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www.asam.org.au



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PRESIDENT'S LOG BOOK

Change: There is nothing permanent except change (Heraclitus)

Last month, the committee met in Adelaide in support of the South Australian regional meeting (report elsewhere in this Newsletter). Over the past several years, the committee has periodically held a strategic planning meeting (SPM) and once again Dr Gordon Cable graciously agreed to facilitate the SPM.

The **SPM identified that the "Rules" of the society**¹ had not been significantly revised with particular respect to ongoing changes in technology, and community and government expectations with regards to corporate governance. The last revision of the Rules was in 2012 to incorporate electronic voting for the election of committee members. However, it is noteworthy that under clause 28(f) "Members are not entitled to vote by proxy at any meeting". Whether the original intent of this clause was to encourage members to attend meetings and voice their opinions is not now known. However, it does silence a significant number of members who cannot regularly attend the annual general meeting, which is counter to our commitment to actively engage with our membership. The committee would be interested in hearing the membership's view about the current no proxy clause.

There are also references in the Rules to cheques and other hard copy negotiable instruments, and that actions should be "in writing". An update to the Rules to include contemporary electronic options (that comply with current governance guidelines and requirements) is appropriate.

DAMEs would have recently received communication from CASA about the **DAME2 initiative**. When this concept was initially raised as a possibility by CASA at the 2006 annual scientific meeting in Launceston, the overall mood of DAMEs was not supportive. CASA's PMO, Dr Pooshan Navathe has kindly provided some further details about this initiative in the Newsletter, however, the fine details are planned to be communicated by CASA over the next few months at sessions scheduled for a number of cities. It will be interesting to see if DAMEs now embrace the DAME2 initiative or whether the concerns expressed at Launceston linger.

CASA have publicised on their website a number of proposed **CASR rule changes** and the ones of particular interest to DAMEs would be to parts 61, 67 and 141. A summary of the proposed changes in terms of medical requirements can be found on the **CASA website**². In 2011, ASAM expressed its concerns to CASA about the proposed driver's licence medical (DLM)³. The 2011 letter was drafted before the implementation of the DLM and while appropriate for its time, CASA would now argue that many of the concerns expressed were subsequently addressed (eg. epilepsy, IDDM and renal calculi are excluded conditions under the DLM). Of course, the DLM doesn't address our fundamental concern that medicals required for assessing pilot fitness to fly should be conducted by doctors trained in aviation medicine and who maintain CPD in aviation medicine, ie DAMEs. In my opinion the webpage also seems a bit disingenuous to say for those with a PPL that a Class 2 medical certificate is optional (notwithstanding the asterisks) and that a DLM (or RAMPC as it will be known) is the minimum requirement. An outcome of the strategic planning meeting was to educate and promote aviation medicine to GPs and highlight the potential pitfalls of conducting a DLM without adequate aviation medicine knowledge and training. A presentation by a committee member at the next RACGP annual meeting is planned.

1 <http://www.asam.org.au/members/constitution/ASAM%20Rules%20Revised%2018%2009%2012.pdf>

2 http://www.casa.gov.au/scripts/nc.dll?WCMS:STANDARD::pc=PC_101933

3 http://www.asam.org.au/items/198/CASA%20Part%2061%20response%2020_10_2011.pdf



Continued over the page

Many of you will be aware that the current government has established an **independent review of aviation safety regulation** in Australia. A number of organisations and individuals (including ASAM members) have made submissions with respect to CASA and aviation medicine decision (ADM) making. Dissatisfaction with the ADM process has also been expressed in social and mainstream media. However, the committee found one particular article in a recently published aviation magazine to be particularly disturbing and there was a unanimous decision amongst the committee members to write to the magazine's editor an objective response to further educate the magazine's readership. Our letter consciously tried not to defend CASA, which they can do themselves, but convey what evidence-based aero-medical risk management is all about and highlight the importance of aero-medical regulators world-wide in the aviation safety process as mandated under ICAO. The full letter has been placed on the **ASAM webpage**⁴ for the information of our members and in case the letter is heavily edited or rejected.

Change: what we do to give the illusion of progress (Dilbert)

On a practical note, DAMEs might be interested to know that the CASA webpage has an "easy reference" **aviation medical checklist** for pilots, which amongst other things assists them to be more organised for their **DAME appointment**⁵. DAMEs might consider it a worthwhile link to provide to their pilots and controllers.

With sadness I convey the news of the recent passing of honorary member **Professor Rod Westerman**. I first met Professor Westerman when I attended the ACCAM course in 1997 and was impressed by his knowledge and the enthusiasm he displayed towards both aerospace medicine and to the doctors attending his course. His intellectual vigour and significant contribution to aerospace medicine will be sorely missed. A tribute to Professor Westerman, based on a profile published in the ASAM March 2013 Newsletter, has been printed in this edition.

I look forward to seeing you at the **2014 annual conference** in Brisbane, if not sooner at the NSW regional meeting on 5 April 2014. I am also confident that AMSVIC will hold yet another successful conference, this time in Wanaka over 18-21 April 2014 (further conference details in this Newsletter).

Dr Ian Cheng

President (a philosophical Gen 500BC or a sceptical baby-boomer?)

4 <http://www.asam.org.au/items/317/Aust%20Flying%2021-3-14.pdf>

5 http://www.casa.gov.au/scripts/nc.dll?WCMS:STANDARD::pc=PC_101850

Training Programme

ACAsM will commence its training programme on 1 July 2014. Applications will be accepted from 15 April to 31 May, and successful applicants will be able to commence training on 1 July. Prospective trainees should contact Dr Craig Schramm (**teaching@aerospacemedicine.org.au**) to discuss their eligibility for training.



Applicants will be considered on their merits, but a successful applicant would be expected to meet the following criteria: must have completed (or be enrolled in) suitable postgraduate training in aerospace medicine, must be suitably credentialled to conduct civilian and/or military aircrew medical examinations, and be currently employed in a position where they can exercise their aerospace medicine knowledge across the range of competencies defined by the College (available on request). Part-time experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Trainees considered by the Education Committee to be at an advanced stage of professional development in aerospace medicine may be invited to sit the College exam on 9 September. Successful completion of this exam would result in the awarding of Fellowship, and subsequent recognition as a specialist in aerospace medicine

CPD

Fellows and Associate Fellows are reminded that 30 March is the deadline to claim CPD points for 2013. Those who have not submitted a claim for 2012 can do so on the same form, and the 2012 points will be credited retrospectively. The CPD programme is open to any ASAM members who want to participate. Full details are available from the College website, **www.aerospacemedicine.org.au/cpd**. For any additional information, or to register your interest to participate in the CPD programme, please email **cpd@aerospacemedicine.org.au**.

Exit exam

The Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine will be conducting its inaugural Fellowship examinations in association with the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine annual scientific meeting in Brisbane this year. The examination will be held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 at the Brisbane offices of CASA. The examination will consist of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). This involves multiple practical, clinical and viva stations, assessed by Fellows. The examination content will call upon the entirety of the curriculum, the details of which will be promulgated by the end of April. Advanced trainees identified by the College Education Committee may enrol in the training program from the end of April to begin advanced training from 1 July, and apply to sit the exit examination in September. For further information please contact Dr Gordon Cable, Chair of the Assessments Subcommittee **gordon.cable@aerospacemedicine.org.au**.

Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner

The ACAsM AGM and annual dinner will be held in Brisbane on Saturday 13 September (immediately following the combined ASAM, ASA & FNA conference). For more info visit **www.aeromedconference.com**

WA REGIONAL MEETING

A scientific meeting will be held on Saturday 7 June 2014 at the Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle. On Sunday 8 June CASA will hold a DAME2 Initiative Workshop at the same venue.

Registration will open shortly.

AMSVIC

The Aviation Medical Society of Victoria will host a scientific meeting in Queenstown, New Zealand over the Easter weekend 2014. Scientific sessions will be held on Saturday, and on Sunday delegates and partners will attend the Warbirds Over Wanaka Airshow. Please contact Anne on **fleminga@bigpond.net.au** if you would like more information.

The Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine regional scientific meeting was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Adelaide on Sunday 16 February 2014. The venue was perfect for a small gathering, with a first floor restaurant converted to a very light and airy meeting space with views out to a sunny North Terrace. The event was well attended with 37 delegates registering, including quite a few from interstate. Also in attendance were Dr Ian Cheng, President of ASAM, Dr John Turner, President of the Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine, as well as a number of ASAM committee members.

The program kicked off with specialist input from Dr Nicholas Brook, a urologist based in North Adelaide, who updated the gathering on appropriate investigations for asymptomatic microscopic haematuria - an issue frequently faced by DAMEs at routine aviation medicals. Further specialist advice on the assessment of the dizzy pilot was provided by Dr David Close, ENT surgeon and retired Group Captain in the RAAF Specialist Reserve. Following on with the vestibular physiology theme, and to provide a physiology refresher, Dr Gordon Cable entertained the audience with a practical demonstration of spatial disorientation that can occur in flight using a Barany Chair. A willing volunteer was found in one of the RAAF Aviation Medical Officer Course students who was attending the meeting, and despite some vigorous spinning and forced head movements thankfully the air sick bag was not required!

Other morning presentations included a fascinating review of the use and misuse of pulse oximetry in aviation presented by Dr Adrian Smith, highlighting the advice that we should give to our pilots about the pros and cons of using these commercially available devices. Dr Ian Hosegood, Director of Medical Service at Qantas, gave a case-based and often amusing insight into the daily life of an airline medical department and the range of passenger problems that are dealt with on a daily basis. Finally Dr Cable again took to the lectern and presented a clinical case of carotid artery dissection causing Horner's Syndrome in a Class 1 pilot.

The afternoon was set aside for the CASA team to update us on the latest developments in Canberra. We worry when pilots take medication and don't tell us...but what happens when they don't take medication and don't tell us? Dr Michael Drane's thought provoking presentation on medication compliance addressed this issue. Also addressed in separate talks were CASA's revised approach on the aeromedical disposition following cerebrovascular events, and the new approach to recertification following uncomplicated coronary artery stenting which does not involve the left main stem. The PMO update was compelling listening, and helped to clarify the current difficulties and challenges being faced by Aviation Medicine Section. The breaking news headline for most was the DAME2 initiative which will allow greater autonomy for DAMEs, who wish to opt in, to issue medical certificates if specified criteria are met. CASA will be offering training courses around the country for DAMEs who wish to participate, so check out the DAME newsletter for more information.

All in all the day was great fun and I think an enormous success with great talks, delicious catering, and good company. Thanks to the ASAM committee for their attendance and support, Anne Fleming for doing all the hard work, and the CASA team for travelling and working on the weekend! Next year the ASAM annual scientific meeting will be held in Adelaide, so hopefully we will get to see even more of our ASAM members making the trip to South Australia to enjoy some continuing professional development... oh and of course some wineries.

MERZ PRIZE

MAJ (Dr) Ian Gordon is the recipient of the Merz Prize for the 1/2014 Aviation Medical Officer Course. Ian initially trained as a geologist, but joined the Army in 1991 to pursue a career as an Army pilot. He has amassed more than 6500 flying hours, and is qualified on a range of aircraft including CT-4, Squirrel, Iroquois, Kiowa, and King Air. He became a Qualified Flying Instructor in 1995. He graduated from University of Queensland medical school in 2010, and currently works as an Aviation Medical Officer at RAAF Base Townsville. The Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine would like to extend to MAJ Gordon hearty congratulations for his recognition as the 'student of merit' for the 1/2014 Aviation Medical Officer Course.



SQNDR Marty Biner T/CO AVMED presents the Merz Prize to MAJ (Dr) Ian Gordon

JASAM

The Editor would like to invite ASAM members to submit an article for consideration of the upcoming Journal of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine. To be considered for publication in the next issue of the Journal, manuscripts should be received no later than 30 April 2014. For more information, please contact editor@asam.org.au.

ASAM SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee is in the process of developing a scientific framework to the Society's conferences and Journal. If you would like to be involved in a Scientific Advisory Committee, please contact editor@asam.org.au.

At its most recent meeting, the Committee approved a Code of Conduct for Scientific Integrity, in order to provide clear guidelines that will help maintain the high standard of our scientific meetings and the Journal. Prospective presenters and prospective authors will be asked to acknowledge the Code of Conduct when they agree to interact with ASAM members through our scientific initiatives. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be placed on the website for members to view.



The following topics are planned for the clinical sessions on Saturday, 5 April 2014

Dermatology Update

Relevant for DAMEs? Absolutely - how often as clinicians are we asked by our pilots "could you look at this spot on my skin" or "can I still fly after having my melanoma removed"? Hear about the latest treatments and management for various types of skin cancers from Dr Rod Hannaford (Dermatologist and previous Medical Director of the Skin & Cancer Foundation).



Distraction, disorientation or incapacitation that may occur from impaired vestibular function is a threat to air safety. Dr Miriam Welgampola (Neuro-otologist at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and senior lecturer at the University of Sydney) will present on how to assess patients with these symptoms including basic clinical bed-side tests and how more complex vestibular function investigations might assist.



SKIN & CANCER FOUNDATION

EDITORIAL

An epidemic of atrial fibrillation?

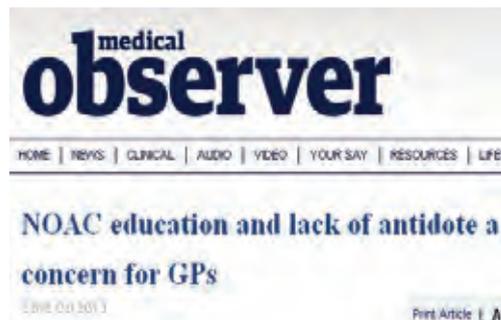
Learn about clinical indications for referral to an EPS specialist, current electrophysiology approaches to the management of various arrhythmias and risk of recurrence despite treatment. Presentation by Dr Logan Kanagaratnam (Electrophysiologist and senior cardiologist at Royal North Shore & Ryde Hospitals and senior lecturer at the University of Sydney).

ASAM NSW Regional Scientific Meeting

Saturday 5 April 2014

Norman Nock Auditorium,
Kolling Institute
Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards NSW

Optional CASA Session - Sunday 6 April 2014 – DAME2 Initiative



This program may be subject to change

Associate Professor Chris Ward (senior haematologist and Director of Research for the Department of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine at Royal North Shore Hospital) will provide an overview of the New Oral Anticoagulant (NOAC) drugs, including their clinical indications, side effect profile and advantages/disadvantages when compared with Warfarin.



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

CASA will provide the regulator's perspective with regards to coronary stents, AF, NOACs, CVA/TIA and other updates on Saturday, 5 April 2014.

On Sunday, 6 April 2014 CASA will conduct an *optional* session on the DAME2 initiative.

NB. Attendance on Saturday, 5 April 2014 will count towards 8 hours of CPD credit towards DAME designation, RACGP Cat 2 and ACRRM Cat 2. The optional half-day Sunday, 6 April session will count towards 4 hours of CPD credit towards DAME designation alone.

ACAsM CPD credits for Saturday, 5 April 2014 clinical session have been applied for.



Aeromedical Retrieval Working Together

ASAM + ASA + FNA 2014 Conference

BRISBANE QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA 10-13 SEPTEMBER 2014



ASAM+ASA+FNA 2014

The Aeromedical Society of Australasia, Flight Nurses Australia and the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine is proud to present the leading Australasian event of the aeromedical industry - The ASAM+ASA+FNA 2014 Conference, Brisbane, Australia.

ASAM+ASA+FNA 2014 promises to deliver a stimulating and informative program, including both International and Australian speakers and we invite all interested parties to join us for this exciting event.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 10 September 2014

WELCOME DRINKS - Rydges
'BACCHUS' Lounge Bar

Thursday 11 September 2014

Plenary and Concurrent Sessions

Friday 12 September 2014

Plenary and Concurrent Sessions
CONFERENCE DINNER - Hillstone St Lucia

Saturday 13 September 2014

Half-day Sessions

www.aeromedconference.com



DAME 2 MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS - A NEW ERA

Brisbane and Melbourne were the venues for the initial DAME 2 Regulatory Training sessions which will lead the way towards the introduction of DAME-managed aeromedical assessments of Class 2 pilots – DAME 2 Assessments. This initiative is being progressively rolled out by CASA to enable selected pilots to attend DAME delegates for their Class 2 medicals, and have their Medical Certificates issued by their DAME's, rather than centrally from CASA.

Until now, the information has been collected by DAME's, but the assessment undertaken by CASA. This has enabled a large number of Medical Practitioners to take part in the process, with minimal training and currency obligations. It has also helped provide DAME services to pilots and controllers in rural and remote locations.

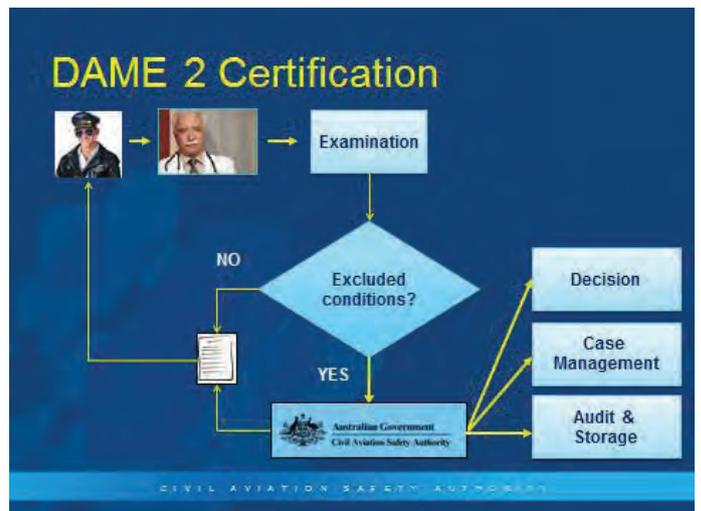
Options for increasing the involvement of DAME's in the assessment process have been limited, both by the IT infrastructure, and also the challenges of developing further aeromedical assessment skills to a level comparable with other jurisdictions. A replacement Medical Records System and training in regulatory medicine begin to address these limitations.

The start of this new process will require completion of the DAME Regulatory Training course, a delegation from the Director of Aviation Safety, and is only available to users of MRS Online. The training highlights aviation regulation and law, including the role of ICAO and Australian legislation. Understanding the tenets of natural justice – that people are entitled to a hearing, and that the decision-maker must be impartial – is a key foundation¹. The framework for decision-making is radically different to clinical decisions. The process is governed by the Civil Aviation Act 1988 and Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998. Actions and decisions must be in accordance with these. Furthermore, the decision-maker is required to demonstrate a transparent, evidence-based and considered process.

While the process is becoming established, assessments are limited to Class 2 pilots without specified excluded medical problems, or the certificate endorsements "Do not Renew" and "CASA Audit Required"². Delegated DAME's (DAME 2's) are not obliged to assess anyone; where there is complexity or uncertainty, or an excluded condition identified, the medical may be submitted to CASA for assessment. Contact DAME Liaison for further information by emailing dame.liaison@casa.gov.au.

¹ Refer to <http://www.arc.ag.gov.au/Documents/ARC+Best+Practice+Guide+2+Natural+Justice.pdf> for guidance on administrative natural justice.

² Details available in DAME Handbook, Ch 12. http://www.casa.gov.au/scripts/nc.dll?WCMS:STANDARD::pc=PC_91302



MEMBER PROFILE



Dr Barney Cresswell

Dr Barney Cresswell has recently retired from the committee of ASAM, having been on the committee since 1999. During his time on the committee, Barney held the positions of Secretary and Vice President and was the Convenor for the national ASAM Conferences held in Broome in 2000, and in Busselton in 2007, both of which were very successful. He was also responsible for the annual WA regional meetings over this time.

He is a consultant anaesthetist in private practice and is going through the stages of sliding into retirement (but is, of course, as busy as ever).

Barney was born in Northam, about 100kms due east of Perth, on the edge of the WA Wheat belt, and was brought up in Perth, attending Perth Modern School. He studied Medicine at the University of Western Australia, and joined the RAAF Undergraduate Scheme, which meant that he had to pay back four years serving as an RAAF Medical Officer. He was posted to 6 Hospital RAAF Laverton, where his interest in anaesthesia began. He was then posted to RAAF Pearce in WA as Senior Medical Officer and then transferred to a Medical Administrative post in Melbourne, where he was able to work 2 afternoons a week as an anaesthetic trainee. He was then able to get a trainee registrar role at the Royal Melbourne Hospital full time after he left the RAAF. He remained in the RAAF Reserve for 25 years.

Barney returned to Perth as a Consultant Anaesthetist and joined a private practice, where he has remained since. He had a particular interest in paediatric anaesthesia and was on the visiting staff of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children for 30 years. In the early 1980s, he became interested in helping the Royal Flying Doctor Service in WA standardise their medical equipment, especially anaesthetist equipment connections, so that there were no surprises when picking up fully sedated patients in remote rural locations (to find the airway connector on the patient was different from the aircraft equipment...). He was one of the range of doctors on call for retrieval flights with the RFDS and has flown to many country towns, to pick up injured motorists, seriously ill patients, and particularly, children with croup or epiglottitis, as respiratory emergencies. He comments that since the introduction of the haemophilus influenza vaccination programmes epiglottitis is rarely seen. He ended up on the Medical Committee for the WA section of RFDS and then became embroiled in the National Committee, where he was National President of the RFDS 1990 and 1991. This involved many meetings with state and federal governments discussing finance and funding.

Barney also became interested in broader emergency services medical aspects, and was responsible for setting up the local Australasian chapter of the International Society of Aeromedical Services, and was the chairman from 1985 - 1994. This group has members who are pilots, both fixed wing and helicopters, flight nurses, rescue airmen, and emergency evacuation managers. The group is now the Aeromedical Society of Australasia, and the next ASAM Federal Conference to be held in September 2014, in Brisbane, is being held as a combined Conference with this group.

He was elected a member of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine in 2003 and an Associate Fellow of the Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine in 2013.



Dr Barney Cresswell

Over the years, Barney has been involved with voluntary overseas medical aid programmes, going to China in 1994 for a month, and subsequent programmes in India, Indonesia and two yearly visits to Tanzania. He accompanies plastic surgeons, undertaking the anaesthesia for cleft lip and palate repairs, and burn scar revision procedures.

Barney has an interest in cooking, which was always very popular with the ASAM WA committee members convening at his house for WA Conference planning meetings, as there was always a delightful meal to be enjoyed when all the official business was completed. Barney has three children in their 40's, and in mid March celebrated his 70th birthday. The ASAM President and Committee wish Barney all the very best for the future and thank him for his services to the Society over many years.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Vale Professor Rod Westerman, MBBS (Hons), MD, PhD, Dip Psych Med, FRACGP, ACCAM. Honorary member ASAM; Honorary member ACAsM. 13/11/1931 - 17/03/2014

Vale Ian Farmer, Balwyn, Vic. Passed away March 2014

Graham Fleming – Member of the Order of Australia for service to medicine in rural South Australia, and as an advocate in the field of mental health and suicide prevention.

David Cooke, Port Macquarie – Life Member RACGP; NSW Rural Doctors Award for Long Service Rural Areas

Stephen Langford - recently appointed Adjunct Professor, School of Medical Science, Edith Cowan University.

David Newman - recently appointed Associate Professor at Monash University.

Professor Roderick Alan Westerman

**MBBS (Hons), MD, PhD, Dip Psych Med, FRACGP, ACCAM.
13/11/1931 - 17/03/2014**

Professor Westerman graduated from Adelaide University Medical School in 1953. After completing internship and a residency at Royal Adelaide Hospital, his first involvement in Aerospace Medicine was as an MO to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs in 1955-56. He subsequently returned to the Australian National University where he completed his PhD in neurophysiology in 1961. (He subsequently took his MD from Adelaide University in neurophysiology in 1994 with a Thesis entitled "Studies on the functions of nociceptive afferents in the skin and their microvascular interactions")

Since 1958 he has held a number of appointments as a consultant physician and neurophysiologist including to the Alfred Hospital, Epworth Hospital, Prince Henry's Hospital, Caulfield Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital as well as being active in General Practice. He was a professor of physiology at Monash University, retiring in 1995. He is fondly remembered by his students as a great teacher. He was a member of the Citizens Military Forces and subsequently the Australian Army Reserve (RAAMC) from 1956-1972 when he retired with the rank of Captain.

Over the years Professor Westerman has continued his interest in aerospace medicine and aerospace physiology with appointments including: Aviation & Thermal Physiology Coordinator, Air Ambulance Course Monash University, Consultant Physiologist, ACT Air Ambulance & Helicopter Rescue Service., Consultant Physiologist, Victorian Air Ambulance and interestingly AeroMedical Evacuation Consultant to Acibadem Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey.

Professor Westerman held a DAME appointment from 1965 – 2013, and was a DME with CAA NZ since 1987.

Professor Westerman was an Instigator and Convenor of the Australian Certificate of Civil Aviation Medicine course Monash University, which subsequently become the ACCAM course. He was appointed Adjunct Professor in Postgraduate Medicine (Aviation Medicine) at Edith Cowan University where he contributed to the teaching of the Diploma of Aviation Medicine. Over the years he has also taught aerospace medicine on behalf of CASA and the RAAF.

Professor Westerman has been a member of the American Aerospace Medicine Society since 1964, a member of the Aviation Medical Society of Australia and New Zealand and subsequently ASAM since 1978. He was elected a Member of the International Academy of Aviation & Space Medicine in 2010. He has been an active AMSVIC Committee Member since 2004. He was awarded Honorary Membership of ASAM and Honorary Fellowship of the Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine in 2012.



Dr Rod Westerman with his granddaughter Katherine at the inaugural ACAsM Annual Dinner September 2012

Professor Westerman has been a stalwart in aerospace physiology and the practice of clinical aerospace medicine in Australia for more than 50 years. During that time he presented papers and published articles too numerous to mention, both within Australia and Internationally.

Aviation and aerospace medicine in Australasia is stronger for his contribution made over a lifetime of medical practice, and he will be sadly missed.

Professor Westerman is survived by his wife Mancie, his children Michael, Susan and David, his daughters-in-law Lynne and Helen, and 7 grandchildren.

Colleague, teacher, mentor and friend.

William Lockhart Rait

MB, BS, MD, MSC.

Doctor, scientist

Born June 10, 1909, Hobart

Died December 7, 2013, Melbourne

Achievements: Pioneer of high altitude medicine in Australia.

RAAF medical observer at Maralinga bomb tests.

Bill Rait was to build his career in South Australia, and be a key witness to the Maralinga nuclear tests in the state's Far West.

He was the third of four children born to William John Rait, a Hobart city engineer and Minnie Simpson Livingston. He went to Hutchins School in Hobart where one of his classmates was future Hollywood star, Errol Flynn.

Bill completed his Bachelor of Science at the University of Tasmania and his Master of Science degree at the University of Adelaide in 1935.

He had a great passion for teaching and became a resident tutor at St Mark's College before being appointed science master to St Peter's College.

It was his sad duty to tell the families of some of SA's leading winemaking families of the death of their fathers in the Kyeema air disaster of 1938.

Bill commenced his medical degree but at the start of World War II, Bill joined the 2/43rd Battalion Militia, which was mobilised in December 1941. As captain of D Company he was ordered to defend Darwin after he survived the Japanese attack of February 19, 1942.

Bill kept the written orders dated March 27, 1942. The orders were for his troops to take up defensive positions on the Darwin road, quoting "the enemy will attempt to land in the Darwin area within the next few days" and "the area will be held to the very end". A couple of weeks earlier, on March 17, 1942, he had been in charge of the defence of Batchelor Airfield, and was the first person to greet General MacArthur on his arrival in Australia.

When the Darwin crisis eased, Bill was ordered to go to the University of Melbourne to complete his medical degree, which he had begun before the war. He graduated in 1947, and entered the RAAF as a medical research officer with the Aircraft Research and Development Unit.

In 1950 Flight Lieutenant WL Rait was the guest speaker at the first Annual General Meeting of the Special Group on Aviation Medicine of the British Medical Association of Australia (which would subsequently become the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine). Bill's presentation was titled Aviation Medicine, Its Scope and Application.

In 1951 he went to Korea ranked as a Squadron Leader and acting Senior Medical Officer of the RAAF in Singapore. In Korea, he toured the US Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units and saw the new rescue techniques where wounded were treated while in transit in helicopters. He put the system into practice in the rescue of an Australian Mustang pilot. He also served in the Malayan emergency.

In 1952, Bill was attached to the RAF Institute of Aviation medicine at Farnborough, UK.

As a result, and as the RAAF's only doctor-scientist, he established a laboratory to study high altitude decompression through the University of Melbourne. In 1969, he was awarded a doctorate in medicine for the work which helped save many lives.



William Rait Photo: David Clemson

In 1956 Bill was a Wing Commander and had been appointed first Commanding Officer of the School of Aviation Medicine at Point Cook, Victoria. He also acted as the RAAF's medical observer at the Maralinga nuclear tests. He said he felt the warmth of the bomb on his back and when he turned around he saw pretty colours and a flash of purple.

He met reporter Lila Hansen and the two were engaged during the Melbourne Olympics and married in 1957. Bill became a father for the first time aged 49.

Retiring from the RAAF in 1964, he became an industrial hygiene medical officer with the Department of Health. His expertise in decompression was applied to a number of underground construction projects then in progress.

When he retired he entered general practice with his elder brother Cecil in Geelong.

Bill also served for many years on local government councils and was Mayor of the City of Brighton in 1973 and 1974. He retained a prodigious memory into his old age, before dying at a Melbourne nursing home aged 104.

Bill is survived by his wife Lila, children Julian and Alison, and his four grandchildren, Nicholas, Emily, Louise and William.

THE ASAM COMMITTEE

NEW ASAM MEMBERS

ASAM welcomes new members:

Gregory Dimond, Lyons NT
Rebecca Doedens, East Victoria Park WA
Marc Jurblum, Caulfield Vic
Md Moniruzzaman, Rostrevor SA
James Moten, Darwin NT
Celine Murphy, Leederville WA
Robert Perry, Port Kennedy WA
Collette Richards, Vale Park SA
Anthony Schiemer, Camperdown NSW
Ronald Ti, Stones Corner Qld

President

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icheng@asam.org.au

Immediate Past President

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gchaffey@asam.org.au

Vice-President

Dr Adrian Smith
asmith@asam.org.au

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amarsden@asam.org.au

Secretary

Dr Kate Manderson
kmanderson@asam.org.au

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5 April 2014	ASAM NSW Regional Meeting – Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney
6 April 2014	CASA DAME2 Initiative Workshop – Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney
18 - 21 April 2014	AMSVC – Warbirds over Wanaka Scientific Meeting, Queenstown, NZ
7 June 2014	ASAM WA Regional Meeting – Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle
8 June 2014	CASA DAME2 Initiative Workshop – Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle
19 July 2014	AMSVC AGM & Scientific Meeting - Melbourne
24 & 25 July 2014	Australasian Medical Review Officers Association MRO course and exam - Sydney
9 September 2014	ACAsM Exit Exam - Brisbane
10 – 13 September 2014	ASAM Annual Conference – Brisbane (Combined meeting with Aeromedical Services Australia and Flight Nurses Australia)
13 September 2014	ACAsM Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner - Brisbane
12 – 16 October 2014	International Congress of Aviation & Space Medicine – Mexico City, Mexico
10 – 13 September 2015	ASAM Annual Conference – Adelaide
15 – 17 September 2016	ASAM Annual Conference – Hamilton Island