

The FPA Quarterly Bulletin

"an on line quarterly news publication"

Published for the Promotion of Aviation Medicine and Safety.

Publisher:

Flying Physicians Association, Inc.
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Montgomery, Texas 77356

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SAFETY FIRST

A column dedicated to GA safety education

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Regular contributing columnist and chair of the Human Factors and Safety Education Committee, Dr. Warren DeHaan, is on an FAA assignment. His guest columnist is Dr. Felix Tormes, former committee chair, an FPA Past President and program chair of the FPA 2013 Annual Meeting Scientific-Aviation Program.
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EDUCATION, CHARITY & FRATERNITY

by Guest Columnist, Felix R. Tormes, MD

When the Flying Physicians Association formed in 1955, these principles were established as primary missions for our organization: Education, Charity & Fraternity. Keeping faith with those tenets, our upcoming Annual Meeting in Milwaukee features multiple presentations to uphold our traditions.

First, as regards EDUCATION, we recognize that a well-trained and informed pilot is a safer pilot. To that end, we have again scheduled Mike Busch to share his extensive experience on aircraft engine maintenance. Mike has been gracious to attend our last several national meetings, and his talks are uniformly well received. For those of us who fly behind a single engine, his words to the wise are worthy of close attention. Of course, a case can be made that if one flies a twin, his advice is even more pertinent.

Another aviation educator who will be with us is AOPA's Bruce Landsberg, a recognized authority in aviation safety. Bruce brings alive the most recent trends in aviation mishaps, all backed with data from NTSB sources and the latest Nall Report. Additionally in the field of aviation safety, we are fortunate again to have Mac McClellan, noted aviation

writer and pilot, who will discuss risk mitigation and how to incorporate those concepts into our personal flying.

Along the line of continuing medical education, we have brought together interesting and informative talks beginning with Dr. Stuart Johnston, LTC, USAF, MC, a general surgeon with four overseas deployments to the sand box, and Dr. Bruce Kaufman, Chief/Professor of Neurosurgery at Medical College of Wisconsin and an instrument rated private pilot. He will speak on recent developments in pediatric neurosurgery. Dr. Mike Lischak, former USAF flight surgeon and board-certified in aerospace medicine, is the 2013 AsMA Exchange Speaker. Mike is addressing recertification of pilots with substance abuse history. Dr. Carl Newman, formerly Medical Director at iGenics, an advance molecular laboratory and provider of genotyping and clinical diagnostics, is speaking on Mitochondrial Dysfunction and its relationship to aging and death. Dr. Vince Ostrowski is speaking on the topic of Vertigo Evaluation and Management. Vince is a specialist in otology/neurotology and basilar skull surgery. Dr. David Strahle, a leader

in the field of Breast MR imaging is a return speaker. Dave previously presented at FPA conferences, describing stunning 3-dimensional images of breast pathology. His 2013 update describes where we are today with improved technology. Dr Fred Sweet, an orthopaedic spine specialist from Rockford, IL. and a fellow USN naval officer and Gulf War veteran, is speaking on common spine disorders and current management. Dr Mark Thoman, CAPT USN (FS) RET and senior AME agreed, at my request, to speak on Medical Ethics. Mark is eminently qualified to address this topic with his perspective as a member of the NIH's Scientific Review Panel. I look forward to seeing again Dr. Scott VanValin. In 2003, we were stationed in a forward deployed Fleet Hospital in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Scott is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon on the Medical College of Wisconsin faculty. He will relate his experience in postgraduate teaching methodology. My fellow Loyola University alumnus and spine surgeon Mike Zindrick rounds out presentations on spine disorders. Mike is a Cheyenne pilot.

A core mission for FPA remains CHARITY, and many of our members are involved in this role. This year Karen Halverson, Executive Director of Lifeline Pilots, addresses mercy missions in GA and how physician pilots can continue to use our aircraft in this worthy cause.

The FRATERNAL aspect of FPA is one facet of our organization that keeps our members engaged and enthused to return for additional meetings to share new venues, renew friendships and celebrate the historical roles played by physicians in aviation. Dr. Dave Schall, FAA

Great Lakes Regional Flight Surgeon, a pilot doubly certified in aerospace medicine and otolaryngology is the Thursday Awards Luncheon speaker. A 37 year USAF Colonel and Senior Flight Surgeon, Dave is a walking encyclopedia of aviation history. He is also the author of a soon-to-be-published book on a little-known, fascinating topic that is the topic of his presentation: the physician who volunteered and flew on the Doolittle mission to bomb Tokyo in WWII. Also from the FAA, Dr. Nick Webster Captain MC (FS) USN RET, will address civilian aircraft accident investigation. Nick is currently at CAMI in Oklahoma City where he is a research physician. Among other subjects, he is discussing the Medical Analysis Track Tool to assess aeromedical hazards in aircraft accidents.

It was a challenge, but also gratifying, to put together the 2013 FPA Annual Meeting program. My aims in planning: keep it interesting; keep it pertinent to our type of flying and the ultimate goal of understanding and mitigating risks. The resulting program is well balanced with Navy/Air Force/Army perspectives, in deference to the rich history and contributions of military aerospace medicine. OK, maybe it is a little heavy on the surgical side, but I leave that for correction by the 2014 Annual Meeting Program Chair.

Nil illigitimae Carborundum

to an independent administrative consultant, volunteer worker and/or FPA renting home office space

d. The Board approved the Nominating Committee proposed slate of officers to be voted on by the membership and approved the WEB SITE proposal of Mike Busch. Mike and Alice are currently working on it.

On the matter of Chapter consolidation, the Chapter leaders met and recommended that the chapters consider joint meetings (which has been occurring) but maintain individual integrity. Each chapter was asked to survey their members on their preferences for the future.



Sylvia and I flew back to Rockford Sunday. Great flights but did have to descend through some weather. (see above)

Hope to see you in Milwaukee!!

Gary and Sylvia