

Elimination of Print Program for AsMA Annual Scientific Meetings

Jeff Sventek, Executive Director

For many years, the March or April issue of the AsMA journal has been designed to serve as the print program for the AsMA Annual Scientific Meetings. That issue would include a copy of all abstracts accepted by the AsMA Scientific Program Committee during their peer-review process. The print program issue would also include other AsMA and meeting-specific information. AsMA would print 1500–1600 copies and have the publisher ship the programs to the meeting location. Because information for the print program issue must be sent to the publisher 45 days prior to the publication of the journal issue, all AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting information planned for the March issue must be to the publisher by January 15. All AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting information planned for an April issue must be to the publisher by February 15.

AsMA also publishes a Meeting Addendum document every year that provides a quick schedule listing for the meeting. It also includes information that did not make the publication suspense dates as described above. The addendum also informs attendees of all changes from the published information found in the March or April print program. Changes include withdrawn abstracts, added meetings, deleted meetings, changes to scientific session rooms, etc.

AsMA started offering a digital meeting application at the 2012 AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta, GA. AsMA has continued to offer a digital meeting application every year since that 2012 meeting. We've monitored the number of AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting attendees who have downloaded the digital meeting application and have found a greater percentage of attendees using the digital meeting application each year. The digital meeting application allows AsMA staff to make all meeting changes in real time. Withdrawn abstracts can be quickly removed or identified, added or deleted meetings can be entered into the app quickly and easily, changes to scientific session rooms can be made in real time, and push notifications to the attendees about all changes can be sent via the app.

For the 2023 New Orleans meeting, AsMA printed 1500 program issues and had them ground shipped to the meeting hotel. Total cost for that issue was over \$13,000. The

AsMA Registration Committee offered attendees a print program issue as part of their registration packet. Many attendees declined the print program issue because they planned to use the digital meeting application exclusively. AsMA Staff found many print program issues in recycle and trash containers during the week in New Orleans and there were approximately 300 print programs left over that were sent to recycling in New Orleans.

A review of this information resulted in a decision to stop offering a print program for the AsMA Annual Scientific Meetings. All attendees will be offered a paper addendum with the meeting schedule and other information as part of the registration packets. All attendees will be asked to download and use the digital meeting application for viewing the scientific abstracts and building their daily schedules. The digital meeting application will be completely up to date when the Annual Scientific Meeting begins in early May and can be updated/changed in real time as required. Should a scientific abstract be withdrawn from the program, it will be removed from the digital meeting application. All meetings, luncheons, receptions, and dinners will be listed in the meeting application. Attendees will be able to build a personal daily schedule during their time at the meeting by selecting the scientific sessions and other activities they plan to attend.

Following the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting, the journal staff will use one of the summer issues to publish a proceedings issue. That issue will contain all scientific abstracts that were presented during the recent AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting. It will also include the results of the AsMA Annual Business Meeting and other significant outcomes from the meeting.

By eliminating the March/April print program and replacing it with a summer proceedings issue, AsMA will save money, eliminate the need to identify withdrawn scientific abstracts, post-meeting changes in the addendum, and other post-publication changes. The summer proceedings journal issue will provide readers with a summary of the scientific program as well as other significant events that occurred during the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting.

Our plan is to reduce waste, save some money, improve the efficiency of meeting planning and execution, and provide a summer proceedings issue that will summarize the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting activities.

Meetings Calendar

May 19-22, 2024; 108th American Occupational Health Conference (AOHC), Loews Royal Pacific Hotel, Orlando, FL, United States. For more info, visit [https://acoem.org/American-Occupational-Health-Conference-\(AOHC\)](https://acoem.org/American-Occupational-Health-Conference-(AOHC)).

Calls for Papers

Ongoing: International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Global Networking Forum Space Conversations Series; ONLINE, 14:00 Paris time. Visit <https://www.iafastro.org/events/iaf-gnf-space-conversations-series/> for more.

Visit Us on Social Media!

Twitter: https://twitter.com/aero_med

FB: www.facebook.com/AerospaceMedicalAssociation

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aerospace-medical-association-asma>

Read the News Online!

Visit AsMA's News page at <https://www.asma.org/news-events/asma-news>. Members, visit the Members News by logging in via the boxes on the home page.