

AsMA Associate Fellows Group



Leadership Team

2023-24 Profiles for Executive members and Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs

AFG Leadership Team for 2023-24

Chair: Dr Joseph Britton

Senior Chair Elect: Dr Lisa Snyder

Junior Chair Elect: Dr Nina Purvis

Secretary: Dr Joseph Butterfield

Treasurer: Dr Lisa Snyder

Immediate Past Chair: Dr Preston Laslie

Second Past Chair: Dr Tovy Kamine

Awards Committee Chair: Kevin S. Divers

Deputy: Dr Kristian Mears

Deputy: Dr Nina Purvis

Informatics Chair: Dr Rowena Christiansen

Membership Committee Chair: Dr Michael S Hodapp

Deputy: Dr Aubrey Florom-Smith

Deputy: Dr Nina Purvis

Merchandising Committee Chair: Dr Aubrey Florom-Smith

Deputy: Dr Michael S Hodapp

Nominations Chair: Kevin S. Divers

Receptions Chair: Dr Preston Laslie

Scientific Program Committee Chair:

Dr Anna Clebone Ruskin

Deputy: Dr Aubrey Florom-Smith

Deputy: Dr Kristian Mears

Deputy: Dr Joelle Thorgrimson

Deputy: Dr Michael Schmidt

Dr Joe Britton

(Chair 2023-24)



Wing Commander Joe Britton is a Consultant (Attending) in Aviation & Space Medicine and Flight Medical Officer in the Royal Air Force. He is currently working as the Aerospace Life Support Systems Lead at the RAF Centre of Aviation Medicine.

He developed his interest in the aviation listening to stories of his Grandfather flying (and crashing...luckily without injury!) with the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm and with the US Navy. He first combined his passions of aviation and medicine in 2010, undertaking a BSc in Aerospace Physiology whilst at medical school. Following internal medicine training, he undertook Higher Training in Aviation & Space Medicine which he completed in 2023. He has completed the Diploma in Aviation Medicine (DAvMed) and is currently working towards a PhD, investigating the physiology of advanced G-protection solutions.

Whilst his day-to-day work covers the breadth of aerospace medicine, Joe has developed a particular interest in environmental physiology and life support systems. He also enjoys teaching and spreading the word about aerospace medicine, whilst dabbling in research about the history of the field in the UK and abroad. He is keen to help represent and support fellow international AFG members, particularly where access to opportunities in the field may be limited.

Dr Lisa Snyder

(Senior Chair-Elect 2023-24 and Treasurer 2022-24)



Professional Qualifications: Board certified Emergency Medicine, Occupational Medicine and Aerospace Medicine physician with a Masters of Public Health as well as Board Eligible in Medical Toxicology. Flight Surgeon in the USAF for 21 years and flown in 19 different aircraft.

Other current and past activities/offices held in AsMA or the AFG: Member of AsMA since 2001, and selected as an Associate Fellow around 2008. She held the position of AFG Membership Chair for two years about 10 years ago, and has presented at past AsMA conferences. She has also held the positions of President and Vice President of the Alliance of Air National Guard Flight Surgeons, and as a member of the nominating committee for the Society of United States Air Force Flight Surgeons.

Currently, Brigadier General Lisa K Snyder serves as the Air National Guard Assistant to Defense Health Agency and Director of the DHA Reserve Affairs Office. She previously served as the State Air Surgeon for Indiana Air National Guard, where she is a senior advisor to The Adjutant General on matters pertaining to the 2000 Indiana Airmen's fit for duty and readiness status, and also served as the Director of the Medical Directorate responsible for the Secretary of the Air Force's Medical Review Board.

On the weekends, she is a staff physician in the Emergency Department of a 134 bed large company owned hospital. Previously she has held the position of associate and assistant clinical staff positions at training programs of an accredited, large university and additionally an accredited private medical school.

When not working, she serves as the Director of a foster based cat/kitten rescue in Pennsylvania which she started with one foster in 2015. Since the creation and execution of all requirements to become a non-profit, 501(c)(3) rescue, over 2050 cats and kittens have been accepted into the rescue, provided health care and adopted out to rigidly screen forever homes due to her efforts and especially the 76 dedicated volunteers and fosters. She has an incredible, supporting husband and they enjoy “quiet time” on the lake together!

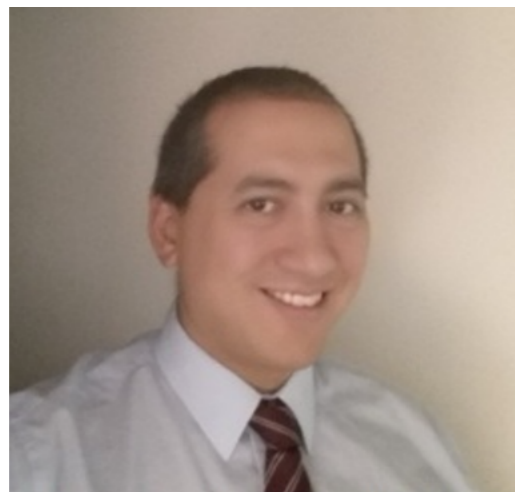
Dr Preston Laslie

(Receptions Chair; Immediate Past AFG Chair)



Dr Joe Butterfield

(Secretary 2023-25)



Joseph S. Butterfield MD, MS, MPH, EMT-P is a former AFG Chair returning to serve as Secretary. He has been a member of AsMA for over 12 years.

Preston “Cuffs” Laslie is an Air Force medical officer pursuing a Master of Strategic Studies from Air War College in preparation for future military assignments. A U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, he initially commissioned into the U.S. Air Force Medical Service Corps focusing on Medical Logistics and Medical Information Systems. After medical school he re-commissioned into the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps as a physician. He is board-certified in Family Medicine and Aerospace Medicine, and was appointed an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 2014.

Preston earned an MD from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 2009, an MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2018, and was designated a Certified Physician Executive in 2019. Preston is a U.S. Air Force Chief Physician and Senior Flight Surgeon. He’s attended eight AsMA Annual Scientific Meetings and been an AsMA Life Member five years, a SoUSAFFS Life Member five years, an ASAMS Life Member, and an IAMFSP Member. He’s served the AsMA Registration Committee five years, most recently as one of the co-chairs. He became an Associate Fellow in 2021, a Fellow in 2023, and functions as AFG Receptions Committee Chair.

Kevin Divers

(Chair, Nominations Committee; Deputy Chair, Awards Committee)



Kevin “Dumpster” Divers

Human Factors Engineer / Aerospace Physiologist / Flight Test Professional

Kevin Divers is a long-time flight test professional and flight equipment evaluator. Divers is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and received an MBA from Webster University. After Undergraduate Pilot Training he was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base eventually becoming the Human Systems Integration Division Chief on the Developmental Test of the F-22 Raptor where he made many innovations to the F-22 cockpit, life support system, helmet systems, and interior/exterior lighting and markings.

He was an Instructor at the USAF Test Pilot School for Human Factors in Cockpit Design and Avionics. Divers went on to become a Rated Physiologist and continued with the F-22 as Initial Cadre for the first Operational F-22 Squadron in the Air Force and is credited as a co-designer of the first operational in-ear audio protection for fighter aircrew.

After completing his service, Divers continued work in Human Factors and Physiology instructing Human Factors in Mishap Investigation for NASA centers as well as working on projects for NASA, NASCAR, the

National Football League, the National Hockey League, and other Aerospace Companies looking for unique equipment designs for their operating environments or human performance enhancements.

He has over 4,000 flying hours, primarily flight test in over 40 different aircraft and is a member of the Aerospace Medicine Association (where he is an Associate Fellow), Society of Flight Test Engineers, SAFE Association (current President-elect on the Board of Directors), and is commissioned as both a Kentucky Colonel and Tennessee Colonel Aide-de-Camp. He is a Wounded Warrior Alumni and is active in the Veteran community both with Wounded Warrior and as President of the Tennessee Chapter for the USAF Academy Association of Graduates as well as a member of Civil Air Patrol serving Tennessee Wing.

Using his very unique combination of physiology, ergonomics, human factors, anthropometry, and acquisition skills he has successfully sped up the acquisition process for many aircrew products and their full acceptance into the U.S. Military and beyond. He targets schedule and cost savings while continuing to show increase value, performance, and integration of each and every one of the projects he works with. Current clients for equipping, design consultation, and other unique tasks to advance their technologies are Red 6, Stratolaunch, Draken, Night Flight Concepts, Dillon Aero, and many other groups in the Aerospace Industry; civilian and military.

Dr Kristian Mears

(Deputy Chair, Awards Committee and Scientific Program Committee)

Gp Capt Kristian Mears BSc BMedSci BM BS PGCME PGCAerospaceMed
PGCGlobalHealth PGDipSEM DOccMed DAvMed DHA MSc MA MRAs MCGI FRCGP RAF



Kristian is a Medical Officer, who joined the U.K. military medical services in 1999. Kristian undertook an initial bachelor's degree, in Biochemistry and Physiology at Sheffield University, which naturally led to a medical degree at the University of Nottingham (1996-2001). Initially passing his AIB for the Royal Navy Kristian subsequently transferred to the RAF in 2002. Postgraduate training took him from Rheumatology & Rehabilitation at DMRC Headley Court, and ED in MDHU Peterborough, to MDHU Plymouth for Paediatrics and Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and finally overseas to RAF Akrotiri for family medicine specialisation completed in 2006.

As an independent practitioner Kristian has served at RAF Lyneham twice, firstly as UMO and secondly as the final SMO before closure, RCDM Birmingham as the GP Lecturer for the DMS, and SMO RAF Odiham; with operational tours in the Falkland Islands (as UMO and SMO), Oman (Op TELIC), AECO Afghanistan (Op HERRICK), Iraq as SMO SHADER and lastly in Iceland on Op MASTERER. During these postings Kristian has maintained his commitment to quality of care and evidence based medicine, with the completion of an MSc in Remote Healthcare, alongside postgraduate diplomas in Sports and Exercise Medicine, Occupational Medicine, and Aviation Medicine. Kristian became a GP Trainer in 2012, and successfully requalified in 2015, 2018 & 2022. He was promoted to Wg Cdr in 2014, and completed staff and command training, and the MA in Defence Studies from Kings College London in 2015. As honorary medical officer to the Royal British Legion Kristian has accompanied veterans to many battlefields, including those in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Italy and France.

In 2015 Kristian was seconded to the Defence Safety Authority as the Medical SME for the Brecon Service Inquiry looking into Heat Illness. This investigation resulted in a seminal report for defence. Kristian was awarded the Sir Harold Whittingham Memorial Prize for epitomising the best of the RAF Medical Services. Kristian in 2017 was posted to be SMO RAF Brize Norton, and as the largest RAF facing medical centre allowed interaction with the full panoply of tactical and operational activities across Defence. In 2020 he was posted into the role of SO1 Clinical and Intelligent Customer RAF at AIR Command.

Aviation medicine has been a persistent interest for Kristian. From the first introduction to the concepts of humans and the flying environment during basic training, Kristian is a keen advocate for quality aviation medical provision; this has led to formal qualifications (DAvMed) as well as presenting research at NATO RAMs, and AsMA looking at Aeromedical Evacuation and capability sharing. Kristian was the UK co-lead for organising the most recent NATO RAMs course - the first since COVID that was face to face; and as a Flight Medical Officer remains part of the UK Defence Aeromed rota to maintain the moral component of the Defence offer.

Kristian was promoted and assigned as Regional Clinical Director of DPHC East Region in August 2021 and is currently responsible for the provision of primary healthcare, including medical, rehabilitation, mental health and occupational medicine.

Married with two daughters, Kristian is a keen marathon runner (over 40 to date internationally), not very fast, and an ardent, albeit long suffering, supporter of Bath Rugby.

Dr Rowena Christiansen

(Chair, Informatics Committee; past AFG Chair)



MBBS, BA Hons, LLB, MEmergHealth, MBA, DCH, GradDipEd, GradDipDisasterMed, ACCAM, GradCertSpaceStudies, ISU SHSSP16, FAsMA, Fellow, Ormond College

Australian physician Dr Rowena Christiansen practises in pre-hospital emergency care, aerospace medicine, and medical education. She teaches within the University of Melbourne Medical School, and in 2022 developed a new MD1 'Discovery Subject' "*Human health in the space environment*". She also lectures on 'humans in space' for Swinburne University. Rowena is passionate about aerospace medicine advocacy, education, and volunteer service, and serves as the AsMA Vice President, International Services, also a member of a number of AsMA Committees. She is a past chair of the Associate Fellows Group, and current Bibliographer of the Aerospace Physiology Society, Parliamentarian for the Space Surgery Association, Secretary for the Aerospace Human Factors Association, a former Member-at-Large for the Space Medicine Association Executive Committee, and a team leader for the Ad Hoc Committee on Commercial Spaceflight scoping review project. Rowena is a member of the Australian Space Agency Space Medicine Technical Advisory Group. She is the Founder of the "*ad astra vita*" project and a creative founder of the *International Humans in Space Summit* and the *Melbourne International Space Festival*. A finalist in the annual Australian Space Awards for 2020-23 ('Innovator of the Year' award for 2023), and the Aviation and Aerospace Australia Awards for 2022, Rowena was also selected for the 2021 ESA Space Physician Training Course. She is a UNOOSA Space4Women Mentor and an ISU alumna and mentor. Rowena is the Research Director, Health Law for the *Jus Ad Astra* human rights in space project, and a strong human rights advocate, particularly in the area of public health and universal access to healthcare.

Dr Michael Hodapp

(Chair, Membership Committee; Deputy Chair,
Merchandising Committee)



Michael Hodapp, DDS, MAGD, FAsMA, is a general dentist with a private practice in Houston, Texas for over thirty years. He served the U.S. Army 82nd airborne division as a paratrooper and Crew-chief on both the UH-1H and the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. Upon his separation he worked for Grumman Aerospace corporation as a structural mechanic building the F-14 Tomcat while attending the University of Houston Clear Lake. Upon completion of his studies, he attended the University of Texas Dental Branch at the Houston Health Science Center where he received his doctorate in Dental Surgery. After 5 years in private practice, he secured a position as an independent contractor at NASA/JSC caring for the astronauts and the pilots that serve them. During his position at NASA, he began his studies in aerospace dentistry and aerospace medicine to understand the conditions the pilots, divers and astronauts would experience during training. He assisted in changes to the Space Shuttle Integrated Medical Model (IMM) Dental Contingency section and assisted with the ISS dental contingency preparedness. He has served as a consultant to Kelsey-Seybold, Wyle Labs, and NASA/JSC for dental contingency issues that may occur during exploration class missions. He currently sees the astronauts' and their supporting pilots in his private

practice. Over the years he put together an algorithm that simplifies the process in diagnosing barodontalgia conditions and speaks both nationally and internationally on the subject. He is author in two aerospace medicine textbooks: Hodapp MH, Dental Concerns. In "Principles of Clinical Medicine for Spaceflight", 1st Ed., Barratt MR, Pool SL, Editors; 2008:545-557., Hodapp MH, Dental Oral Health Considerations. In "Biomedical Results of Space Shuttle", Risin D, Stepaniak PC, Editors. 2013:73-75., Hodapp MH, Jeske AH, Dental Considerations. In "Principles of Clinical Medicine for Spaceflight", 2nd Ed., Barratt MR, Baker E, Pool SL, Editors; 2019:861-881.

He has been a member of AsMA since 2009, and has served as chairman on several panels. He is a Fellow of AsMA, former president and current treasurer of the International Association of Aerospace Dentistry, life member of the Space Medicine Association, Honorary Member of the Society of NASA Flight Surgeons. He has a Master with the Academy of General Dentistry, Master with the Laser and Health Academy, is certified in dental sleep medicine, and certified in the interpretation of dental related 3-D CBCT scans.

He is a member of the American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, Academy of Laser Dentistry, American Dental Association, Texas Dental Association, and the Greater Houston Dental Society.

He been on several trips to remote environments during his days of backpacking and cycling, including a trip across the continental United States. He is a Master Diver and Dive Master and enjoys flying. Currently, he enjoys woodworking, cycling, scuba diving and snow skiing with his wife Nicole, and loves spending time with their kids and three grandchildren.

Dr Aubrey Florom-Smith

(Chair, Merchandising Committee; Deputy Chair, Membership Committee and Scientific Program Committee)



Aubrey Florom-Smith, PhD, RN, AFAsMA, is a Nurse Scientist in the Office of Research, Patient Care Services at Stanford Health Care, where she supports Acuity Adaptable Unit nursing and interprofessional research, and technology research, and nursing and student research at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Primary Care and Population Health, at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr. Florom-Smith has over 10 years of nursing, clinical, and applied research experience, across a wide range of areas of inquiry, and in healthcare, corporate, and laboratory settings.

She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and her PhD in Nursing Science from the University of Miami, where she was the first National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research Predoctoral Fellow at the School of Nursing and Health Studies. Dr. Florom-Smith is pursuing a Master of Science in Human Factors at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Worldwide, where she is a Worldwide Scholar.

Dr. Florom-Smith's research interests include exploration of novel healthcare delivery models as complex systems, understanding, sustaining and enhancing human health and performance during spaceflight, and adapting impactful countermeasures and interventions for use at the terrestrial bedside and in space.

Inducted into Sigma Theta Tau in 2008, Dr. Florom-Smith has received several honors and awards, including the 2020 University of Miami Alumnus of Distinction Award, the Aerospace Nursing and Allied Health Professionals Society Louise Marshall Nursing Scholarship, the Jonas Foundation Nurse Leader Scholar, the Sigma Theta Rising Star of Scholarship and Research Award, and the March of Dimes Rising Star Award. Dr. Florom-Smith is an Associate Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association.

Dr Anna Clebone Ruskin

(Chair, Scientific Program Committee)



Dr. Anna Clebone is an Associate Professor at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on applying human factors principles to anesthesiology, with an emphasis on clinical cognitive aid and checklist design and implementation. She has published in Anesthesiology, Anesthesia and Analgesia, Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, Current Opinion in Anesthesiology, Clinical Anesthesia and Computing, and Vaccine with collaborators from the Human Integration Division of the NASA Ames Research Center, Yale University, The University of Colorado, Vanderbilt University, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is a Vice-Chair for the Quality and Safety Committee of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA) and Chair of the Checklist Subcommittee. In these roles, she led efforts for the committee to create an Implementation Guide and new PediCrisis App. Dr. Clebone has given lectures on these topics nationally and internationally. Dr. Clebone is an Associate Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association, and Co-Course Directs an 'Extreme Physiology' class for the University of Chicago Biological Sciences Division.

Joelle Thorgrimson

(Deputy Chair, Scientific Program Committee)



Capt Joelle Thorgrimson is a flight surgeon and board-certified family physician in the Royal Canadian Air Force who is in her final year of the United States Navy residency in aerospace medicine. She has a bachelor's degree in astrophysics from Queen's University and a master's degree in quantum computing from McGill University. Her current research focus is sex and gender specific medical support needs and issues of Canadian female military operational pilots. She is also a IFR rated commercial pilot.

Dr Tovy Kamine

(Second Past Chair)



Tovy Haber Kamine, MD, FACS, is a Trauma, Acute Care, and Critical Care surgeon at Baystate Health in Springfield, MA. He is board certified in General Surgery and Critical Care. He is a civilian pilot and will fly anything he can get his hands on, from Cessnas to Helicopters to Seaplanes to a P-51. He also volunteers in the Civil Air Patrol where he is a Major and Squadron Medical Officer. His research interests include telemedical support for space, prehospital, and trauma care as well as what it takes to physically perform surgery in space. In his limited remaining free time he greatly enjoys spending time with his wife and three sons.