

## Passing the AsMA Presidency Baton

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### **ASMA PAST PRESIDENT 2015-16, DR. KRIS M. BELLAND**

This is my final letter to AsMA as President, and I would like to thank you for this most remarkable journey and for the privilege to represent the aerospace medical community. The Atlantic City Annual Meeting is now in the books, and David Gradwell and his outstanding Executive Committee are at the helm. I would like to take this opportunity to express my

appreciation one more time for the outstanding, positive, and persistent support you have given to me over the last year. It has been a tremendous honor to represent you and to work closely with the AsMA Executive Director, Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, Wing leadership, Constituent organizations, Affiliate organizations, Corporate and Sustaining members, our AsMA front office, and all our AsMA family!

AsMA is now solidly 3 years into its Strategic and Business Plan (AS&BP) implementation. We are firmly aligned with AsMA's vision of remaining "The international leader in aerospace medicine and human performance." We are improving the marketing of the AsMA brand. I can say with confidence that AsMA is better off financially today than at any time in our recent history and that we have improved on every identified AsMA strategic initiative. We stand on the shoulders of giants in the Aerospace Medicine profession, and from that vantage point, we continue to innovate and increase scientific knowledge in order to promote and enhance the health, safety, and performance of those involved in aerospace and related activities.

We remain an organization on the move, relevant and engaged world-wide. Fair Winds and Following Seas to Dr. David Gradwell and the entire AsMA leadership. I could not be more proud of what we have accomplished together and where we are headed as an organization! We all are in the best of hands, and our future remains bright!

### **ASMA PRESIDENT 2016-17, DR. DAVID GRADWELL**

As you will all have spotted, the timing of the Annual Scientific Meeting has moved a little earlier in the year and with that the Council and Business meetings have come round a week or so earlier than usual too. One consequence of that is a bringing

forward of the change over from one President to the next and so for the first time the outgoing and incoming Presidents are sharing a page.

Whilst this may be novel, it does provide a great opportunity for me to join with Kris on his last President's page and for me to offer here my deep thanks to him on behalf of the whole membership for his untiring work for our Association. I am also very grateful to him for his personal commitment to AsMA, his generosity in helping me with the Presidential transition process and his friendship. Kris has been outstanding in bringing forward a strong strategic plan, identifying strengths and weaknesses in our organization, and setting out the management path ahead. This trajectory will continue and his efforts to ensure that we have taken a long look forward and scoped what we need to do is invaluable for the sustainable future of this Association.

I am very conscious of the great honor it is to be elected to serve as President of AsMA for the next 12 months and I will do my utmost to help our Association grow and develop. In next month's page I shall write more about the theme I plan to set for my year in office. For now it is perhaps enough to say that I am conscious that I follow in the footsteps of giants in our field who have given, and indeed continue to give, much to the science and practice of aerospace medicine and human performance.

In a world that seems to get ever smaller, we can take advantage of a worldwide community of like-minded professionals in aerospace medicine. The time difference between the Home Office in Alexandria and the extreme west of the USA is similar to the time difference between my office in London and Washington, DC. As we move forward, wherever you call home can be connected to the rest of the world and to others in our Association in a timely manner, so please consider how you can increase your participation and we will do all we can to facilitate that input.

At the time of writing I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Atlantic City for what will, I am sure, be a great meeting.



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