

ASHFA

Aerospace Human Factors Association (AsHFA)
A constituent organization of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA)

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year, Colleagues!

The year is off to a fantastic start for the Aerospace Human Factors Association (AsHFA). Since our last update, we have made significant strides in mentorship, outreach, and member engagement. Here are the highlights and opportunities for you to get involved. More information is offered later in the Newsletter.



1. New Mentorship Program

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Anna Clebone-Ruskin, Katie Lightfoot, and Dr. Jason Schneiderman, we have launched the *Aerospace Human Factors and Aerospace Medicine Mentoring Program*. Whether you wish to share your expertise or seek guidance, we invite you to apply.

2. Boosting Our Visibility

Our recent student recruitment efforts have revealed a major opportunity: many institutions are unaware of AsHFA's resources. To ensure we remain a leading voice, I propose we sponsor members to represent AsHFA at key events like Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's annual conference, the AeroSummit, and the International Flight School Operators Conference. Perhaps we could set aside \$750 or \$1,000 for each of the next two years to go towards this effort and then do a cost/benefit assessment. Your Feedback is Needed: I welcome your thoughts on this proposal. Please reach out to me or any Executive Committee member as we refine our 2026 strategy.

3. AsHFA Webinar Series

Launched in January, our monthly webinar series is already a success! *Call for Speakers*: We want to showcase your expertise. Share your knowledge! To present a topic, contact me (drjohnncaldwell@gmail.com), Anna (aclebone@gmail.com), or Diego (airmandoctor@gmail.com), and we'll assist you in scheduling, advertising, set-up, and hosting the Zoom or Teams presentation.

4. Membership & Digital Presence

- **Growth.** Dr. Estrella Forster continues to grow our membership and ensure that our membership rosters and association dues payments remain up to date. We have gained 29 new members since our last in-person meeting! I encourage each of you to invite one colleague to join our ranks this quarter.
- **Social media.** Dr. Diego Garcia has continued to masterfully expand our digital footprint. Our website has undergone several improvements that enhance our social media presence, and he will soon be adding wonderfully-edited webinar recordings to the site so that anyone with an interest in aerospace human factors can view our latest contributions. Please check it out at <https://www.aerospacehumanfactors.org>, and please consider offering content to include blog posts and material promoting AsHFA activities, events, and impact stories. IF WE ALL PITCH IN, WE CAN

ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION TO OUR ASSOCIATION BY ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION THAT IS RELEVANT TO BOTH INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA.

5. Save the Date: AsMA 2026

Our next Aerospace Human Factors Association Luncheon is currently scheduled for 1200-1400 on Monday, Mar 18, 2026 as part of the Aerospace Medical Association's Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, CO (May 17-22). Registration and hotel details are available on the AsMA website. I hope to see you all there!

Thanks to the dedication of our members, AsHFA is continuing to raise awareness of the importance of human factors throughout the aerospace community, providing science-based solutions for real-world human-performance challenges, connecting members to an expanding pool of experts, and mentoring the next generation of aerospace professionals. Thank you all for your contributions!!

Best regards,

John Caldwell, Ph.D.
President, AsHFA

IN MEMORIAM: *MAJ GEN (ret.) Marian Macri, M.D., Ph.D.*



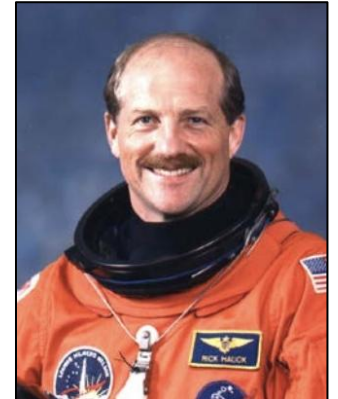
"August 13, 2025, Romania mourns the loss of a remarkable figure in military and aviation medicine: Major General (Retd.) Medical Doctor, Professor Marian Macri, PhD, former Head of the Medical Directorate within the Ministry of National Defense and former Commander of the National Institute of Aeronautical and Space Medicine 'Dr. Gen. Av. Victor Anastasiu,' who passed away. With a career dedicated to the health and safety of those who serve their country, Major General (Retd.) Medical Doctor, Professor Marian Macri was a respected leader, an accomplished professional, and a man of rare integrity. Under his leadership, Romanian military and aviation medicine experienced progress and recognition. With deep regret and sorrow in our hearts, we bid farewell to Major General (Retd.) Medical Doctor, Professor Marian Macri, a dedicated professional, a man of noble spirit, and a devoted servant of the nation and a pioneer of aerospace medicine in Romania. His contribution to aeronautical medicine was of inestimable value, and the mark he left on his colleagues, collaborators, and patients will live on forever. We extend

our most sincere condolences to his grieving family, his comrades in the military, and all those who were close to him. May God rest him in peace. The career of Major General (Retd.) Medical Doctor, Professor Marian Macri had a significant impact on the evolution of military medicine in Romania, through strategic, academic, and institutional contributions." https://medaero.ro/macri_eng.pdf. "He was a former Head of the Medical Directorate within the Ministry of National Defense of Romania, former Commander of the National Institute of Aeronautical and Space Medicine, and organizer of the 2011 International Conference on Aerospace Medicine (ICASM). In Romania, he will be missed as the founder of modern aeronautical medicine. He headed the Medical Directorate of the Ministry of National Defense between 2007-2008, at a time when Romanian military medicine was beginning to align with NATO standards, and was involved in the modernization of military medical infrastructure, including field hospitals and trauma treatment centers. He supported the integration of Romanian military medicine into NATO networks, contributing to the development of common medical intervention protocols in theaters of operations. He also served as Commander of the National Institute of Aeronautical and Space Medicine, advancing research in niche

fields such as aerospace medicine. He was a member of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine (IAASM) and a Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association.” <https://asma.org/obituary-listing/>.

IN MEMORIAM: *Astronaut Rick Hauck (1941 – 2025)*

“Rick Hauck, the astronaut who guided NASA’s return to human spaceflight after the Challenger disaster, has died at the age of 84. His passing on 6 November was confirmed by the Maine retirement community where he lived, along with tributes from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the American Space Museum. Described by those who knew him as a man of “quiet strength and dignity,” Hauck faced Parkinson’s disease for more than 15 years but remained deeply admired for his courage and leadership both in orbit and on the ground. When the Challenger tragedy struck in 1986, Hauck was preparing for another space mission that would test a new upper-stage rocket system. Instead, he was asked to take command of STS-26, the first shuttle flight to launch after the disaster. On 29 September 1988, he and his crew lifted off aboard Discovery, marking a crucial moment in NASA’s recovery. The four-day mission deployed a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite and included a tribute to the lost Challenger crew. Speaking from orbit, Hauck honoured his fallen colleagues: “Today, up here where the blue sky turns to black, we can say at long last... dear friends, we have resumed the journey that we promised to continue for you.” The mission ended safely with a landing at Edwards Air Force Base, restoring public confidence in the shuttle programme and reaffirming NASA’s ability to move forward. Frederick Hamilton “Rick” Hauck was born on 11 April 1941 in Long Beach, California. A graduate of Tufts University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he served as a US Navy test pilot and flew 114 combat missions in Southeast Asia before joining NASA in 1978. His first flight came in 1983 as pilot of Challenger’s STS-7 mission, which made history by including the first American woman in space, Sally Ride. He later commanded STS-51A in 1984, a mission that successfully retrieved and returned two stranded satellites, the first space salvage operation in history. Across three missions, Hauck spent more than 18 days in space and orbited Earth 288 times. Hauck’s leadership extended beyond the flight deck. After leaving NASA in 1989, he took on senior roles with the Navy and later became chief executive of a major satellite insurance company. He also supported space education and outreach through several foundations and professional organisations. In 2023, he published his memoir *To Mach 25 and Home*, reflecting on his career and the human side of space exploration. Honoured with NASA’s Distinguished Service and Outstanding Leadership medals, Hauck was also among the first astronauts inducted into the US Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2001. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Susan Cameron Bruce, five children, and eight grandchildren.” <https://orbitaltoday.com/2025/11/09/rick-hauck-commander-who-led-shuttles-return-after-challenger-dies-aged-84/>.



WELCOME TO SEVEN NEW AsHFA MEMBERS!

Five Standard (AsMA members)

1. **Jessica Arhur, M.D. (Ghana)**
2. **Maaliyah Bowden, M.S. (FL)**

3. **Tim Fay, Ph.D. (WA).** Tim Fay is a Human Factors Engineer with over 25 years' experience extending in research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) and military special operations. With a broad background in human factors research, he has contributed to multiple human performance research studies including military parachute user-experience (UX) evaluations, optical flow of freefall parachutists, virtual reality parachute simulations, oxygen mask pressure evaluations, as well as the design and development of a military freefall K9 program. He received a B.S. in Psychology from Troy University, an M.S. in Human Factors from Embry-Riddle University, and a Ph.D. in Human Factors from Capitol Technology University. He is also a board-certified Human Factors Professional. He currently oversees a unique RDT&E program designed to assess human performance resulting in improvements to training, hardware, software, and processes used in dynamic environments. Tim's currently pursuing follow-on research studies involving vigilance in aviation and PTSD in CPAP users during COVID-19. He is committed to investigating the unique stressors associated with world events and identifying countermeasures to help mitigate stressors in the event another pandemic occurs.



4. **Samantha Mann, PsyD (UT)**

5. **Maureen McNamara, BS (GA)**

Two Affiliates (non-AsMA members)



1. **Chahat Jamwal, B.S. (INDIA).** "I am currently serving as a Captain on the Airbus A320 family fleet with Qatar Airways. Previously, I held the position of Technical Pilot, where I had the opportunity to work closely with global aviation regulators and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). My responsibilities included supporting the development of operational policies and procedures to ensure compliance with both local and international regulatory requirements, as well as contributing to special projects. These experiences helped deepen my understanding of the human-machine relationship within a continuously evolving operational environment. I also gained hands-on experience conducting acceptance test flights and ground checks for aircraft systems prior to new aircraft deliveries from the manufacturer. Academically, I hold a Bachelor of Science in Aviation from Mumbai University, a Diploma in Aviation Management from the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, and an EASA certification in Human Performance and Limitations. I am currently pursuing a

Diploma in Human Factors and Aviation Safety Management from IATA to further expand my expertise in this field. Additionally, I am an active member of the Royal Aeronautical Society and the American Psychological Association, which has allowed me to broaden my perspective by engaging with professionals across diverse disciplines."

2. **Karolina Rivera Osorio, B.S. (GA).** I am a former NASA human factors intern and currently a certified flight instructor. My primary interests include space psychology and sustainable agriculture for future Martian missions. Additionally, I am bilingual and have a background in ocean research, including a study on marine fossils in the Atacama Trench. I particularly enjoy the creative challenge of re-designing aerospace systems, ranging from deep-space transit habitats to cockpits.



"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom."

Isaac Asimov

NEWS OF MEMBERS



- ❖ **Dr. James Miller** is now the newsletter editor for the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY. Before he studied for his doctorate, he was awarded the DFC in 1970 as a USAF pilot in the C-130E Hercules tactical transport for operations in Vietnam. Now retired from research, he and his wife Joy live in rural Wilson County, Texas. <https://www.dfcsociety.org/>.



❖ **Dr. Matthew Cooper** (L) authored the paper entitled "*Is RNA the Rosetta Stone for Organ Preservation?*" in the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41547379/>.

❖ **Drs. Anna Clebone-Ruskin and Keith Ruskin** (R) are now professors of anesthesiology at the UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL. They will be doing clinical anesthesia and continuing their research into human performance, human-systems integration, decision-making, and ergonomics.



- ❖ **Dr. Jessica D'Urbano** has recently started a specialization course in Aerospace Medicine at the University of Padova in Italy. This training complements her work and interests at the intersection of aerospace, human factors, and applied psychology. She also co-authored a chapter on *Reproduction and Obstetrics in Space* in the book entitled FUNDAMENTALS OF SPACE MEDICINE AND CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY. The book may be of interest to colleagues working in human factors, aerospace, psychology, and applied research (see readings).



❖ **Dr. Dwight Holland**, a Past-President of ASHFA (2014-15) and ASHFA Fellow won the Flying Physicians Association 2025 TABARI AWARD for the "best scientific/medical presentation at the Annual Meeting." He continues to serve as the Member-at-Large for the Aerospace Physiology Society, is the continuing Treasurer of the Air and Space Forces Association for VA, and the Historian for the Life Sciences and Biomedical Engineering Branch of ASMA. He was elected in 2025 as the Secretary of the Space Surgery Association. Recently, the administration of HRH King Charles III promoted him to *Officer in the Most Venerable Order of St. John*. St. John is a Knightly Hospitaller royal order (UK) whose roots go back to the 11th century aiding and defending the sick, poor, and weak. The formal Investiture service was held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. in late October. The picture shows St. John

Knight Vic Brandt (L) and new St. John Officer, Dr. Dwight Holland (R).

- ❖ **Dr. Scott Van Hoy** published the research article entitled "*Environmental Carbon Dioxide and Temperature Effects on Sleep Quality During Space Analogs*" in the ASMA journal available at <https://asma.kglmeridian.com/view/journals/amhp/97/1/article-p11.xml>.

- ❖ **Dr. Hanna Baumgartner et al** authored the paper entitled "*Changing Trends in Fatal Spatial Disorientation Accidents in General Aviation*" in the Journal of Safety Research, available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022437525001732>.

- ❖ **Dr. Harriet Lester** (R) participated in the November 2025 New York Marathon.



"Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science."

Edwin Powell Hubble

AsHFA AT AsMA-UHMS 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

The Aerospace Medical Association and the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) will celebrate their 2nd joint meeting on May 17-21, 2026, at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO, USA. The year's theme is "Boundless Frontiers, Relentless Progress." More information is at <https://asma-uhms-asm.org/>.



The AsHFA meetings during AsMA are as shown below. Check the AsMA-UHMS App to learn the room location.

TYPE	DATE	TIME
EXCOM 2025-2026	Monday, 18 May 2026	7:00 – 8:15 AM
BUSINESS LUNCHEON	Monday, 18 May 2026	12:00 – 2:00 PM
EXCOM 2026-2027	Wednesday, 20 May 2026	4:00 – 5:00 PM

AsHFA SPONSORED PANEL AT AsMA-UHMS 2026

By Dr. John Allen, AsHFA Program Committee Chair

The panel sponsored by our association is entitled THE HUMAN FACTORS OF AEROSPACE SAFETY AND MISSION SUCCESS. It is composed of five presentations. See you there!

1. *The Ups and Downs of Nutrition and Supplements in Aviation Human Performance* – Walter Dalitsch III, MD, MPH.
2. *The Importance of Sleep for Mental Health* – John Caldwell, PhD.
3. *Human Resilience Through Connection: Network Support as a Core Behavioral Health Strategy* – Diego Garcia, MD, MS.
4. *Leveraging Nutrition for Performance Optimization* – Annette Sobel, MD.
5. *Integrated AI-Driven Biomedical and Human Factors Architecture for Autonomous Crew Health in Mars-Class Missions* – Carlos Salicrup, MD.

NEW AsHFA PROGRAM: MENTORING

By Dr. John Caldwell, AsHFA President

Through the efforts of Dr. Anna Clebone-Ruskin, Katie Lightfoot, and Dr. Jason Schneiderman, we now have a new AEROSPACE HUMAN FACTORS AND AEROSPACE MEDICINE MENTORING PROGRAM. If you would like to be a mentor or if you feel you could benefit from a connection with one of our mentors, please see the forms below. The information on these forms will help match you with someone who will benefit most from your expertise. Questions? Contact Katie Lightfoot at katie.lightfoot@colorado.edu.



- Apply to be a Mentor: <https://forms.gle/5vEWYqeJFrjklpU7>
- Apply to be a Mentee: <https://forms.gle/eF1V1h2umXcnfeyM7>

AsHFA VISIBILITY – SEND YOUR THOUGHTS!

By Dr. John Caldwell, AsHFA President

Over the past few months, we've been diving deep into student recruitment—an initiative that has given us some great insights into how we can grow AsHFA. While we're still building momentum, our outreach has highlighted a huge opportunity for us: there is a whole world of students and institutions who simply don't know we're here! To stay on the cutting edge of the aviation and aerospace industry, we need to boost our visibility and tailor what we have to offer new members to better serve the next generation of aerospace professionals.

To accomplish this, I would like to propose that we sponsor one or more of our members to represent AsHFA at key events like the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society meeting, the International Flight School Operators Conference and Trade Show (<https://www.fsana.com>), the AeroSummit (<https://stratusaerosummit.com/>), and/or The Aerospace Education STEM Academy (<https://cawg.cap.gov/programs/cawg-aesa>). By showing up where the young talent is, we ensure AsHFA remains a leading voice in the human factors community. Investing in our visibility is an investment in the longevity of AsHFA.

I welcome your thoughts and feedback on this proposal. Please reach out to me or any member of the Executive Committee so we can refine our strategy for the year ahead.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS OF AsHFA OFFICERS Seeking Nominees!

By Dr. Anna Clebone-Ruskin, AsHFA President-Elect

The following three positions, to be members of the AsHFA Executive Committee (EXCOM), will soon come up for your election. **Watch out for a ballot in your mailbox.** The elected will be announced at the conclusion of the AsHFA meeting during AsMA 2026 in Denver, CO. Should you be interested in or want to nominate your AsHFA-member colleague for any of these positions, please go to <https://forms.gle/cz1SVZjeeAM4BiUb9>, where these roles are described. The nominations are due on **10 March 2025**.

1. President-Elect
2. Member-at-Large
3. Student Representative

READINGS

- EVOLUTION OF HUMAN FACTORS RESEARCH IN AVIATION SAFETY: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE INTELLECTUAL STRUCTURE. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666449625000830>
- BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF HUMAN FACTOR LITERATURE IN AVIATION. <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/4580977>
- FUNDAMENTALS OF SPACE MEDICINE AND CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/book/edited-volume/9780443329043/fundamentals-of-space-medicine-and-clinical-technology>. ISBN 978-0-443-32904-3.
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER ACADEMY GRADUATE COMPETENCY MODEL. <https://www.faa.gov/data-research/research/med-humanfacs/oamtechreports/media/202555.pdf>



- OPERATIONAL AND HUMAN FACTORS CONSIDERATIONS FOR SYNTHETIC VISION SYSTEMS AND HEAD-WORN DISPLAYS: RESULTS FROM A LITERATURE REVIEW AND SURVEY.
<https://www.faa.gov/data-research/research/med-humanfacs/oamtechreports/media/202601.pdf>
- LOW FLOW / OPTIMIZED FLOW OXYGEN SYSTEMS FOR PASSENGERS – (OFOS) - A PHYSIOLOGIC INQUIRY INTO EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN SUPPLY NEEDS AND PROCEDURES.
<https://www.faa.gov/data-research/research/med-humanfacs/oamtechreports/media/202552.pdf>
- THE ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY: NATIONAL STRATEGY: A BOLD POLICY VISION FOR 2026–2036.
<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2025-12/AAM%20National%20Strategy%202025.pdf>
- SAFETY FRAMEWORK FOR AIRCRAFT AUTOMATION: A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSING THE CRITERIA AND APPROVAL OF HIGHLY AUTOMATED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS, THE CERTIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT, AND THE PILOTS AND OPERATORS THAT USE SUCH AIRCRAFT. <https://www.faa.gov/aircraft/air-cert/step/safety-framework-aircraft-automation>
- MEASURING SITUATION AWARENESS: A META-REVIEW ACROSS DOMAINS. It focuses on measures' psychometric properties and practical implications of their use. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00187208251412110>
- MITIGATING INADVERTENT TRANSITIONS FROM VISUAL FLIGHT RULES TO INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS IN GENERAL AVIATION: DECISION-MAKING STRATEGIES, COGNITIVE CHALLENGES, AND TRAINING IMPLICATIONS FROM AN APPLIED COGNITIVE TASK ANALYSIS. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00140139.2025.2606777>
- THE EVOLUTIONARY DE-CREWING OF AIRLINE COCKPITS: A HISTORICAL AND ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE -IMPLEMENTING REDUCED CREW OPS REQUIRES GRADUAL INTRODUCTION, HUMAN-CENTRIC DESIGN, AND EFFECTIVE LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COLLABORATION. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1463922X.2025.2610278>

LINKS

- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - VOLPE CENTER – HF PAPERS. <https://www.volpe.dot.gov/our-work/safety-management-and-human-factors/human-factors-publications-and-papers>
- 2026 AIRSHOWS CALENDAR. <https://airshowstuff.com/v4/airshow-calendar/2026-airshow-calendar/>

- 2026 FAA AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER (AME) SEMINAR SCHEDULE. https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/designees_delegations/designee_types/ame/seminar_schedule
- 2026 FAA SAFETY EDUCATION SCHEDULE. https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/designees_delegations/designee_types/ame/seminar_schedule

REMINDER: 2026 AsHFA AWARD NOMINATIONS

By Dr. Harriet Lester, AsHFA Awards Committee Chair

Please submit nominees for the Henry L. Taylor Founder's Award, the Stanley N. Roscoe Award, and the William E. Collins Award described below. This year the other members of the AsHFA Awards Committee are AsHFA President John Caldwell and AsHFA President-Elect Anna Clebone-Ruskin. The deadline for nominations is **1 March 2026**. Following is a description of the awards:



THE HENRY L. TAYLOR FOUNDER'S AWARD. The University of Illinois, Institute of Aviation established an Aerospace Human Factors Association endowment to fund the Henry L. Taylor Founder's Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of aerospace human factors. The Aerospace Human Factors Association annually presents this award to an individual meeting with the following *Criteria*: (1) research and publications; (2) special original contributions (e.g., equipment, techniques, and procedures); or (3) general leadership in the field (e.g., teacher, director of laboratory, officer scientific societies, etc.). The Institute of Aviation at the University of Illinois sponsors this award with a \$500.00 honorarium to the selected recipient who will provide a luncheon presentation during the year following their award's announcement. *Eligibility*: The award is open to anyone who meets the stated criteria. The nominator must be an active AsHFA member. To nominate a candidate, please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/s4WbRwG34J5RVFXe6>.

THE STANLEY N. ROSCOE AWARD. The award is presented for the best Doctoral Dissertation written in a research area related to aerospace human factors. It includes an honorarium of \$500.00. *Criteria* include (1) significance of the problem and innovativeness of the approach; (2) review of related research; (3) effectiveness of the research design and analysis; (4) interpretation of results; (5) theoretical and practical value of the work; and (6) clarity of writing. *Sponsor*: Institute of Aviation, University of Illinois, United States. *Eligibility*: The Roscoe Award is open to anyone who meets the stated criteria. The nominator must be an active AsHFA member. To nominate a candidate, please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/V861XeEkRT01uDeg7>.

THE WILLIAM E. COLLINS AWARD. This award is presented for the "Outstanding Human Factors Publication of the Year" for work completed during the previous calendar year (2025). It includes a plaque and an honorarium of \$500.00 for the first author and certificates for the coauthors. Publications considered for the William E. Collins Award are limited to peer-reviewed papers and do not include books, book chapters, proceedings, technical reports, abstracts, or presentations. *Criteria* for judging the publication award include (1) scientific quality (i.e., significance of the problem, innovativeness of the approach, review of related research, effectiveness of the research design and analysis, interpretation of results, and clarity of writing), (2) relevance to advancing the scientific field of human factors, and (3) utility and ease of application to practitioners in the field of human factors. *Sponsor*: The honorarium is given by the Aerospace Human Factors Association. *Eligibility*: The Collins Award is given to a candidate who meets the stated criteria. The nominator must be an active AsHFA member. To nominate a candidate, please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/V6U6Vq9XGu13wNrK7>.

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

Carl Sagan

REMINDER: 2026 ASHFA FELLOW NOMINATIONS

By Dr. Keith Ruskin, AsHFA Fellows Officer

It is that time of year when we solicit our membership to submit nominations of our colleagues for AsHFA Fellowship. The Aerospace Human Factors Association has many accomplished and productive members who deserve this honor based on their outstanding contributions to AsHFA and/or noteworthy performance in the field of aerospace human factors. All newly elected AsHFA Fellows will be introduced and recognized at the AsHFA Annual Business Meeting during AsMA in May 2026.

To be eligible for nomination as an AsHFA Fellow, the nominee must: (a) have been a member of AsHFA for at least five years, (b) have had a minimum of five years' work experience related to aerospace human factors, (c) have been nominated by a member or Fellow of AsHFA, and (d) have been elected by a majority vote of the active AsHFA Fellows. To initiate a nomination for Fellowship, any active member of AsHFA should do the following: (a) state the basis for the nomination (e.g., "for outstanding accomplishment in human factors research, management, etc."), (b) provide supporting documentation (a written description of the nominee's accomplishments and a recent CV will usually suffice), and (c) submit the nominating material at <https://forms.gle/Yo1ozV3ujmHtm4ec7>.

Please address questions to Dr. Keith Ruskin, keith@ruskin.net. The deadline for nominations is **1 April 2026**. For questions regarding **2026 ASMA FELLOW NOMINATIONS** see <https://asma.org/members-only/member-services/fellows/>.

LUMINARIES AMONGST US

Florence Rena Sabin, MD (1871-1953) was an American anatomist and investigator of the lymphatic system who was considered to be one of the leading women scientists of the United States.

Sabin was educated in Denver, Colorado, and in Vermont and graduated from Smith College in Massachusetts, in 1893. After teaching in Denver and at Smith to earn tuition money, she entered the Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1896. While a student, she demonstrated a particular gift for laboratory work; her model of the brain stem of a newborn infant was widely reproduced for use as a teaching model in medical schools. After graduation in 1900 she interned at Johns Hopkins Hospital for a year and then returned to the medical school to conduct research under a fellowship awarded by the Baltimore Association for the Advancement of University Education of Women. In 1901 she published *An Atlas of the Medulla and Midbrain*, which became a popular medical text. In 1902, when Johns Hopkins finally abandoned its policy of not appointing women to its medical faculty, Sabin was named an assistant in anatomy, and she became in 1917 the school's first female full professor.



For a number of years Sabin's research centred on the lymphatic system, and her demonstration that lymphatic vessels develop from a special layer of cells in certain fetal veins, rather than, as prevailing theory held, from intercellular spaces, established her as a researcher of the first rank. She then turned to the study of blood, blood vessels, and blood cells and made numerous discoveries regarding their origin and development. In 1924 she was elected president of the American Association of Anatomists, and in 1925 she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences; in both cases she was the first woman to be so honoured. Source: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Florence-Rena-Sabin>.

NEW: AsHFA WEBINAR SERIES

By Dr. John Caldwell, AsHFA President

We launched our new monthly webinar series this January, expanding AsHFA's reach by delivering high-value materials designed to empower professionals and enthusiasts across the industry.

Right off the bat several of our members expressed interest in doing presentations drawn from their respective areas of expertise. The first webinar (by yours truly) was entitled **"Sleep and Human Performance in Aerospace Operations: Why It Matters, What Goes Wrong, and How to Get It Right,"** and it occurred on 15 January 2026 at 1200 EST. I'm very happy to report that it was very well attended. It is available at our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@aerospaceAsHFA>).

Join these webinars via Zoom at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89446211246?pwd=oaAkIZjE9xV1aX2IpBbC9wWMhwLYdw.1>

Meeting ID: 894 4621 1246 Passcode: 089665

The next webinar will be presented by Dr. Scott Van Hoy (L). It is entitled **"Aviation Peer Support Programs,"** and it is scheduled for **19 February 2026** at 1200 EST. Dr. Scott Van Hoy is a U.S. Naval Aviator with experience flying both manned and unmanned aircraft. While on active duty, he earned his Ph.D. in Human Factors in 2024 from Capitol Technology University, with research focused on mitigating human-systems integration risk through space mission simulation. In the Navy, he has supported the implementation of peer support programs within operational units and captured lessons learned. Dr. Van Hoy also serves as AsHFA Treasurer and is an adjunct professor at the American Public University System.

The third webinar will be conducted by Dr. Aric Raus PhD, FRAeS, Lieutenant Colonel (ret., USA) on **26 March 2026** and 11:30 AM EST. The topic of his presentation will be **"Help Seeking as a Safety Behavior: Reframing Mental Health in Aviation."** Dr. Raus is an Assistant Professor of Aviation Safety at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he teaches graduate courses in human factors, safety management, and applied research while mentoring the university's future aerospace professionals. Trained as an industrial-organizational psychologist, his research examines how aviation psychology, behavioral health, and organizational factors influence safety and performance. Dr. Raus' professional background includes more than 25 years of leadership and service as a commissioned U.S. Army officer, commander, aviator, and maintenance test pilot, complemented by over 30 years of experience in civilian aviation. This aviation experience informs his professional, research, and academic interests. As an Associate Professor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Dr. Raus instructed courses in leadership, organizational development, critical thinking, and strategic problem-solving to military officers and government professionals. His recent research draws on this background to examine how aviation's organizational culture influences health-seeking behavior and to explore ways to reduce barriers to care. Dr. Raus is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society,



a Chartered Psychologist of the British Psychological Society, serves on the Military Officers Association of America's Board of Directors, and is a member of AsHFA, currently serving as Member-at-Large.

This webinars will be followed with a presentation by Keith Ruskin, MD, FAsMA, FAsHFA, and AsHFA Past President on the topic entitled **"Alarm Design Framework for Air Traffic Control and for Medicine,"** to be held **16 April 2026** at 2: PM EST. Jaime Harvey, Lt. Col. (ret., USAF), AsHFA Representative in the AsMA Nominations Committee, will present the topic entitled **"We are all Science Communicators"** on **7 May 2026** at 6:00 PM EST.

Every webinar will be announced well ahead of time so we can all plan to attend, and if you miss one, you will be able to access the recorded version via the AsHFA website. I hope that all of our membership will sign up to present a human performance topic that is near and dear to their hearts.

I know that with all of the expertise that exists in AsHFA, we'll have enough presentations to cover several years at least! We want to hear all about the topics that are important to you, the human-factors experts, so contact me (, Anna Clebone-Ruskin, or Diego Garcia with your ideas, and we will sign you up and assist in any way possible! We recently initiated monthly webinars on human factor issues of interest to our association as well as to potential new members. The President invites you to contribute one of these on a topic in which you have expertise and experience.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE KRAKEN?

By Rich Folga, NAMRU



On 1 October 2025, the combined NASA Langley Research Center, Johnson Space Center, and the Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU)-Dayton Kraken team completed the final day of formal 'Phase 1' tests assessing refinement of the custom Kraken motion control algorithm (MCA) supporting NASA's integrated Human Landing System (HLS) Generic Reference Model (GRM) lunar lander motion simulation. The Kraken tests were flown by NASA Astronauts, NASA Test Pilots and one Army helicopter instructor pilot. Immediately following on 2 and 3 October 2025, a combined team from NASA Langley, Colorado University-Boulder, Draper lab, and Kraken conducted installation and integration testing for the latest version of the NASA HLS GRM simulator running the CU Boulder custom built 'spatial disorientation detection algorithm' (SDDA) application.

This SDDA app will be used for the upcoming NASA sponsored study led by Dr. Torin Clark titled 'HLS Manual Crew Countermeasures' where pilot subjects will first undergo a spaceflight analog deconditioning spin for 60 minutes at 3Gx in the USAF centrifuge then rapidly transition to the Kraken and conduct simulated lunar landings.



The astronaut feedback on the Phase 1 testing experience was unanimously positive, reinforcing the utility of full motion simulation to enhance foundational landing skills preparation. With Phase 1 testing completed, the Kraken team is currently working to integrate advanced HLS GRM landing vehicle dynamics,

assisting with Artemis foundational landing skills curriculum development and execution planning. Additional details on these activities will be presented at AsMA on 18 May 2026 in the panel session titled: *Simulator environment for crewed lunar landing: development, assessment, and refinement*. See you there!

DoD HFE TAG NEWS

By Steve Merriman, AsHFA Representative

The Department of Defense Human Factors Engineering Technical Advisory Group (DoD HFE TAG) is composed of technical representatives from the Department of Defense, National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with research and development responsibility in human factors and related disciplines. There is no limitation on the number of uniform or civilian representatives from the above governmental entities. Representatives from organizations and activities with allied interests and technical experts in special topical areas are also invited to attend specific meetings. Below are some of the latest developments. Should you have any questions, please contact Steve at scmerriman13@gmail.com or 214-533-9052.



MIL-STD-46855A Review/Revision: The review and update of the DoD's best practice standard for Human Engineering is an on-going task with leadership provided by the U.S. Army. The exact schedule for review/update is unknown. SAE International has SIGNIFICANT inputs awaiting a DoD request for industry comment.

MIL-STD-1472H Review/Revision: This task has been underway for the past several months. It is anticipated that changes to the "H" revision will be minor. Issuance of a "Notice," with minor corrections is anticipated in the first half of 2026.

DI-HFAC-80745C, Human Engineering Systems Analysis Report: This DoD Data Item Description (DID) is overdue for review and update. Proposals have been received requesting amendments to address Human Readiness Levels (HRL). No activities on the part of the DoD have been detected as yet.

DoD Human Systems Integration (HIS) Handbook: No recent activity to date! This document has languished for more than three years.

HSI Standards for Optimizing the Human in DoD Acquisition: This webinar was presented by Mr. Chris DeLuca, Director of Specialty Engineering at the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering on 13 December 2025. It focused on DoD and industry standards for HSI and its seven domains [Manpower, Personnel, Training, Human Factors Engineering, Safety, Occupational Health, and Habitability]. A recording of the webinar is available at: https://media.dau.edu/media/t/1_85zlynb3.

SAE International

- SAE G-45 1008A: The HSI Committee is actively pursuing an update to the SAE1008 [i.e., HIS for low carbon steel] should be published very soon.
- SAE1009/DFM: The HSI committee decided to pursue authoring a Human Engineering Bulletin on Design for Manufacturing (DFM) instead of a full-blown process standard. This bulletin is in-work at this date, with the first draft being updated to response to several dozen comments. The HSI committee should settle upon a course of action within the next few months.

HF NEWS

By Dr. Diego Garcia, AsHFA Publicity Committee Chair

40 YEARS AFTER CHALLENGER DISASTER, NASA FACES SAFETY FEARS ON ARTEMIS II. Many on the team behind NASA's Artemis II mission were children 40 years ago, when the space shuttle Challenger disaster reshaped spaceflight.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/40-years-after-challenger-disaster-nasa-faces-safety-fears-on-artemis-ii/>.



AFTER A YEARLONG INVESTIGATION, THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD [NTSB, CHAIRWOMAN JENNIFER HOMENDY] BLAMED MULTIPLE SYSTEM WIDE FAILURES FOR THE MIDAIR COLLISION OF AN ARMY BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER AND AMERICAN AIRLINES REGIONAL JET THAT KILLED 67 PEOPLE.

[HTTPS://WWW.NPR.ORG/2026/01/27/NX-S1-5689091/NTSB-DCA-MIDAIR-COLLISION-BLACK-HAWK-HELICOPTER](https://www.npr.org/2026/01/27/nx-s1-5689091/NTSB-DCA-MIDAIR-COLLISION-BLACK-HAWK-HELICOPTER)

IDEAS INCUBATOR – SPRING VIRTUAL MEETING

By Dr. Anna Clebone-Ruskin, AsHFA President-Elect

The next ideas incubator will be 9 April 2026 at 4 p.m. CST - bring your research, project, or willingness to collaborate! Feel free to join to present a webinar idea, seek or offer mentorship, or just listen! Link: <https://zoom.us/j/4389336253>.

Eleven AsHFA members were at the fall incubator on 13 November 2025. We discussed a new Aerospace Human Performance mentoring program and student outreach for AsHFA. Folks brainstormed AsHFA-sponsored panels for AsMA that teach new things with a clear human-factors thread. Panel topics suggested included human health in space, endurance sports and aviation performance, crash survivability (plus an accident-investigator toolkit), space surgery, and an open-access space-health resource. We also discussed the new AsHFA webinar series with some sessions to accommodate international time zones.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Beyond Earth Symposium. Feb. 24-25, 2026, Washington, DC, USA <https://beyondearthsymposium.org/>.

Annual International Flight School Operators Conference & Trade Show. Feb. 25-27, 2026, Coronado, CA, USA https://www.fsana.com/registration_details.php.

EASA - Flight Time Limitations (FTL)/Fatigue Risk Management (FRM) Conference. Mar. 4-5, 2026, Split, Croatia <https://www.eaap.net/read/13921/3rd-easa-ftl-fatigue-risk-management.html>.

IEEE Aerospace Conference. Mar. 7-14, 2026, Big Sky, MN, USA <https://aiaa.org/events/2026-ieee-aerospace-conference/>.

HFES - International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care. Mar. 22-25, 2026, New York, NY, USA <https://www.hfes.org/Events/Future-Events/international-symposium-on-human-factors-and-ergonomics-in-health-care-1>.

Aerospace Medical Association & Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (AsMA-UHMS). May 17-21, 2026, Denver, CO, USA <https://asma-uhms-asm.org/>.

Aerosummit. May 20-22, 2026, Aventura, FL, USA <https://stratusaerosummit.com/>.

HFES - International Symposium on Human Factors/Ergonomics in Organizational Design and Management (ODAM). Jun. 8-10, 2026, Storrs, CT, USA <https://uconnuecs.cventevents.com/event/ODAM26/summary>.

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air Adventure. Jul. 20-26, 2026, Oshkosh, WI, USA <https://www.eaa.org/airventure>.

Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). Aug. 1-9, 2026, Florence, Italy. <https://www.cospar-assembly.org/assembly.php>.

3rd International Congress of Aerospace Medicine (ICAM). Oct. 1-3, Turkey. Istanbul, Turkey. <https://iaasm.org/>.

HFES - International Human Factors and Ergonomics (ASPIRE) annual meeting. Oct. 19-23, Reno, NV, USA. **ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS TODAY.** <https://www.hfes.org/Events/ASPIRE-International-Annual-Meeting/ASPIRE-Home>.

AsHFA OFFICERS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

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President	J. Caldwell	EXCOM	Membership	1	2026	drjohnncaldwell@gmail.com
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Rep.: Representative, Comm.: Committee, MAL: Member-At-Large, NVB: Non-voting Board – See Bylaws, not spec.: not mentioned in the Bylaws, TAG: Technology Working Group.

AsHFA MEMBERSHIP: \$20 (\$5 Students)

TO JOIN ASMA. <https://www.asma.org/membership/apply#individual%20online>

TO JOIN ASHFA.

1. If you are an AsMA member (*standard*):
 - a. Contact the AsHFA Membership Officer (starforster@yahoo.com) to obtain, complete, and send her the AsHFA Membership Registration Form. Alternatively, please complete it here: <https://forms.gle/tj69mgVVHPr77owv8>.
 - b. Pay the \$20 (\$5 if you are a student) USD annual dues (\$60 for 3 years) – Go to the AsMA WEBSITE and select RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP (under MEMBER INFORMATION, right of the page, <https://www.asma.org/members-only>).
 - c. If you are an AsMA member, BOTH AsMA and AsHFA dues are paid at <https://www.asma.org/members-only>. If the option to pay AsHFA dues is not shown in your account, please contact Sheryl Kildall at skildall@asma.org.
2. If you are **NOT** an AsMA member (*affiliate*):
 - a. Contact the AsHFA Membership Officer (starforster@yahoo.com) to obtain, complete, and send her the AsHFA Membership Registration Form. Alternatively, please complete it here: <https://forms.gle/tj69mgVVHPr77owv8>.
 - b. Pay the \$20 USD annual dues (\$5 for students) to the AsHFA Treasurer (ashfa.treasurer@gmail.com)
 - i. Via Check: email the AsHFA treasurer for the address



ii. Via PayPal: See QR Code

Business Information: Aerospace Human Factors Association

PayPal Merchant ID: T9ZDBR7LVPHP2

TO RENEW DUES.

1. *If you are an AsMA member*, both AsMA and AsHFA dues are paid at <https://www.asma.org/members-only>. **If the option to pay AsHFA dues is not shown in your account, please contact Sheryl Kildall at skildall@asma.org**. Please also update your information as necessary by selecting VIEW OR UPDATE MY INFORMATION.
2. *If you are NOT an AsMA member*, pay the AsHFA annual dues to the AsHFA Treasurer, as indicated above. As necessary, please also email the AsHFA Membership Officer (starforster@yahoo.com) any updates to your information.



FINIS

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THANK YOU TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS!

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