

87th Annual Scientific Meeting: Human Performance and the Year of the Aerospace Medicine Professional

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Welcome all AsMA attendees to Harrah's Conference Center, Atlantic City, NJ! The Annual Meeting is our most important yearly gathering, and this year promises to be the best to date! For a small city, Atlantic City, NJ, has had a major impact on American culture throughout its years of existence. In the 20th century, Atlantic City became America's premiere resort and get-away for the eastern seaboard. The Miss America pageant debuted here in 1921, and the city steadily grew with gaming and opulent casino hotels, while many new places opened in the marina section of town. Atlantic City is rebounding exponentially after Hurricane Sandy hit in 2012, and the entire community has welcomed AsMA with open arms.

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is *Human Performance and the Year of the Aerospace Medicine Professional*. Our Scientific Program Committee and Chair is Dr. Barry Shender. In November, the Scientific and Program Committee meeting reviewed a near-record number of conference abstracts and posters submissions. Dr. Shender and the entire committee have put together an outstanding selection of scientific sessions, panels, and posters for your learning and enjoyment during the conference week.

Speakers: We have three plenary session inspirational speakers.

On Monday immediately following the opening ceremony, the 62nd Louis H. Bauer Lecture features **Lieutenant General Douglas Robb, USAF, MC (Retired)**, who will discuss how our aerospace medicine profession is at a critical juncture in our history where we will need to "adapt or perish." The lecture promises to be intriguing, motivating, and potentially, a call to arms. Dr. Robb has recently served as the Commanding Officer of the Defense Health Agency.

On Tuesday morning, the 3rd Eugen Reinartz Memorial Lecture will be delivered by **Dr. Frank K. Butler, Jr., Chairman of the Department of Defense Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care**. His presentation will be entitled "The Top 10 Lifesaving Advances in Aeromedical Evacuation from 14 Years of Conflict." Dr. Butler is a retired U.S. Navy SEAL and prior Special Operations Command Surgeon.

On Thursday morning, April 29th, the 51st Harry G. Armstrong Lecture will be delivered by **Mr. Arnaud Desjardin, Deputy Head of the Investigations Department, Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation civile (BEA)**. Mr. Desjardin will present the final report of the March 2015

Germanwings Flight 9525 accident that occurred in the French Alps. With its strong ties to pilot mental health, this mishap debrief promises to be of the highest caliber.

AsMA Arrangements Committee: Many thanks to Chair Dr. Harriet Lester and Co-Chair Dr. Fred Bonato, as well as Benisse Lester, who are working diligently to ensure that all planning for our annual meeting is completed and on track.

Tour: As of this printing on Friday, April 29, 2016, we are tentatively planning to offer an optional tour of the FAA Tech Center, located 10 miles northwest of Atlantic City and covering over 5,000 acres. According to its website, the **William J. Hughes Technical Center** serves as the FAA national scientific test base for research and development, test and evaluation, and verification and validation in air traffic control, communications, navigation, airports, aircraft safety, and security. The Technical Center consists of state-of-the-art laboratories, test and support facilities, the Atlantic City International Airport (ACY), and a non-commercial aircraft hangar. Its world-class laboratories and top-notch engineering place it at the forefront of the FAA's challenge to modernize the U.S. air transportation system. It is the primary research and development facility supporting the continued modernization of the nation's National Airspace System (NAS). The Center is also expected to support the integration of new entrants into the NAS, such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and commercial space vehicles. With more than 50 years of achievement and excellence, the Technical Center continues to serve as the cornerstone for aviation innovation across the globe.

That wraps up my President's report. On behalf of AsMA, I highly encourage you to continue your engagement and involvement with our organization and the aerospace medicine profession. You are making a positive difference in advancing the art and science of our aerospace medical profession. Thank you once again for all you do, keep up the great work and see you in Atlantic City!



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