summer meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, the site of the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting. Over a two-and-a-half-day period, several activities were on the docket. A site visit was completed of the Hyatt and the various spaces that will be used for events ranging from registration, opening ceremonies, presentation rooms of various sizes, locales for luncheons and committee meetings, and exhibits. The hotel liaison and staff were very gracious and addressed our questions and concerns. Leadership from the AsMA Wing joined the site visit and explored various Wing activities in Chicago which they may incorporate into their schedule for next May. The streets of downtown Chicago were indeed bustling with people, shops, and a wide range of restaurants. We felt totally safe walking about and enjoyed the views of the Chicago River, Lake Michigan, shoreline, and a wide range of activities at the Navy Pier complex.

The ensuing formal EXCOM meeting over a day and a half was excellent and covered a wide range of agenda items regarding AsMA. Many thanks to the EXCOM members for their focus and collegial nature throughout our proceedings. I will share more information about our discussions and initiatives during a future correspondence.

There is no doubt we are in store for a wonderful Annual Scientific Meeting and venue in Chicago in May 2024.

*Keep 'em flying...and Full Steam Ahead!*



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