

President's Message, Summer 2008  
Lt Col Brian G. Casleton, USAF

Wow, what a meeting ... over 605 attendees, great work Kevin, Larry and the rest of the planning committee. This was truly a world-class meeting and I hope everyone enjoyed both the venue and the educational offerings. Certainly a tough act to follow, but it is an honor and privilege to be your President for the 2009 meeting in Reno, Nevada.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank all the wonderful volunteers who gave their time to assist in the registration booth and many of the other tasks required to pull off such a stellar event. Special thanks to the Hilton Riverside as their hospitality was stellar for the entire week.

The theme for our 2009 meeting in Reno is Leadership: Winning the war, preparing for future challenges! This theme is important as we face many challenges in the coming few years as we muddle through the Base Realignment and Closure integrations of much of our tertiary care. Strong, open-minded leadership is the key to our success. It is through leadership and vision that we will successfully integrate our tertiary services throughout the Department of Defense.

At SAFMLS next year, I would like encourage presentations on our core competencies; advances in coagulation, hematology; chemistry, automation successes, and effective streamlining. As we downsize some facilities and grow others, this is a prime education venue where we can educate attendees on the great things we do across the military medicine spectrum of care and provide an opportunity for those at the smaller facilities to stay current in the advancements that are occurring within each of our disciplines. We have many experts in our field and I challenge each of you to take the time to share your knowledge and leadership experiences with the members of the society and other attendees of our meeting in Reno. This is your chance to shine. Take advantage of it.

Please plan to attend our next meeting and contact the SAFMLS Vice President at [www.safmls.org](http://www.safmls.org) to volunteer or contribute this next year. The success and value of our annual meeting is entirely dependent on the contributions of our membership. Please get involved. Enjoy your summer, see you in Reno!

