

# **Airlines Medical Directors Association**

## **AMDA Newsletter May 2018**

AMDA held its 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific and Business meeting on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 in the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas, USA. The theme was:-

### **'Drilling deep into emerging Issues'**

The scientific programme included presentations reviewing the wide variety of airline medical departments and the range of their services; the setting up of Pilot Peer Support Programmes; coping with the aftermath of a major airline accident and the role of airport emergency services.

Before the lunch break a presentation was made to the winner of the inaugural Ralph Fennell Award which was awarded to Dr Marie Marechal for her scientific study of different colour vision tests for pilots. Dr Marechal then proceeded to deliver a summary of her scientific paper.

During the lunch break delegates had the opportunity for social interaction and also to visit the stands and talk with the representatives from a variety of exhibitors who had offered to sponsor the meeting. Several of these sponsors have supported AMDA for many years and the Association is most grateful for their continuing support.

The afternoon session comprised a discussion on global disease threats in aviation and emerging certification issues for airline pilots involving novel medical devices and interventions. The final paper discussed medical examinations for passengers wishing to travel in space.

This day's programme had been arranged by the programme committee chaired by Dr Rui Pombal whose team had done an excellent job to provide the delegates with such interesting topics and expert lecturers.

Following the Scientific Meeting the Annual Business Meeting was held during which 'Emeritus Status' was awarded to Dr Silvio Finkelstein, Dr Patrick Rodriguez, Dr Uwe Steuben and Dr Claude Thibeault in recognition of their long standing and devoted services to AMDA.

The meeting discussed amending the Association's Bylaws in order to widen the appeal of the Association to a much broader range of membership. Members could then include not only medically qualified professionals who advise airlines but also other disciplines such as nurses and aviation psychologists. It was proposed that the Associate Membership category would be abolished and all applicants would be regarded as full voting members provided that they met the criteria for membership as established in the Association's revised Bylaws. This concept was given widespread support but a debate to change the name of the Association to include these other disciplines was not resolved. The committee will be considering this in further detail and a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire seeking the opinion of its members will be issued in the next few months..

The current membership data base is not adequate to cope with the Association's needs and it was proposed that the database should be linked to the AsMA members' database but the financial arrangements would still be independent of AsMA. AMDA would remain a discrete Association in its own rights.

A proposal to provide financial support to the Secretary and the Treasurer in recognition of the time and effort which these posts entail was unanimously agreed.

Various committee members were then appointed and the meeting adjourned until the evening social.

Dallas was an appropriate venue for the evening's theme to be "Cowboy Attire" and as a result the venue was brilliantly decorated with Texan Cowboy memorabilia. Many of the delegates wore Cowboy or Cowgirl outfits which added to the spirit of the occasion. During the dinner the official presentation of the Ralph Fennel award was made and it was particularly poignant that Ralph's widow and son were present.

After his valedictory address the outgoing president, Dr David Powell, invested the new president, Dr Martin Hudson with the gavel. Dr Hudson thanked David for his outstanding contribution to AMDA during his year of office and then announced his committee members for 2018-2019. A complete list of the committee members can be found on the AMDA web-site.

Next year's AMDA will be held on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the Rio All Suites Hotel in Las Vegas.

For further information about AMDA contact;

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