

# ASAMS BOG Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 7 March 2019 @ 1600 Eastern Time

**ASAMS Purpose:** The American Society of Aerospace Medicine Specialists (ASAMS) is a non-profit organization created to serve as a voice for and to represent the professional needs of Aerospace Medicine Specialists in the United States. The Society is a constituent organization of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA). (ASAMS website: <http://www.asams.org/>)

## Teleconference Instructions:

Dial in phone number: 1-888-537-7715

Participant passcode: 31326794#

(Leader passcode: 48795377#)

**Roll Call:** (**bold** = present at telecon; **bold & italic** = emailed info)

President: **Dr. Chuck Mathers**

1st Past President: Dr. Johann Westphall

2nd Past President: Dr. Pat Storms

3rd Past President: Dr. Dave O'Brien

Vice-President (President-Elect): **Dr. Chaz Shurlow**

Secretary: **Dr. Dai Tran**

Treasurer: **Dr. Charlie Clinton**

Membership: **Dr. Dave Blocker** & Dr. Ramon Yambo-Arias

Nominations & Awards: **Dr. Russ Tontz**

Ethics: **Dr. Jeff Jones**

Education & Training: Dr. Timothy Burkhardt

Website: **Dr. Paul Young**

Constitution & Bylaws: **Dr. Mark Nassir**

Publications: Dr. Dan Shoor

MOC: Dr. Susan Northrup & Dr. Kim Toone

Space Medicine: **Dr. Rahul Suresh**

Members-at-Large: Dr. Jim Elliott ('17), Dr. Kimberly Toone ('16), Dr. Brian Agee ('15)

Emeritus Members: **Dr. Romie Richardson, Dr. Cheryl Lowry**

**I. Approval of Prior Minutes:** Minutes from 14 Nov 2018 telecon approved as written

## **II. Officer Reports**

### **A. President (Dr. Mathers)**

- 1. ASAMS Scholarship:** *ASAMS would like to sponsor a recurring scholarship program for an undergraduate or medical student with a strong interest in pursuing a career in aerospace medicine. Per 14 Nov 2018 telecon, consensus was not financially feasible for ASAMS to provide scholarship through AsMA Foundation, which requires \$10,000 investment to provide \$500 scholarship yearly. Instead, ASAMS to directly provide \$500 check for a designated ASAMS scholarship recipient. Dr. Mathers to draft up criteria for the \$500 scholarship. Updates:* Dr. Mathers to complete draft of criteria for the \$500 scholarship to be discussed during ASAMS breakfast at upcoming AsMA in May 2019, with goal for scholarship to be available prior to AsMA in May 2020.
- 2. ASAMS Report to AsMA Council:** ASAMS provided report on 15 Nov 2018 to update our activities to the AsMA Council that met on 28 Nov 2018 in Alexandria, VA
- 3. ASAMS Endorsement:** For upcoming AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting in May 2019, AsMA Scientific Program Committee had asked ASAMS to endorse in order "to highlight

particularly outstanding” submissions. ASAMS concurred with provide endorsements for the following panel and poster:

- a. **Panel:** FAA Federal Air Surgeon’s Oncology Summit – Integrating Aeromedical Certification and the Leading Edge of Oncology Research and Practice
  - b. **Poster:** The Effect of Warehouse Automation on Injuries to Aerial Porters
  4. **Wright State University Aerospace Medicine Certificate Program:** Regarding this relatively new program, Dr. Mathers to provide Dr. Young info so ASAMS can help advertise the program by posting on our website. Note: Link to WSU Aerospace Medicine Certificate Program is <https://medicine.wright.edu/aerospace-medicine/aerospace-medicine-certificate-program>.
- B. Info from Specialty Society Meeting (Dr. Lowry):** Dr. Lowry provided updates from recent meeting she attended in Chicago, and briefed on the following topics:
1. Revising ABPM core and aerospace medicine specialty exam guidelines: Goal to have draft of the core exam guidelines by fall 2019
  2. Reinvigorate MOC program: ABPM had switched to an online MOC exam administered from the examinee’s home/office via computer and cell phone as an interim enhancement, but will continue to have the written exam (with 2 in-person opportunities per year) for the next couple of years
    - a. ABPM is watching anti-MOC legislation and seeing how the larger medical specialties navigate through the MOC changes. ABPM may transition away from a “high stakes” 10-year exam to an annual requirement, with format, content, and cost still TBD.
    - b. ABPM would like to transition MOC to life-long learning and to be more reflective of actual clinical practices
  3. Revising RAM GME milestones: Goal to do this in 2020
- C. Vice-President/President-Elect (Dr. Shurlow):** Changed ASAMS breakfast meeting at upcoming AsMA to **Tuesday morning** (0700-0815) instead of usual Wednesday morning to deconflict with AsMA Associate Fellows breakfast. In order to keep cost to no more than \$1,500, ordered enough food/beverages for 30 people. Will reach out to USAF RAM residents to attend ASAMS breakfast meeting.
- D. Secretary (Dr. Tran):** Continue to periodically email “Job Opportunities” to ASAMS members. Will provide Dr. Young the followings to post on ASAMS website:
1. ASAMS BOG Telecon Minutes (16 Aug 2018)
  2. ASAMS BOG Telecon Minutes (14 Nov 2018)
  3. ASAMS Report to AsMA Council (15 Nov 2018)
- E. Treasurer (Dr. Clinton):** Per email on 19 Dec 2018, *we currently have \$13,760.55 in our account. This is enough for ASAMS to sponsor the \$500 scholarship annually to a student recipient. Anticipates budget for ASAMS breakfast in Las Vegas to be about \$1500.*

### III. Committee Reports

- A. **Constitution & Bylaws (Dr. Nassir):** Per 7 Mar 2019 email, no new updates
- B. **Membership (Dr. Blocker & Dr. Yambo-Arias):**
  1. Per 14 Nov 2018 telecon, *Dr. Blocker stated we have 2 new members, for a total of 336 in our database. Of these, 55% (184) are current on dues. Would like to do another membership push before next AsMA in May 2019. Currently, doing right seat/left seat upgrade for Dr. Yambo-Arias regarding Membership Committee duties. Other stats from 16 Aug 18 telecon: We have 38 confirmed ASAMS life members. Another 35 AsMA life members are eligible and have been offered ASAMS life membership. Also, 43% (143) are AsMA Fellows, 28% (94) are Associate Fellows, and 4% (12) are Student/Resident members.*
  2. Per 7 Mar 2019 email update, Dr. Blocker stated will work with Dr. Yambo-Arias to send out message to ASAMS members in April 2019 to encourage folks to update their

membership info online before AsMA in May 2019. After that, Dr. Yambo-Arias will take lead for Membership Committee.

**C. Practice Standards & Competencies (Dr. Mathers)**

1. Per 16 Aug 2018 telecon, Dr. “Bugs” Ortega has converted ASAMS MOC Part IV form into PDF. Would like to post practice guidelines onto ASAMS website and/or publish in “Blue Journal.”
2. Per 14 Nov 2018 telecon, MOC Part IV form is now available as a fillable PDF on ASAMS website to assist participants with completion (\$295 for AsMA/ASAMS members & \$395 for non-members). Dr. Mathers to reach out to RAM residency directors (Navy, Army, UTMB, and Mayo) for their residents to participate. ASAMS members at USAFSAM to contact USAF RAM residency director.

**D. MOC - Maintenance of Certification (Dr. Northrup & Dr. Toone):**

1. Per ABPM announcement on 27 Dec 2018 that ASAMS had forwarded to our members, ABPM to begin offering remotely-proctored computer-based administration of its MOC exams in 2019, allowing folks to take them in their home or office. Paper and pencil MOC exams are still available, and will take place in the second and fourth quarters of 2019 in Chicago, IL.
2. **Updates:** See Dr. Lowry’s MOC updates in II.B.2 above.

**E. Education & Training (Dr. Burkhardt)**

1. **AsMA 2019’s Board Review:** Per Dr. Burkhardt’s email on 30 Oct 2018, “I have 7 sessions identified, some speakers taking two sessions to cover multiple topics, others taking one. I’m having trouble with linking abstracts to the sessions, and have emailed Pam Day (AsMA Managing Editor) for guidance. For those abstracts I haven’t received, I’m pinging those people as reminders to get them submitted [by 1 Nov 2018 deadline].” Topics to be covered at upcoming AsMA Board Review are:
  - a. Pressure Effects - Hypobarics
  - b. Pressure Effects - Hyperbarics
  - c. Cardiology Physiology
  - d. Cardiology Flight Considerations
  - e. Otolaryngology
  - f. Travel Medicine
  - g. Epi/Biostats
2. **Updates:** Per Dr. Mathers, due to difficulties finding speakers, AsMA had to cut short this year’s AsMA Board Review session. In an effort to revitalize this program, Dr. Mathers is asking the RAM program directors to see if they would be interested in helping to organize and provide speakers for the Board Review sessions in future years. So far, have received positive support from RAM program directors for the Navy (CAPT Nathan Almond) and Air Force (Lt Col Dave Miller).
3. **Info:** ASAMS continues to support the RAM Bowl competition at the upcoming AsMA in May 2019

**F. Nominations & Awards (Dr. Tontz):**

1. Per email update by Dr. Tontz on 25 Jan 2019:
  - a. **Dr. Joe “Bugs” Ortega** to assume role as **AsMA President** in May 2019
  - b. **Dr. Chuck DeJohn** had previously been selected as **AsMA President-Elect**. **Dr. Volker Damann** was subsequently selected to fill Dr. DeJohn’s remaining one-year term (2019-2020) as **AsMA Vice President**.
  - c. **Dr. Kathy Hughes** had convincing win for **AsMA Secretary** and will be on the Slate of Officers that will be presented for approval during upcoming AsMA’s Annual Business Meeting in Las Vegas
  - d. There were 13 nominees for the AsMA Council **Member-at-Large (MAL)** for 4 vacancies to be filled. **ASAMS nominated 5 members**, who are **Dr. William Brent**

*Klein, Dr. Walter “Sparky” Matthews, Dr. Mark Mavity, Dr. David O’Brien, and Dr. David Schall. Hopefully, ASAMS will capture at least one MAL position.*

- e. *Dr. Tontz would like to “pass the torch” for the ASAMS Nominations Committee to an “up and coming superstar”*
2. Per email update by Dr. Tontz on 7 Mar 2019 after telecon:
  - a. ASAMS put a lot of great folks forward for AsMA-level positions, but this was just a very competitive year of talent. All the best and thanks to all those who put their names in the hat! The AsMA slate is now complete after this year’s nominating cycle and is as follows:
    - i. President-Elect: Charles DeJohn
    - ii. Vice President (2-Year Term): Joseph Dervay
    - iii. Vice President (2-Year Term): Barry Shender
    - iv. Vice President (1-Year Term): Volker Damann
    - v. Secretary: Kathryn Hughes
    - vi. Member-at-Large: Denise Baisden
    - vii. Member-at-Large: John Charles
    - viii. Member-at-Large: Ilaria Cinelli
    - ix. Member-at-Large: Susan Fondy
  - b. Request that we open up my Nominating Committee chair position to another interested ASAMS member
- G. **Ethics & Professional Conduct (Dr. Jones):** During 14 Nov 2018 telecon, *ASAMS BOG unanimously voted for ASAMS Ethics Committee to serve as the core member for AsMA’s ad-hoc ethics committee, as requested by Dr. Jeffrey Sventek (AsMA Executive Director)*
  1. **Updates:** Per Dr. Mathers, this still needs AsMA formal approval in May 2019 to be official
  2. **Info:** ASAMS Ethics Committee will again host the annual Ethics Panel at AsMA in May 2019 and offer CME ethics credit
- H. **Website (Dr. Young):** Continuing to make minor changes to the website & to update the job advertisements. Feel free to provide feedbacks so we can continue to improve the website.
  1. Had previously posted a password-protected membership roster to the ASAMS website, but will need an updated ASAMS membership roster
- I. **Publications (Dr. Shoor/Dr. O’Brien/Dr. Westphall):** Per 14 Nov 2018 telecon, *regarding the “Past President’s Blog” & “Newsletter,” Dr. Shurlow to check with Dr. Shoor and Dr. Ortega to see if there would be a demand to make the ASAMS Newsletter’s effort worth it or not.* **Updates:** Dr. Shurlow relayed consensus was there was not much demands for the ASAMS Newsletter at this time, and that the ASAMS website would be adequate to provide general info
- J. **Space Medicine (Dr. Suresh):** Per 7 Mar 2019 email, no new updates

#### IV. Old Businesses

- A. **ASAMS Scholarship:** This item was started during 16 Aug 2018 telecon. See **Updates** above in II.A.1.
- B. **USAF RAM Residency No Longer Selects GMO Applicants:** Per 14 Nov 2018 telecon, *Dr. Richardson stated since the USAF RAM residency traditionally produces the largest number RAM graduates, this new USAF policy would potentially decrease the number of aerospace medicine specialists in the future.* After 14 Nov 2018 telecon, *letters have been sent to the USAF Surgeon General (Lt Gen Dorothy Hogg) vocalizing these concerns, respectively, from AsMA Executive Director (Dr. Jeff Sventek on 8 Nov 2018) and ABPM Executive Director (Christopher Ondrula on 7 Feb 2019).* **Updates:** Dr. Richardson led discussion regarding concerns for future of the aerospace medicine specialty since we are having decreased number of USAF RAM residents. Looking for ways to attract new

physicians to the specialty.

**V. New Businesses**

**A. Nominations for ASAMS BOG Positions:** Dr. Shurlow stated will need nominations for the 2 ASAMS BOG positions going vacant in May 2019.

**1.** Per Dr. Mathers, ASAMS to email our members asking nominations for:

**a. Vice-President (President-Elect):** Will be vacant since Dr. Shurlow will stepping into President position

**b. Nominations Committee Chair:** Will be vacant since Dr. Tontz would like to “pass the torch”

**2.** Per Dr. Mathers, once we get the nominees’ names, will collect brief bio’s from them and use Survey Monkey for ASAMS members to vote and elect them to the positions

**VI. Adjournment:** Telecon meeting ended at 1637 Eastern time. Next meeting to be held at the ASAMS breakfast on Tuesday, 7 May 2019, at 0700 local at the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas.

**Chuck Mathers**  
ASAMS President