

Aerospace Medical Association Conference, Harrah's Atlantic City, New Jersey 24-28 April 2016

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Greetings! I am writing this letter after participating in a Joint F-35 Focus Team telecom coordinated by the USAF 711th Human Performance Wing. The number of Aerospace Medicine Professionals participating in this most important and influential working group (which includes many AsMA members) is amazing. It is heartening to see that many of our USAF/USN Flight Surgeons and Physiologist Pilots are integrally involved in the roll-out of the F-35 and concomitant Human Performance issues.

In future President's letters we will discuss the thought process behind AsMA's conversion back to a 501(c)6 Organization. It has become apparent to Council that reverting back to a 501(c)6 organization (under which we operated very successfully for over 50 years), similar to many other like-sized organizations, would be most advantageous for AsMA's future. Dr. James DeVoll, our AsMA Treasurer, is working hard with our Executive Director Jeff Sventek and your Executive Committee to make sure we position AsMA for success, not only now but also well into the future.

It is the time of year to start thinking about our next AsMA conference. We are very excited about this eastern seaboard location and for the opportunity to continue our annual meeting, interact with colleagues, and advance the art and science of Aerospace Medicine.

Scientific and Program Committee Update

A hearty "Thank You" to AsMA Vice President for Education & Research Eilis Boudreau and Scientific Program Committee Chair Barry Shender for working diligently to provide another outstanding conference in Atlantic City. In accordance with the goals I've outlined for the upcoming year and requests made by AsMA membership, the Scientific Program Committee will enhance the scientific and educational value and the rigor of the approaching Annual Scientific Meeting. New guidelines for abstracts and panels have been developed and are available in the Call for Abstracts and on the Submission Website, which will open on September 1 (<https://asma2016.abstractcentral.com/login>). Abstracts will fall under two categories: (1) Original Research, and (2) Education. The Education category is further subdivided into (a) Program/Process Review, (b) Tutorial, and (c) Case Study: Clinical or Human Performance. An Original Research describes the results and significance of new research undertaken to address gaps in the current knowledge of aerospace medicine or human performance. A Program/Process Review

abstract can describe a new service thrust, e.g., identifying capability gaps, or reviews of critical areas, e.g., safety. A Tutorial abstract describes new tools, models, techniques, and methodologies pertinent to civilian and military aerospace medicine and human performance. A Case Study describes the analysis of an individual, clinical, or operational case that is not a research study but provides pertinent information directly applicable to aeromedical practices, safety, or human performance.

The guidelines include templates and examples (from past AsMA meetings) for each abstract type. Templates provide section headings, e.g., Introduction, Methods, etc., and the specific type of information that should be included under each heading. How well authors abide by these guidelines will be one of the criteria used to determine acceptance of abstracts.

The Program Committee has received feedback that some Panels have contained too many presentations, leaving little time for discussion. Also noted was that some abstracts within Panels were not well-coordinated, making it difficult for meeting attendees to schedule time appropriately to view presentations. Because of these comments, 2016 Panels will be composed of a coordinated sequence of abstracts (maximum of 5) which flow logically from one to another, supporting a central theme. Panel Chairs will be asked to prepare questions prior to the Scientific Meeting to facilitate discussion with the audience. Individual presentations within Panels should be timed to allow for at least a 15 minute moderated discussion. Note that unrelated abstracts from a laboratory or organization do not constitute a Panel. If the Panel theme is not clearly identified and/or the abstracts do not support a central theme, the individual abstracts may be unbundled and evaluated as separate slide or poster abstracts.

We are excited about this initiative and anticipate that the new clearer guidelines will make it easier to write abstracts, elevate the quality of these outstanding presentations, streamline the evaluation process, and enhance value for those participating in the Annual Scientific Meeting by making scheduling easier and opening many opportunities to engage in lively discussions.

Until next month, all the best to you and yours!

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