The Aerospace Medical Association’s (AsMA’s) Scientific Program Committee (SPC) met in November in Alexandria, VA, to review the abstracts for the upcoming 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas.

AsMA welcomes 18 new members in January.

- Ayres Netto, Carlos Eduardo; Miami, FL, United States
- Baker, Hillary; Chesapeake, VA, United States
- Ciubuc-Batu, Maria-Theodora; Parkwood, Queensland, Australia
- Fernandez, Peter; Brampton, Ontario, Canada
- Figg, William; Oxford, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom
- Franken, Marco; Voorschoten, Netherlands
- Kesavan, Suresh; Mooroolbok, Queensland, Australia
- Lai, Julian; Carlingford, New South Wales, Australia
- McCormick, Timothy; Jacksonville, FL, United States
- Ogilvie, Karl; Kalamazoo, MI, United States
- Owen, Randall; Branford, CT, United States
- Parker, Timothy; San Diego, CA, United States
- Pleticha, Josef; Hillsborough, NC, United States
- Rollings, Robert; Savannah, GA, United States
- Sheppard-Hickey, Rebecca-Anne; Manchester, Lancashire, United Kingdom
- Wadood, Audrey; Wichita, KS, United States
- Xiao, Jianzhou; Chicago, IL, United States

AsMA was saddened to learn of the death of Nathaniel E. “Nat” Villaire, who was a Fellow of AsMA and a Professor Emeritus at the College of Aeronautics at Florida Tech. He earned a B.S. in Microbiology/Zoology at the University of Georgia in 1962, took the pulmonary physiology course at the School of Aerospace Medicine in 1969, and was qualified in hypobaric and hyperbaric physiology that same year. He also graduated from the human life support training course at the School of Aerospace Medicine in 1974. He additionally held a Master’s in Financial Management (1980), an Ed.S. in Higher Education (1987), and an Ed.D., also in Higher Education (1991).

Dr. Villaire was a military pilot from 1962 to 1968, retiring as a U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, having earned the Bronze Star as a Vietnam veteran. He then became Director of Pulmonary Training at Ehrling-Bergquist Regional Hospital in Omaha, NE, and later became Director of Life Support Systems from 1970–1971. In 1971, he took a position as Director of Hypobaric Physiology at Regional Hos-pital, Langley, VA. He then transferred to become Senior Plant Manager of DoD Communications in Columbus, MS, in 1975. He was promoted to Director of System Analysis in
South African Airways (SAA), is celebrating 20 years of non-stop operations between Johannesburg and Africa’s most populous city, Lagos, Nigeria. Operations commenced on 4 December 1998 as SAA launched its first flight into Nigeria soon after the Bilateral Air Service Agreement between the two countries had been signed. SAA has since brought several aircraft onto this route, from the initial Airbus 300 series, which had to make a technical stop en-route in Luanda to the Boeing 767 and the B747-400 and to the Airbus A340–600, which was then replaced by the current state of the art Airbus A330-300 aircraft. With its thriving economy, Nigeria is Africa’s economic powerhouse and Lagos is a high-energy city famous for its vibrant lifestyle. In honor of this milestone, SAA rolled out a campaign that saw brand activation on social media, and radio and print publications in the Nigeria region.

Please visit https://www.flysaa.com/about-us/leading-carrier/media-center/media-releases/newsroom # to read more on this.

Monash Staff Teach Courses in Qatar

Two of Monash’s staff, Prof. David Newman and Ms. Suzy Giuliano, visited Doha, Qatar, to teach two aviation medicine short courses co-sponsored with Qatar Airways. In addition, Monash has been readying the launch of a Diploma in Aviation Medicine, which will commence in the September 2019 semester. Above is a photo of the students who attended the Advanced Aviation Medicine course taught there.

—For the full news bite, please see p. N74 of December 2018’s newsletter.

AOPA Named Top Trade Association

The Hill, a Washington, DC, based publication, has named the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) a top lobbying trade association for the fifth year in a row. AOPA was the only general aviation association that made the list. According to the article, AOPA and President Mark Baker, along with other top advocates, industries, and unions, were recognized for a “demonstrated ability to wield influence and deliver results on Capitol Hill on behalf of its members seeking a voice in Washington.” AOPA’s advocacy this past year includes opposing privatizing air traffic control, making fixed-base operator pricing fairer, and working to make changes to 14 CFR Part 61.

—Please visit https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2018/december/18/aopa-named-top-trade-association to read more about this.

Mayo Researchers Discover Potential Treatment for Mesothelioma

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic Center for Individualized Medicine have discovered large chromosomal rearrangements present in mesothelioma which could make it possible to understand which patients are likely respond to immunotherapy. The research is published in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology. This finding is significant in part because the prognosis is often poor for mesothelioma — a rare, aggressive form of cancer linked to asbestos exposure that forms on tissue lining in the lungs, heart, and abdomen. There is no cure and standard cancer treatment of chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery do not work for everyone.


Registration is now open for GLEC 2019

The first conference of its kind, the IAF Global Conference on Space for Emerging Countries (GLEC) aims to actively engage emerging countries in the space scene and to bring together the international community. It will take place April 24-26, 2019, in Marrakesh, Morroco.

For more or to register, please visit http://glec2019.org/.
KBRwyle Awarded Logistics Support Tasks by U.S. Army

KBR, Inc. announced that its global government services business, KBRwyle, was awarded two task order modifications to provide logistics support services to the U.S. Army in Europe and the Arabian Peninsula. The Army Contracting Command awarded these modifications under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) IV contract. KBRwyle received a task order modification to continue assisting the U.S. European Command in meeting its mission. The company's services will include maintenance support, base operating support services, and assisting the U.S. Army in transporting arms, ammunition, and explosives. This is a 6-month extension on the task order, which was originally awarded in August 2015. KBRwyle also received a task order modification to continue providing logistics support to the U.S. military in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The company will provide facilities management, laundry services, waste management, maintenance support, fire protection, airfield management, and transportation operations. This is the third option year on the task order, which was originally awarded in April 2015.


NIOSH Develops Dampness & Mold Assessment Tool

NIOSH has developed the Dampness and Mold Assessment Tool for both general buildings and schools to help employers identify and assess areas of dampness in buildings. Office buildings, schools, and other nonindustrial build-ings may develop moisture and dampness problems from roof and window leaks, high indoor humidity, and flooding events, among other things. Damp building conditions promote the growth of mold, bacteria, fungi, and insects. Occupants in damp buildings can be exposed to pollutants in the air from biological contaminants and the breakdown of building materials. The Dampness and Mold Assessment Tool guides users through assessing all rooms, whether in a school or a general building, for areas of dampness and mold and identifying the source(s) of the dampness and mold. The tool provides an easy-to-use checklist and instructions for assessing and recording any damage that is found and for tracking conditions through time.

—Please see https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-12-11-18.html for more on this.

Prevention 2019 Call for Abstracts

Save the date!

The American College of Preventive Medicine invites you to submit a scientific abstract for Prevention 2019 to be held May 20-23, 2019, at the Omni William Penn in Pittsburgh, PA. Accepted abstracts will be presented in scientific oral and poster sessions covering various preventive medicine issues. To submit a scientific abstract for Prevention 2019, click here. View the submission guidelines here.

Corporate News Bites

NeuroKinetics: NeuroKinetics’ I-Portal technology, including the I-PAS, were used to diagnose the U.S. diplomats who were serving in Cuba and reported a mysterious illness. The diplomats were found to have inner ear damage. While not considered a traumatic brain injury, doctors are now confident they can treat it, though there are no theories as to cause. Please visit https://www.neurokinetics.com/project/doctors-confirm-inner-ear-damage-among-u-s-diplomats-from-cuba to read more about this.

AMAS: Dr. Quay Snyder, CEO and President of the Aviation Medicine Advisory Service (AMAS), is a Director of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine (IAASM) and gave a presentation on emerging best practices for pilot peer support groups at IAASM’s annual scientific congress in mid-November. Please see https://www.aviationmedicine.com/amas-notams/latest-amas-news/ for this and other AMAS news.

APA: Allied Pilots Association (APA) recently voiced support for a joint business venture between American Airlines and Qantas. They are requesting the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the venture as they feel it will have a beneficial impact on the two airlines and their customers. They also feel it will be beneficial to the pilots APA represents. Please visit https://www.alliedpilots.org/News/ID/6536/Allied-Pilots-Association-Voices-Support-for-Proposed-American-Airlines-Qantas-Joint-Business-Venture to read more about this.

UTMB: The University of Texas Medical Branch’s Dr. Bernard Karnath, professor of Internal Medicine, has received the 2018 Laureate Award from the Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians. He was recognized Nov. 17 at the chapter’s annual fall meeting in Austin. Please visit https://www.utmb.edu/internalmedicine/news-events to see this and other UTMB news.

MEETINGS CALENDAR

Jan. 28-29, 2019; 8th International Conference on Neurology and Neuromuscular Diseases; Dubai, UAE. Please visit https://neuromuscular.pulsusconference.com/ for more information.

March 5-7, 2019; Singapore Aviation Safety Seminar; Singapore Aviation Academy, Singapore. For more information, please visit http://conference.thoracic.org/ for more information.
