

## 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting: Making a Difference in Aerospace Medicine

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Many of us in our organization track the passage of time by their number of attendances at our annual scientific meetings and most can recall several details of each of them. I think we do this because our annual meeting is so important to us for many reasons: it presents the latest scientific research in Aerospace Medicine found nowhere else; it shares valuable lessons learned; it provides an easy forum for exchange of innovations and ideas; it is a windfall of educational credits; it serves as a convenient meeting venue for working groups and committees; and it's a great opportunity for socializing and rapport-building with colleagues. Our annual meeting is more than just a conference, it is an event in our lives.

This year in Orlando our meeting's theme will be "Making a Difference in Aerospace Medicine." We will hear about activities in Aerospace Medicine that filled critical knowledge gaps, resolved important issues, influenced viewpoints or policy, formed useful collaborations for better ways of doing things, and that encouraged and motivated others.

If you haven't already, please register for the meeting at [www.asma.org](http://www.asma.org). The site also contains links to hotel reservations, the meeting schedule and brochure, maps, transportation, dining, shopping and tourist information. Bring your smart devices and take advantage of our meeting app and meeting twitter account.

Our Scientific Program Committee and its Chair, Dr. Justin Woodson, have received a near-record number of abstract submissions and have put together a rich and diverse selection of scientific sessions, panels, and posters for the Orlando meeting. In addition, workshops on Aircrew Fatigue and Aerospace Epidemiology will be presented on the weekend before the meeting. Check out the program schedule on our website or on the inside back cover of this journal.

Inspiration is an important part of making a difference in our field and I am very pleased to have three inspiring speakers for our annual meeting's plenary presentations.

Following our Opening Ceremony on Monday, May 11, the 61<sup>st</sup> Louis H. Bauer Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Melchor J. Antunano, Director of the U.S. FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute. An enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker, Dr. Antunano will introduce us to the latest advanced medical technologies and their implications to Aerospace Medicine.

On Tuesday morning, May 12, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eugen Reinartz Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Thomas D. Jones, senior researcher at the Florida Institute for Human and

Machine Cognition. A scientist, author and veteran U.S. astronaut, Dr. Jones will present a comprehensive and thought-provoking view on our future in deep space.

On Thursday morning, May 14, the 50<sup>th</sup> Harry G. Armstrong Lecture will be delivered by Robert D. Cabana, Director of the NASA-Kennedy Space Center in Florida. A veteran U.S. astronaut and former Deputy Manager of the International Space Station Program, Mr. Cabana will review the role of the nearby multi-user spaceport in NASA's plans for the future.

Our Arrangements Committee and its Chair, Dr. John Darwood, have organized several interesting activities during the meeting. On Monday, May 11 at 6:00 a.m., two hours prior to the Opening Ceremony, will be a Fun Run. I hope you will take advantage of the beautiful grounds and friendly competition and come run the 5K course. On Friday, May 15, the first day following our meeting, a tour of the NASA-Kennedy Space Center and visitors' complex will be conducted. The tour will contain many things to see and do, including several new space exhibits and a real space shuttle on display.

Needless to say, Orlando is one of the top travel destinations in the world due to its pleasant climate, natural beauty, and many world-class attractions. Our meeting hotel is located directly on Disney property and is within walking distance or free bus service to any Disney theme park. In addition to the theme parks of Disney, Universal Studios and SeaWorld, there are also several aerial and boat tours, fishing, golfing, and natural parks to enjoy. The AsMA Wing has arranged for two park excursions, one to the beautiful Leu Gardens and the other to the famous Bok Tower Gardens. If you can, I would recommend planning to stay a few days before or after the meeting to take in some of the many activities this area has to offer.

So don't miss your opportunity to attend another memorable annual event and to make a difference in Aerospace Medicine together. See you in Orlando!



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