

Follow Up on the Annual Scientific Meeting

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I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as president of this extraordinary organization of diverse professionals for the coming year. It truly is an honor to follow so many outstanding presidents, most recently Dr. David Gradwell, whose leadership and dedication serve as inspiration.

The 88th Annual Scientific Meeting is now behind us, but I hope this letter reaches you before the excitement wears off. Every meeting is a great experience for networking and learning, and I know I always leave with plans to learn new things, participate in more committees, and keep up with new acquaintances. Have you made similar plans? If so, let's take steps to make them happen. If not, I want to personally invite you to give it a try. With your participation, our organization will continue to grow stronger and more valuable to its members, and to you.

Learn new things: There are parallel sessions during most of the meeting, and it's just not possible to see everything of interest. While the meeting is fresh in your mind, take a look at online access to session recordings. Online content includes speaker audio synced with the presentations, along with MP3 audio files. All files can be streamed or downloaded, free of charge for those who attended the conference. I believe that every presenter would make time to answer you should you have follow-up questions on a talk. One of the greatest values of membership is the opportunity to network with the brightest minds in aerospace medicine.

Participate in committees: Serving on committees is a benefit of membership. AsMA has a wide array of committees that need your help, and to join most committees, all a member has to do is ask! If you are not a member, committees will still welcome you as an observer. If you are unsure what committees are available, look at the Committees page of the association website, <https://www.asma.org/about-asma/association-info/committees>. Committees dedicated to subfields serve important functions, and provide an excellent network opportunity for specializing within the AsMA community. They respond to events and concerns in the wider community by supplying expertise and by providing consultation when appropriate to medical and legislative bodies. More general Committees that can always use help include Membership and Awards. If you have an interest in the governance of AsMA, then Bylaws, Finance, and Resolutions are great choices. Membership on the Nominating Committee is by appointment, and I highly recommend serving on that committee if you really want to understand how AsMA's governance works. Each Constituent organization names a representative to the Nominating Committee. If you have organizational talent and energy, I recommend the Registration, Arrangements, and Scientific Program Committees as groups that will make good use of your talents. While you're looking at the Committees webpage, look at the Constituent and Affiliated organizations listed on the left. Chances are you will find one or two that will suit your interests and provide you with a wider circle of professional friends and mentors.

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Keep up with new acquaintances: I hope you left the meeting with a nice collection of business cards, and maybe some notes from presentations on things you'd like to know more about. Take advantage of the contacts you've made; call or email and strengthen those professional ties. Let me also mention here the growing role of the Committee for Career Development. This committee started up 2 years ago, and initiated the Speed Networking event at the 2016 annual meeting. It was immediately popular, spurring us to have two Speed Networking events at the 2017 meeting. The Committee is looking for ways to increase the value of the association to its members by assisting in professional and career development, and would be happy to have new members and new ideas.

AsMA is a thriving association, influential across many disciplines, and representative of the best of interdisciplinary work centered around the common goal of optimizing health, safety, and performance for those who fly, in air or in space. I am especially impressed every year with the truly global nature of our field and its practitioners. There is so much to be gained by comparing across national and cultural boundaries, and by bringing together research and experience from diverse backgrounds. I hope our members take advantage of the ability to network across borders, and perhaps even pursue education or employment beyond that mental horizon formed by the familiar and the comfortable. It is a privilege of the age we live in, and the community we are a part of, to travel widely and to serve a world-wide community.

AsMA is our professional association, and I invite you to continue to shape it to meet the needs of the aerospace community and of you, its members. I am proud to be a part of the Aerospace Medical Association, taking an active part in creating and distributing knowledge and expertise, founding friendships and nurturing individuals to continue into the future as our guiding principles state, to:

- Be the internationally recognized authority in aerospace medicine;
- Be an advocate for the advancement of aerospace medicine;
- Provide value-added services to all members;
- Provide a forum to integrate all of the aerospace medicine disciplines;
- Facilitate members' contributions to the field and the organization.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the coming year.

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