

AEROSPACE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 / Spring 2021

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL IN THE HUMAN BREAST

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“Hello” from the Chair to all of you, and I hope the vaccine needle has sprung into all of your willing arms by now. That’s the overarching desire of all of us in the field of aerospace medicine—we want everyone healthy, our annual meeting back, and to see each other in person again!

No matter what the rest of the year may bring, you can be assured that YOUR AsMA Foundation will continue to do its good work. This is only possible with the generosity of our donors, one of whom, the illustrious Dr. Joe Kerwin, is featured in this issue.

Your Board of Directors continue to meet regularly by Zoom, and recently elected Dr. Kathryn Hughes to fill the seat being vacated by Dr. Melchor Antunano. Many thanks to Melchor for his years of service to the Foundation. Please welcome Kathy to the Board!

Our finances have done well despite the pandemic, and the Foundation looks forward to this year’s cycle of awardees. I am pleased to announce that the AsMA Foundation Board of Directors has approved financial support of \$750 per year for a new award: the AMSRO Diversity Scholarship. Administered by the AsMA student/resident organization, this award supports pre-med and medical students from underrepresented ethnicities and minorities to attend AsMA events.

The two Foundation-sponsored CME webinar events last year were a great success, with 106 and 69 attendees from 12 countries. This could be a model for future events, even post-pandemic. The BOD wishes to thank all the people who worked so hard to put on two excellent CME programs for AsMA’s participants. Please take some of the extra money you have saved by staying home so much last year and *make a donation to YOUR AsMA Foundation!*

David K. Broadwell, M.D., M.P.H.



THE ASMA FOUNDATION THANKS 2020 DONORS

The Foundation supports the field of aerospace medicine and the Aerospace Medical Association through the generosity of members and friends of AsMA. In 2020, 86 donors supported the Foundation and contributed \$48,721 to constituent organization endowed funds, named endowed funds, and unrestricted use. We wish to thank the following individuals for helping the Foundation support the Association, aerospace medicine and the allied fields in 2020. The mission of the Foundation could not be possible without your generous support. The Foundation appreciates gifts of any amount, but we will specifically recognize our more generous donors through AsMA Foundation Orbit donor categories unless they prefer anonymity. *While we make every effort to include each donor, if your name was inadvertently omitted from the lists or you are listed incorrectly, please let us know.*

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HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Heritage Society honors colleagues and friends who make a commitment to the Foundation by will, revocable living trust, life insurance, life-income gift, retirement account designation or a deferred gift arrangement. Qualifying commitments may be of any amount, and may be directed to support existing programs and endowments, qualified new programs of the donor's choice, or may be undesignated. If others meet these criteria, please notify Dr. Broadwell or any of the Board members.

Charles Billings*

Jeffrey R. Davis

Richard Jennings

David K. Broadwell

Walter and Sylvia Goldenrath*

Al Parmet

**deceased*

FOUNDATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

Secretary/Treasurer Genie Bopp reports that the Foundation funds are solid financially with assets on December 31, 2020 totalling \$563,540, up from \$498,556 at the close of 2019. We celebrate the milestone of passing the 1/2 million mark in 2020 securing the future of scholarships, awards, and support for the association.

The total balance includes assets held for affiliated and constituent organizations and for specific scholarship endowed funds. There are 12 individual funds within the Foundation in addition to the unrestricted fund that supports the Fellows awards. The Funds are as follows: Stanley Mohler, Space Medicine Association, Society of NASA Flight Surgeons, Walter & Sylvia Goldenrath, Thomas J. & Margaret D. Tredici, Kris Belland, Aerospace Nursing & Allied Health Professionals Society, Richard & Peggy Trumbo, Richard & Issy Jennings, Anita Mantri Memorial, American Society of Aerospace Medicine Specialists, and Mary Foley funds. Each of these funds have guidelines specific to the fund that determine the scholarships, awards or general purposes for which the funds are used.

The Foundation's investment advisors at Tufton Capital Management moved the balance of our investment from Merrill Lynch to Pershing accounts to enable better control and opportunity for the growth of our pooled investments. Tufton reported a 6.4% percent total return on the Foundation's investment funds for 2020. Tufton Capital continues to provide independent, professional management of the investment portfolio for the Foundation's assets to limit volatility and provide a sound basis for the future of the Foundation. The Foundation's asset allocation remains conservative to assure retention of capital with adequate annual income to assure scholarship and award distributions in varying market conditions.

Scholarships, awards, and grants in 2020 totaled \$7,500. The 2020 Fellows Award distribution was deferred to 2021 since the candidate presentations were deferred.

UP TO FOUR FELLOWS' SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2021

Due to the cancellation of the AsMA meeting in Atlanta as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 AsMA Fellows Scholarship candidates were unable to deliver their presentations, which is an eligibility requirement. However, four of the candidates submitted their manuscripts and were approved for publication in the AMHP journal (second eligibility requirement). Therefore, these four candidates will be considered eligible for the 2020 scholarship (\$2,000 1st prize and \$1,000 2nd prize), but they will have to submit and deliver the same presentation during the 2021 scientific meeting in Denver, CO to be evaluated by the AsMA Fellows scholarship

committee. In addition, the 2021 AsMA Fellows Scholarship process will proceed as normally planned. This means that this year there will possibly be two recipients of the 2020 Fellows Scholarship and two recipients of the 2021 Fellows Scholarship.

The Fellows Scholarship is funded by the AsMA Foundation through the generous support of AsMA Fellows and members. The awards are presented annually to two AsMA members who are students in an aerospace medicine residency program, graduate program in aerospace medicine (Master or Ph.D.), medical certificate or aerospace diploma course, or in a full-time education/training program in the allied fields of nursing, physiology, human factors, psychology, ergonomics, and engineering. Selection criteria include delivering a slide or poster presentation as a first author at the AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting and then submitting a manuscript as first author for publication in AsMA's Aerospace Medicine & Human Performance (AMHP) Journal based on the same topic and/or material covered in the slide or poster presentation. Scholarship recipients are selected by the AsMA Fellows Scholarship Committee based on the highest scientific value, originality, quality, and relevance of the applicant's presentation and AMHP manuscript related to the field of aerospace medicine (including allied scientific disciplines). The scholarship committee gives special consideration to applicants who are at an early state in their career development. The monetary awards are used for underwriting, in whole or in part, the cost of registration, fees, transportation, hotel accommodations, or any other valid expenses incurred by the winners in relation to their attendance at one or more scholarly meetings on aerospace medicine topics.

Melchor Antunano, M.D., M.S., Chair, Fellows Scholarship Committee.

JOE KERWIN SUPPORTS AEROSPACE MEDICINE WITH AN OFF THE PLANET IDEA: HIS DONATED SKYLAB VECTORCARDIOGRAM KIT SOLD AT AUCTION FOR \$5,000



The Foundation was very pleased and honored when Dr. Joe Kerwin, the first physician in space, made a very special donation of space flown medical hardware to our cause. The following letter accompanied the kit when it was sold by RR auctions in November 2020 for \$5000:

“This is the Skylab II Vectorcardiogram (VCG) kit that was on-orbit aboard America's first space station between May 25th and June 22nd 1973. It was donated to the Aerospace Medical Association Foundation by former astronaut Joseph P. Kerwin, M.D., the first physician in space and the Science-Pilot for the Skylab II mission. Dr. Kerwin was responsible for all the medical research done aboard the Skylab orbiting laboratory, and he used this kit on Skylab Pilot Paul Weitz. The kit was used on two medical experiments, M092 “In-flight Lower Body Negative Pressure” and M093 “Vectorcardiogram” (exercise). The kit is annotated and signed by Dr. Kerwin.”

Thanks, Joe! The only Saturn level donor so far to have actually ridden on a Saturn rocket!



AWARD DISTRIBUTIONS

Anita Mantri Scholarship	Benjamin Johnson	\$1000
Stanley Mohler Scholarhip	Stefan McAlister	\$750
Thomas J. & Margaret D. Tredici Award	Douglas Ivan	\$500
Walter and Sylvia Goldenrath Award	Brian Musselman	\$2000
SMA International Scholarship	Michael Green	\$750
SMA International Scholarship	Nina Purvis	\$750
SMA Jeffrey Davis Scholarship	Katie Harris	\$500
SMA Robert Ellis Scholarship	Craig Nowadly	\$500
AMSRO Diversity Scholarship	Taania Girgla	\$750

AEROSPACE MEDICINE STUDENT & RESIDENT ORGANIZATION DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to the 2021 recipient of the AMSRO Diversity Scholarship Program, Taania Girgla! Taania is in her final year as an MD/MPH student at the University of Michigan looking forward to a residency in anesthesiology, with future plans for critical care and aerospace medicine.

“Having grown up in Malaysia, India, and now the US,” Taania shares some of the challenges she faced growing up with constant relocations. “I stuck out in crowds, my accent was mocked...” She remembers this perpetual motion as being a setback in her education at first; “Over time though, I realized that every change opened my doors to the subtler, but more essential, diversity of ideologies, values, and experiences, and I began to embrace change as a learning asset and use it to develop my own multifaceted identity. ...[T]oday, I am proud to say I have three beautiful places to call home.”

Her experiences with many cultures inspired her to pursue public health, soon realizing that “health professionals do not often reflect those whom they serve,” which eventually motivated her to organize a national Diversity in Medicine conference and to take point in her medical school’s Doctors of Tomorrow outreach program “to expose underrepresented minority students to careers in medicine and provide them with the skillset needed to help pursue this path.” This two-handed approach would turn out to be a hallmark of Taania’s burgeoning career; she conscientiously provides those who look up to her not only with inspiration, but also with actionable direction as a genuine mentor.

She would soon receive some direction of her own. Though a lifelong lover of space and medicine, Taania only discovered aerospace medicine during her first year of medical school. Prior to meeting anyone within the field itself, Taania recalls her dream of becoming a flight surgeon getting “met with a skeptical look and a chuckle... I am not what most envision when they think of these traditionally male-dominated, White-dominated, ‘rugged’ and ‘risky’ careers.” Her passion could not be swayed, but there were times when she internalized the doubt that she would ever actually fulfill her vision. “Perhaps somewhere along the way, others’ voices became a subconscious voice...” Fortunately, she stuck to her goals and was able to meet a handful of students through the Aerospace Medical Association who took her under their wings and helped ignite her journey into aerospace medicine.

She has worked diligently not only to explore this field that had been shared with her, but also to expand it: she began her involvement in aerospace medicine with the idea to create a space medicine elective so that knowledge could be shared with students earlier in their careers; she forged Michigan's statewide AMSRO chapter to create a community of resources for people beyond her own university; and she now mentors other students in order to—as her mentors at AsMA once put it—“pay it forward to others trying to make their mark too.” Taania reports that “students often reach out to me to ask how to enter the field,” citing what they believe to be barriers like “finances, being international, and feeling not represented due to their gender, size, or skin color.” She helps these students find their own launchpads, whether through encouraging Zoom calls or giving interviews for foreign high schoolers' class projects. En route toward her own goals, it has become another goal of hers “to empower others from various walks of life... and give a voice to their ideas like someone once did for me.”

In her free time, Taania enjoys the outdoors, reading, Bollywood movies, and new challenges, citing current examples as “training for a triathlon and learning how to make macarons at home!” She was recently accepted for medical student clerkships with NASA and SpaceX, and the AMSRO Diversity Committee looks forward to tremendous things in Taania's future, including the mentorship component of the scholarship program, wherein Taania will develop research opportunities in space physiology while continuing to light the way for future students who may be facing the same setbacks she was able to turn into assets.

For questions about the AMSRO Diversity Scholarship Program, please direct questions to AMSRO.Diversity@gmail.com.

THE RICHARD B. “DICK” TRUMBO PREVENTIVE MEDICINE RUN/WALK IN DENVER CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Plans for the Richard B. “Dick” Trumbo 5K Preventive Medicine Run/Walk in Denver were interrupted due Covid-related constraints for transportation to the run site. In 2017, the Trumbo Run/Walk was held at the Mile High Trail in the beautiful City Park, but potential social distancing limitation inside the required buses made conducting the event this year too pricey. The heat of August and mile-high altitude would have also made it difficult for some. Dick Trumbo directly supported the annual fun run for many years. Starting with the 2015 Scientific Meeting in Orlando, the Richard “Dick” Trumbo 5K Preventive Medicine Run/Walk has been held in honor of Dick, and his wife Peggy continues the tradition of support. The AsMA Foundation also supports the Run through proceeds generated from the Richard B. and Peggy Trumbo Endowment. AsMA Executive Director Jeff Sventek and the arrangements team will be working to make the Trumbo Run/Walk in Reno a major success. The previous run in Reno was held along-side the Truckee River.

FOUNDATION BOOTH IN DENVER

The AsMA Foundation will be hosting a booth in the display area at the annual scientific meeting in Denver. Members of the Board will periodically staff the booth and hope to answer any questions that AsMA members may have. We also plan to seek input from members regarding perceived needs the Foundation may address or suggestions to improve the Foundation's function in the future.

THE CARES ACT AND CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021 OFFER ADDITIONAL TAX ADVANTAGES FOR COUPLES TAKING THE STANDARD DEDUCTION

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021 was enacted into law on December 27, 2020. The Act extends and expands changes to the rules of charitable giving enacted under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provided significant temporary tax relief and charitable giving benefits including advantages for those taking the standard deduction. Approximately 90% of filers do not itemize and use the standard deduction. The CAA extended these benefits for another year.

Under the CARES Act, individual taxpayers who took the standard deduction in 2020 were allowed an “above the line” charitable income tax deduction equal to the amount of charitable cash gifts, but only up to \$300. The CARES Act did not specifically address how the deduction applied to a married couple filing jointly. Under the CAA, a married couple filing jointly, for contributions paid in calendar year 2021, will be allowed to take such deduction up to \$600.

This deduction is eligible to individuals who do not itemize their deductions (individuals who itemize deductions continue to be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction). It is limited to contributions of cash to qualifying public charities and does not include contributions to a supporting organization, a donor advised fund or most private foundations. There are other provisions in these Acts that affect those who itemize deductions so it is important to consult your tax advisor for further information on these acts and how they apply to your personal finances.

SUPPORTING THE AsMA FOUNDATION

The AsMA Foundation supports aerospace medicine and its allied fields through providing scholarships, awards, grants, and other activities. Several named individual and constituent organization endowed funds have been created to support awards, scholarships, and events in perpetuity, but unrestricted gifts are always appreciated. It is easy to support the Foundation through several methods. Gifts may include the donation of cash, securities, bequests, life insurance, savings bonds, retirement plan assets, or real estate. Those that designate future gifts to the Foundation may be added to the Heritage Society, if desired. Many types of gifts can limit tax liability, but it is prudent to consult a tax advisor. For more Foundation information, visit the [AsMA website](#).

CONTACTING THE FOUNDATION

AsMA Foundation
320 S. Henry St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

I think human beings have an innate desire to help each other. And whether you're in medicine or anything else, if you see someone that you can help...you get a gratification from doing it. In fact, I think that is perhaps the most important, you might say, fabric that holds the society together. Michael E. DeBakey

Thank You for Supporting the AsMA Foundation

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