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PRESIDENT'S LOG BOOK

Change seems to be a recurring theme during my tenure as President; change with our committee members, change in terms of our structure and most recently a change of CASA PMO [and Director of Aviation Safety (DAS)]. The restructure of ASAM and the John Lane Aviation Medicine Trust continues, but it has been business as usual during this transition period towards a structure of improved governance, efficiency and asset protection.

CASA change: Members would be aware that Dr Pooshan Navathe, the CASA Principal Medical Officer (PMO) has decided to move on to greener pastures. While some of the certification decisions have resulted in vehement disagreement from pilots and DAMEs/DAOs, a disappointing aspect has been that a few of those affected have resorted to playing the man rather than the ball with personal attacks upon the PMO. I have found Pooshan to be a person of integrity and I openly declare that in addition to my private DAME work I also provide consultation services to CASA, but my observation has been that working for a regulator is truly a thankless role, especially so as PMO. I would venture to say that the majority of us who are DAMEs/DAOs/COs are involved in aviation medicine because we have an enduring interest and passion for all things related to flying and indeed many members fly themselves. This is also true for the (remaining!) doctor(s) in CASA Avmed and this aspect seems to have been lost in the vitriol that has been directed at CASA Avmed. We might well disagree or be perplexed by some of the Avmed decisions, but let's keep it professional.

Pooshan confirmed rumours at the Brisbane annual meeting that CASA management was exploring other options for Avmed such as outsourcing its functions in its entirety or partly. So it is interesting there has been no advertising for a new PMO even though Pooshan leaves CASA in early January 2015.

The recent Government response to the ASRR report noted that with regard to recommendation 35 (the only one of 37 recommendations that addressed aviation medicine) that "Moreover the Government has asked that CASA undertake a review of its aviation medical unit to establish whether a more *effective* and *efficient* system might be put in place without adversely impacting on safety" (italics are mine). An intriguing statement as the ASRR panel did not find issue with the effectiveness of aeromedical decision making, concluding "...that many of the problems surrounding refused or conditional issuance of aviation medical certificates are created by administrative processes used by CASA, and the lack of (or poor quality of) communications from CASA, rather than by the quality of decision making itself".

However, both the ASRR panel and the Government's response acknowledged industry dissatisfaction with medical certification turnaround. So would outsourcing Avmed improve efficiency? Or would suitable resourcing of Avmed improve efficiency? ASAM has members on both sides of the fence. Members who are working for potential providers, but also members working or who have worked in corporate and large organisational environments who can attest that outsourced functions are more in/efficient – I suppose it depends on who one asks...

Anyway, I wish Pooshan success in his new role.



Continued over page...

SAVE THE DATE!

ASAM 2015 Conference
10-13 September 2015 | Hilton Adelaide

www.asam2015.org.au



CASA change... or maybe not: One of the challenges for a medical department in any organisation is to engage support from the “powers above”. In Australian Aviation online, 9 October 2014 a headline was “CASA hopes for improved relationship with industry” relating to the Acting DAS’s address at a RAAA national convention. How ironic when just prior to that address an opportunity was presented to CASA to engage with industry by way of an invitation to attend an AOD workshop, which CASA declined, despite the enthusiasm and willingness of CASA Avmed to be there and discuss CASR Part 99. As one delegate observed, it was a rare occurrence for representatives of the major pilot unions (AIPA, AFAP & VIPA) to put aside self-interest and be in the same room, together with airline management and corporate airline medical representatives with the goal of improving the welfare of pilots and controllers with respect to AOD issues. What a lost opportunity for the regulator to ‘walk the talk’. The meeting was held to explore the introduction of a HIMS-like program in Australia (more later in this Newsletter).

I would like to wish all our members a joyous and safe time over the Christmas and New Year period.

Dr Ian Cheng

President

CASA OPHTHALMOLOGY WORKSHOP

By Ian Cheng

On 10 November 2014 CASA Avmed held an ophthalmology workshop in Melbourne. Ophthalmologists attending included Associate Professor Justin O’Day, Associate Professor Mark Daniell, Dr Rob Paul and also credentialed optometrist Tony Gibson. ASAM and I were both fortunate to have member and DAO, Dr David Workman give up a working day to represent ASAM and provide perspective and expertise as a specialist ophthalmologist working at the coalface.

There was an illuminating discussion about visual fields. CASR Part 67 requires pilots and controllers to have “normal fields of vision”. The debate about what constitutes “normal” was of particular interest to me, especially as it appeared a definition for normality, as applied to aviation safety remained somewhat elusive. There were differing opinions about the role of monocular and binocular testing, with or without fixation, the importance one attaches to learning and adaptation, as well as different approaches to interpreting visual field tests. The specialists present offered to continue discussions aimed at providing a practical approach to visual field measurement and assessment.

Refractive surgery and cataract surgery were discussed and it appeared unlikely to result in significant changes to the current CASA clinical practice guidelines. The current restrictions about flying with multifocal intraocular lenses did not attract dissent. Other topics covered included glaucoma and keratoconus.

It is a shame that resource restrictions have pared down the frequency of these valuable workshops to just one a year in Australia (with CAA-NZ hosting one other session a year, which ASAM has not attended to date), especially in the light of the continuing rapidity of advances in medical knowledge and practice.

HIMS AUSTRALIA

By Ian Cheng

Some of our members may be aware of the HIMS (Human Intervention Motivation Study) program that originated in the USA. The HIMS program (<http://www.himsprogram.com>) in the USA has tripartite support from employers, pilot unions and the FAA to assist pilots with AOD issues to safely return to flying. Programs based on HIMS have been established in Canada, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Following the introduction of CASR Part 99, a CASA Avmed-led HIMS workshop was conducted in Sydney in 2009, but the lack of industry support saw the concept wane. However, an Australian-based Cathay Pacific Airlines Captain has recently been championing the introduction of a HIMS-like program for Australia. Off his own bat he reconvened a stakeholder workshop on HIMS and its possible introduction into Australia. I attended one of the two days of the inaugural workshop at the personal request of the convenor and on this occasion I witnessed widespread industry support for such a program from both pilot unions and airline pilot management. The decision by CASA management not to support attendance by someone from their Avmed unit only further reinforced the negative opinions that some hold towards the regulator, but it appeared the PMO managed to negotiate some allowance as he managed to teleconference-in for a part of the final day of the workshop, which was greatly appreciated and well received by those in attendance.

What role ASAM and its members (especially those who are also MROs) might have in a HIMS Australia program is yet to be determined as the local concept is still very much in its infancy.



ASAM 2015 CONFERENCE

10-13 SEPTEMBER 2015
HILTON ADELAIDE

INVITATION TO ATTEND



From Rocket Science to Brain Surgery

- Aerospace Medicine and the Neurosciences



The 2015 ASAM annual conference will be held at the Adelaide Hilton from 10-13 September 2015. The conference theme is *“From Rocket Science to Brain Surgery - Aerospace Medicine and the Neurosciences”*.

We are pleased to announce the following speakers:

- **JOHN LANE ORATOR:** Professor Gilles Clément, International Space University, France
- **PATTERSON TRUST SPEAKER:** Dr John Roberts, NATS, United Kingdom

2015 sees the return of the traditional ASAM Conference format with 2.5 days of conference sessions at Hilton Adelaide.

The Conference Organising Committee look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide for what promises to be a professionally rewarding and socially enjoyable Conference!

Dr Gordon Cable

Convenor 2015 ASAM Conference

Visit the event website www.asam2015.org.au #asam2015

By Adrian Smith

You will shortly be receiving the 2014 issue of the *Journal of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine*. We will also be uploading an electronic copy of the manuscript to the Member's area of the Society website. We would appreciate your feedback on whether you prefer the hard-copy or electronic version of the Journal.

We will shortly be soliciting contributions for the next issue of the Journal. Please consider submitting a manuscript for publication. As a DAME, you will come across many interesting cases that could easily be written up as a Case Study or Scientific Commentary. As you supervise medical students in your practice, they may ask an interesting question that could turn into a short research project or literature review. As general clinicians, we all encounter interesting clinical problems that might be interesting in an aeromedical context. All of these situations are worth considering as we move towards next year's Journal. The Journal is only as good as the quality of the articles submitted by ASAM members, and its continued success depends on the active participation of our members. Please contact Adrian Smith at editor@asam.org.au to discuss potential ideas for manuscripts. All contributions will be gratefully received.

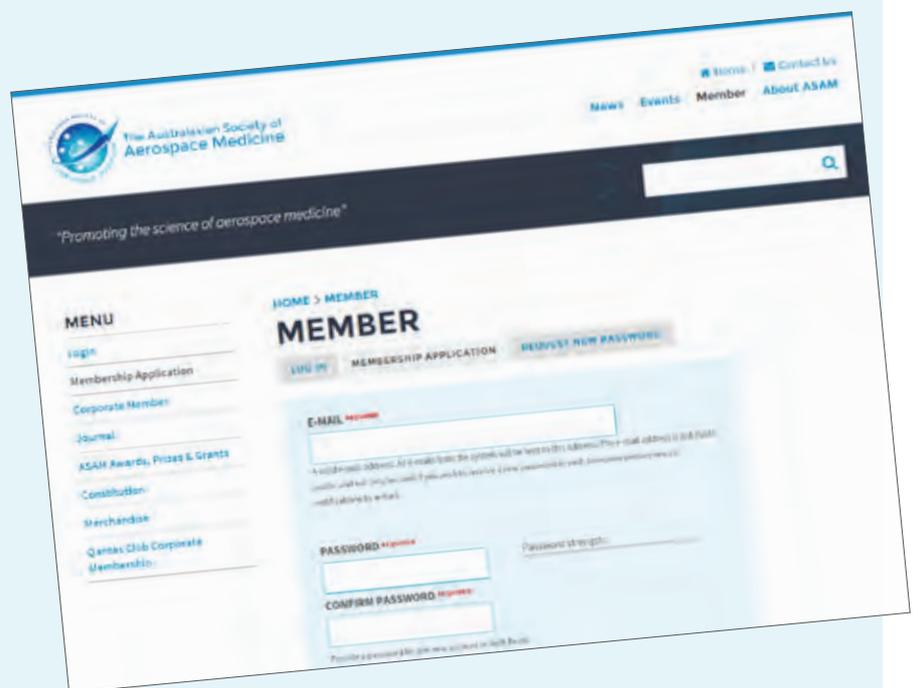
ASAM WEBSITE

By Adrian Smith

ASAM has recently updated its website, thanks largely to Mike Seah. The website URL is the same, but the content and layout has been given a much-needed overhaul. The Member's Area now has a range of user functions, including being able to update your personal details online.

To access the Member's Area on the website: visit <http://asam.org.au>, click on the Member's tab. Request a new password, using the email address registered with the Secretariat (the one where you receive the newsletter and Society emails). You will be sent an email with a unique link that will take you to your log-in page where you can set your own password.

If you have any news items, photos, or interesting articles that you would like to share on the website, please send them through to Anne Fleming secretariat@asam.org.au.



AEROSPACE MEDICINE EDUCATION FOR GP REGISTRARS

With the ageing of the Australian population, and the corresponding increase in travellers with chronic diseases, there is an increasing role for GPs to help their patients decide when - and if - to travel by air. There is also the new CASR allowing GPs to certify fitness to fly for private pilots under the "drivers licence medical" regulations. Many GP Registrars have never had any exposure to aerospace medicine and therefore may struggle with this decision. As a Medical Educator for Coast City Country GP Training, Dr Kate Manderson has delivered two educational sessions for senior Registrars in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region on these topics - principles of aerospace medicine, aeromedical decision-making and assessing fitness to fly; and responding to in-flight medical emergencies. The Registrars uniformly reported that these presentations were valuable for their future practice and covered new and interesting information to which they had never been exposed. If you work with a GP Regional Training Provider and feel that these presentations might be useful for your Registrars, you can contact Dr Manderson by email.

Fellows and Associate Fellows of the Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine would like to congratulate Dr John Turner for his outstanding role as the Inaugural President of the College, and would like to welcome Dr Craig Schramm as the new President. The College has made great progress in its first three years of operation, and we look forward to the next few years. Special mention should be made of Drs Kate Manderson and Aparna Hegde, joint recipients of the President's Award for their outstanding contribution in developing the College curriculum and examination process under the Chairmanship of Dr Gordon Cable.

We welcome two new members to the Board - Dr Kate Manderson will be chairing the Policy and Advocacy sub-committee, and Dr Glenn Pascoe will be chairing the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The College would also like to congratulate the four newest Fellows: Drs Elicia McGinniss, Rodney Sloane, Alan Turner and Michael Clements. Their Fellowship represents an important milestone for the College - the first to receive Fellowship through examination. This examination was well received by two external observers from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Training

The Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine is accepting applications from prospective trainees to enter its training programme. Training opportunities will be limited, and special consideration will be given to prospective trainees who have already completed post-graduate training in aerospace medicine at the level of Diploma or Master's Degree. To register your interest in entering the training programme, please email teaching@aerospacemedicine.org.au.

Continuing Professional Development

The College CPD programme is now entering the final year of its first triennium. Fellows and Associate Fellows should submit their claim for 2014 CPD activities by 31 March 2015. Fellows and Associate Fellows who meet the requirements of the CPD programme will be issued with a certificate of compliance. You only need to submit the logbook of activities unless selected for audit.



The Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine

The college has opened its CPD programme to any ASAM members who want to participate. ASAM members who are not Fellows of the College will be charged \$250 per triennium to cover the cost of administering the programme. Full details of the CPD programme are available on the College website <http://aerospacemedicine.org.au>. To register your interest in the CPD programme, please email cpd@aerospacemedicine.org.au.

Fellowship

ASAM members who feel they meet the criteria for Fellowship or Associate Fellowship are invited to contact fellowship@aerospacemedicine.org.au to discuss their eligibility and the application process. Prospective applicants should refer to the College website for full details of the criteria for Fellowship.

<http://aerospacemedicine.org.au>



MEMBER PROFILE

Dr Malcolm John Hoare RFD

Mal Hoare was born in Birmingham England in 1935. During WW II there was an anti-aircraft gun at the end of his back garden and he used to collect spent shell casings and debris from damaged aircraft to show his mates at school. He was educated at King's Norton Grammar School and won a state scholarship to study medicine at the University of Birmingham, from which he graduated MBChB in 1958. During his student years he worked every vacation delivering truck chassis to a bodyworks and tells a great story about driving these vehicles, completely exposed to the weather, in all conditions.

Soon after graduating he married his long-term sweetheart, Freda: he had courted her since he was 16 and she 15. Mal looked very spiffy in his morning suit and top hat on that happy day. He undertook his pre-registration training at hospitals in Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon, which latter site (at the junction of several national highways) saw him gain much experience in treatment of major acute trauma cases.

As an alternative to national service with the UK Services, Mal decided on a more adventurous course, accepting a short service commission with the Royal Australian Air Force. He and Freda sailed to Australia in 1959 on the P&O liner Iberia, eventually landing at Melbourne where Mal took up his first posting at 6 RAAF Hospital Laverton. Subsequently he served as SMO RAAF Fairbairn (ACT), SMO Pearce (WA), and at 4 RAAF Hospital Butterworth (Malaysia), with a lengthy attachment to Ubon Air Base in Thailand, supporting RAAF aircrew and ground staff based there. He also undertook aeromedical evacuation missions for members wounded in Viet Nam while he was at 4 RAAF Hospital. His final posting was an encore as SMO RAAF Pearce.

In 1967 Mal left the RAAF for general practice and regular work as a Designated Aviation Medical Examiner from the new home and surgery he had built at Rossmoyne WA, but he was not gone for long. After two weeks as a civilian, he was invited back to Pearce for two half-day sessions per week to assist the then-solo SMO (Tom Woods) who had replaced him. He loyally continued that assistance to the RAAF for the next 47 years: he was mentor, colleague, adviser and friend to a succession of medical staff at Pearce until his eventual retirement in mid-2014. The writer vividly recalls advice received from a departing colleague when he was posted as SMO Pearce in 1975: 'Your most important job here is to retain the invaluable services of Mal Hoare'!

Mal continued as a member of the RAAF Reserve until he reached compulsory retirement age and his service was recognised when he was an early recipient of the (now discontinued) Reserve Force Decoration, entitling him to use the postnominals 'RFD'.

There was a longstanding tradition that the current SMO Pearce would serve as locum tenens in Mal's civilian practice during his annual family holidays each January. When the writer did so, Mal explained to him that the first bill he paid each year was his annual subscription to the Aviation Medical Society of Australia and New Zealand (predecessor of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine). He was ever a booster of the Society, serving on committees to arrange numerous of its local and national meetings. His decades of Service to the Society were acknowledged formally when he was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2009. His wide popularity within the Society was recognised by the standing ovation from members present at the Busselton ASM in 2009 when the Society's President announced his award.



Mal and his wife, Freda

Because of declining health, Mal retired in mid-2014. He now undertakes only some DAME exams for long-term patients, and provides continuing care for a few lucky others. Many reading this will know of Mal's skill and compassion as a clinician. We acknowledge that he has served his patients, his adopted country and this Society extraordinarily well throughout his professional lifetime.

When I contacted him to check some details for this piece, Mal cracked 'I hope it's not for my obituary'! I am delighted that it is not, dear friend.

By Peter S. Wilkins

ACCAM COURSE

The Aviation Medicine Unit at Monash University recently conducted another successful Australian Certificate of Civil Aviation Medicine (ACCAM) course in Melbourne from 24 November - 5 December 2014.

Students visited the Ansett Aviation Training facility in Tullamarine as a part of the two week training course and got to experience the 737 flight simulator.

A final exam produced an excellent overall score for the group with Dr Adrian Hall achieving the highest score to take out the Dux award.

Two new courses in Aviation Medicine have been introduced in 2015. The Advanced Practical Aviation medicine course will run for the first time in February at the Singapore Aeromedical Centre. This exciting course gives students the rare opportunity to fly a dedicated spatial disorientation simulator, view high G training in a centrifuge (with the option to experience it), undergo night vision training and ride an ejection seat trainer. Further information regarding this course can be viewed here: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sphpm/shortcourses/adv-av-med.html>

After over 20 years of running the ACCAM Monash University now offers ACCAM alumni the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of Aviation Medicine as well as receive an update on the latest developments and research in aviation physiology, clinical aviation medicine, flight safety and human factors from around the world. Students also get the opportunity to experience the 737 flight simulator. Further information regarding this course can be found here: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sphpm/shortcourses/avmed-refresher.html>



Dr Adrian Hall and course convenor Dr David Newman



737 flight simulator



Students visited the Ansett Aviation Training facility

NEW ASAM MEMBERS

ASAM welcomes new members:

Nicola Boyd, Bonnells Bay NSW

Lynden Derrick, Reedy Creek Qld

Adrian Hall, Woody Point Qld

FLYING FAST JETS

Human Factors and Performance Limitations

Author:

David G. Newman, Swinburne University, Melbourne, Australia

This book provides a detailed general overview of the human factors and performance limitations associated with flying fast jets, integrating all the latest available research literature on the demanding operational tasks faced by such pilots and aircrews. As such, it has a strong military focus, dealing with pilots of fighter aircraft, attack aircraft and lead-in fighter trainer aircraft that are traditionally only single or dual pilot operations. The book deals not only with the issue of G force, but discusses ejection and escape/survival, disorientation, high altitude physiology, pilot training and selection, helmet-mounted equipment, situational awareness, data fusion and multi-sensor integration, human machine interface issues and advanced cockpit design. It examines the human performance issues associated with the technological advances made in fast jets, such as increased manoeuvrability, increased use of the pilot's head as a mounting platform for sensor and weapons systems, and the complexities involved in the human-machine interface within these aircraft.

The book is available from the publisher directly (Ashgate) or online (Amazon etc).



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

27 & 28 February
2015

AMSVIC Airshow Downunder Scientific Meeting - Melbourne

June 2015

ASAM WA Regional Meeting

July 2015

AMSVIC AGM & Scientific Meeting - Melbourne

5 & 6 September 2015

AMS NZ Annual Conference - New Zealand

10 - 13 September
2015

ASAM Annual Conference - Adelaide

11 September 2015

ACAsM Annual Fellows Dinner & AGM - Adelaide

15 - 17 September
2016

ASAM Annual Conference - Hamilton Island

September 2017

ASAM and AMS NZ Combined Annual Conference - New Zealand