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 @AustralasianSocietyof
AerospaceMedicine



Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ASAM Colleagues,

Suddenly, it's March – what on Earth happened to Christmas? We are all now well established in another year of aerospace medical practice, and if your practice is anything like mine, we must have logged on to MRS Online about a million times already. I am still appreciative, with every pilot and aircraft controller encounter, of the importance of their interaction with both their DAME and their usual health care provider in ensuring they are healthy enough to safely work and play in the aviation world.

You recently received a request for input into ASAM's submission to the CASA Discussion Paper on Medical Certification Standards. I would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to reply, with some very detailed and considered statements being presented. If you are still interested in either providing input into ASAM's submission, or replying directly to CASA, further details can be found at <https://www.casa.gov.au/files/dpmcs201612pdf>

The authors of the Discussion Paper face the unenviable challenging of defining, measuring and achieving the "right" balance between unclinical governance, onerous red tape, medicolegal exposure, aviation risk and community expectations. I am very confident that it is impossible to please all the people all the time. Therefore I do not expect that the submission that ASAM presents, and the Discussion Paper itself, will satisfy every one of ASAM's members. What I hope everyone will agree about is the importance of ensuring that CASA is able to hear and understand the perspectives of the DAMEs who form the vast majority of the ASAM membership.

As DAMEs and as Pilots, ASAM members have accrued an extraordinary quantum of knowledge and experience in this field that can't be replicated through reference to a book or a guideline. No matter what form the future of aeromedical certification will take in Australia, it remains true that DAMEs, as the coal-face providers of aerospace medicine, will continue to have a very important role. Interesting and challenging times ahead.

On a much lighter – dare I say, Zero G? – note (sorry), I would like again to commend to you all the ASAM + Aviation Medical Society of New Zealand Conference (hosted by AMSNZ) to be held this year in Queenstown. The keynote speakers, John Lane Orator Dr Bob Thirsk, and Patterson Trust Speaker Dr Anthony Wagstaff, bring a great international element to what will be a very impressive scientific program, in an absolutely stunning setting (and how about that approach into Queenstown – in cloud??). We also have some excellent regional meetings, with the SA meeting coming up next on 8th April, and a promising further addition to the Humans in Space later in the year. Watch this Space! (Ok, sorry).

Best wishes to all,

Kate

Kate Manderson
President



ASAM NEWS?

For member updates and stories,
let us know at secretariat@asam.org.au



AMS NZ & ASAM 2017 CONFERENCE

31 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 2017, CROWNE PLAZA QUEENSTOWN

Proudly hosted by AMSNZ amsnz2017.com



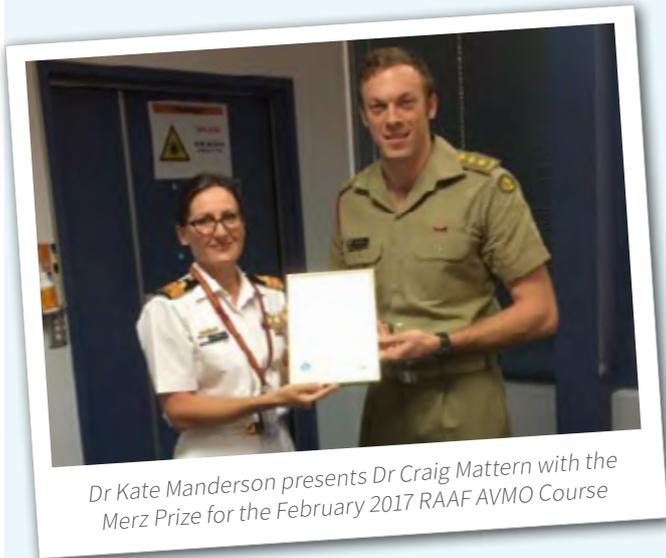
HONOURS & AWARDS

Australia Day Honour

Dr Noel Alpins of South Yarra Vic was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to ophthalmology, particularly to the development of innovative refractive surgery techniques, and to professional associations.

Merz Prize

Dr Craig Mattern was Dux of Course and the recipient of the Merz Prize at the February 2017 RAAF AVMO Course.



Dr Kate Manderson presents Dr Craig Mattern with the Merz Prize for the February 2017 RAAF AVMO Course

CASA SUBMISSION

ASAM is in the process of finalising its submission for the CASA discussion paper on medical certification standards. We received 12 submissions from members. These submissions will be incorporated with the views of the board to provide a cohesive picture of what we as an organisation feel is the best possible way to approach the issues raised.

The deadline for inclusion in the ASAM submission has passed, however you can still submit your point of view directly to CASA until the 30th March 2017 via their email avmed.dp@casa.gov.au.

The issues being covered are available on the CASA website at <https://www.casa.gov.au/standard-page/review-medical-certification-standards>, and the discussion paper itself is available at <https://www.casa.gov.au/files/dpmcs201612pdf>

HUMANS IN SPACE: CHALLENGES FOR EXPLORATION

ASAM is once again hosting the course “Humans in Space: Challenges for Exploration”. Recognising the unique opportunity and the importance of this topic for the future, the course was fully subscribed when last it ran in 2016, so the ASAM Board was keen to build on that momentum with a further course this year.

The venue is the Rendezvous Hotel in Melbourne which will provide a perfect central location for an out-of-this world learning experience that will keep more than 40 participants fascinated and engaged in an area of medicine quite unlike any other.

Our expert international team will return to present the course: Dr Gilles Clément, a member of the faculty of the International Space University, he conducts space research in collaboration with the Lyon Neuroscience Research Center (CNRL) Lyon, France, and serves as lead scientist on artificial gravity research for NASA Johnson Space Center; Dr Angie Bukley, the NASA Langley Programs Lead for The Aerospace Corporation in Hampton, VA, USA providing technical and programmatic support to the NASA Space Technology Missions Directorate and the NASA Engineering Safety Center; and Dr Bob Thirsk (*pictured below with Gordon Cable*), a former Canadian physician-astronaut, who flew as payload specialist aboard Space Shuttle mission STS-78, and in 2009 became the first Canadian astronaut to fly a long duration expedition aboard the ISS, living and working in space for 188 days. In addition a panel of local Australian experts will be contributing to the program this time.



Running over three days from 27-29 August 2017, through lectures and practical workshops the course will cover such diverse topics as the space environment, microgravity and artificial gravity, astrodynamics and orbital mechanics, physiological consequences and adaptations of space flight, life support systems, the psychology of expeditionary behaviour, and the medical aspects of commercial space tourism. In addition to the original sessions, it is planned to also have refresher and advanced streams for those students who have already completed the initial course, to expand and consolidate their learning.

Given the overwhelming response to the first course, I think future courses will continue to be planned. Now is the time to contact the ASAM secretariat to express your interest, or indeed register. Early registration is recommended as places are limited. If you are already registered for the course, as course convenor I look forward to welcoming you to Melbourne in August.

Gordon Cable
Course Convenor



The Australasian Society of
Aerospace Medicine

"Promoting the science of aerospace medicine"

2017 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine and the Aviation Medical Society of New Zealand will hold the 2017 conference at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand from 31 August - 3 September 2017. The conference theme is "Horizon Scanning - Improving Aeromedical Risk Management".

ASAM will offer up to two scholarships to full-time medical students in an Australian or New Zealand university who are interested in the speciality of aerospace medicine. The scholarship will include full conference registration for the 2017 conference and student membership of ASAM for one year.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the award, applicants must submit an essay on one of the following topics in a format suitable for editorial review prior to consideration for publication. The essay should be 1500-2000 words, citing relevant aeromedical literature where possible, and referencing these citations using the Vancouver system accepted by JASAM.

In addition, the successful applicant(s) are expected to write a conference summary report (around 100 words) suitable for publication in the immediate post-conference ASAM Newsletter.

The topics for the 2017 scholarship application can be one of:

- Risk and safety - what can medicine learn from aviation?
- The role of aerospace medicine in global health
- Aerospace medicine as an element of primary health care
- New issues in patient transport and retrieval

CONDITIONS

No travel or accommodation expenses are included in the award. The award is offered once only to a recipient and must be taken up in the year it is offered. The award is offered only if applications merit the award.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions close **16 June 2017** and the awards will be announced by **30 June 2017**. Submissions should be emailed to secretariat@asam.org.au by **COB 16 June 2017**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about ASAM visit the website www.asam.org.au or contact the secretariat on **+61 3 9899 1686** or secretariat@asam.org.au



AMSNZ & ASAM 2017 CONFERENCE

31 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 2017, CROWNE PLAZA QUEENSTOWN

International guest speakers



DR ROBERT THIRSK
John Lane Orator



DR ANTHONY WAGSTAFF
Patterson Trust Speaker

Call for abstracts now open
Visit www.amsnz2017.com

Kia Ora

The triennial combined AMSNZ and ASAM conference will be held on 31 August – 3 September 2017 at Crowne Plaza Queenstown in the southern hemisphere's premier four season lake and alpine resort, Queenstown New Zealand.

Surrounded by majestic snow-capped mountains and set on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, the natural beauty and the unique energy of the region create the perfect backdrop for an aviation conference. Free time can be spent on the slopes, exploring local wineries or experiencing any one of the many other activities – there is something here for everyone!

We invite you to join us to learn, share, renew acquaintances and enjoy all that Queenstown has to offer.

Kite koe i reira (see you there)

Subscribe to event updates at
www.amsnz2017.com



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ASAM SA REGIONAL MEETING SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2017

ASAM SA Aviation Medicine Update

Saturday 8 April 2017, Intercontinental Hotel, Adelaide

South Australian DAMEs are invited to register for a one day update to be held at the Intercontinental Hotel, North Terrace Adelaide on Saturday 8 April 2017. The program will include a presentation by special guest speaker Dr Angus H Rupert MD PhD, Research Scientist and Flight Surgeon from the US Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, who will be discussing Forensic Perceptual Analysis of Aviation Spatial Disorientation Mishaps. There will also be a number of interesting case reports presented, as well as the usual update by CASA. For those unable to make it to New Zealand in September for the AMSNZ & ASAM Conference, this one day conference will provide a useful opportunity to engage with aeromedical CPD for 2017.

Please contact Anne Fleming as soon as possible to register. I look forward to meeting participants in Adelaide.

Gordon Cable
Course Convenor



MONASH
University



SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE MONASH UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN AVIATION MEDICINE

Expressions of interest are sought from potential students interested in undertaking this Diploma. The course will be designed to satisfy the training syllabus requirements of the Australasian College of Aerospace Medicine. No commitment is required at this stage: just an indication of your interest which will greatly assist in our planning efforts.

Please send in your expression of interest via email to shortcourses.depm@monash.edu

Further information on Aviation Medicine Research at SPHPM can be found here: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/units-centres/avmed/index.html>

Enquiries
Short Course Office on +613 9903 0693 or email shortcourses.depm@monash.edu

AVIATION MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA PHOTOS

Delegates attended the Australian International Airshow at Avalon on Friday 3 March 2017 followed by an Aviation Medicine Update on Saturday at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.



ASAM WA REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

The Western Australian Regional ASAM Meeting was held at the Dog Rock Motel in Albany on Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th March 2017.

The meeting was organised once again by Dr Rob Liddell and was designed to get everyone away for the WA March long weekend in Albany. It was hoped that those members with their own aircraft could take the opportunity to fly down, and driving down is not arduous, with a safe 5 hour trip each way from Perth. The Albany Council, in their wisdom, approved a "Motor Drag Racing" event on the same weekend, and authorised complete closure of the Albany aerodrome for the whole of Saturday and Sunday for the drag racers... Rob contacted known flying members and arrangements were made to have pilots fly into Denmark, and transport would be arranged to drive over to Albany... but the weather closed in, as it does... and an alternative strip had to be found rapidly. Fortunately, an old abandoned sealed strip was identified about 11kms west of Mount Barker, and this showed up on the electronic Australian Airfields guide, but was not shown on any chart. Three pilots dropped in on this airstrip, actually at the back of the West Cape Howe Winery, and simply locked up their aircraft overnight!

The meeting got underway uneventfully with talks by Dr Greg Robertson, who kindly flew in from over East, and he provided an update on flying and pregnancy, and Dr Phil Finch gave a presentation on issues associated with Pain Management and Flying capability. Dr Andrew Marsden, who now lives in Albany, gave a brief presentation to show some of the tourist type features of the Albany area, and in particular, the relatively new ANZAC Memorial Centre.

There was a hair-raising talk by a professional Crop Sprayer pilot, describing his daily work, and the issues associated with flying at low altitude, really low altitude and "clipping the hedgerows" low altitude flying required for effective crop spraying. It was interesting to see the ancillary equipment needed such as fuel tanker trucks, and chemical mix container trucks working on some very rough fields, as part of the routine Crop Sprayer pilot's day.

Dr Cary Kailis gave a talk on Plastic Procedures which enhance safety, such as eyelid modification, and also discussed the issues associated with breast implants and the risks of sudden decompression, and implant leakage issues.

Dr Geoff Riley gave an absorbing talk on Depression and its management, with special reference to pilots and aircrew, emphasising issues of lifetime management and frequency of relapse. He also covered issues associated with Attention Deficit Disorder and long term pilot licensing dilemmas in these circumstances.

There was a splendid dinner at the Dog Rock Motel in the evening.

The Sunday morning session was given over to Dr Peter Clem, representing CASA, and he deliberately avoided getting into a "problems with the MRS2" session. This was a very refreshing look at recent developments in changes to CASA protocols for a variety of conditions, which led to lively and informative

discussion, particularly on the short and longer term certification of individuals after traumatic brain injury, transient ischaemic attacks and stroke illness. The discussion was set up to get everyone to commit to decision making as if they were the CASA Medical Director at each phase of the presentation, which is always entertaining. There was a final case study presentation, which began with the concept... "you are the Medical Director at CASA, and you receive an anonymous tip-off that a Class 1 Pilot has had a serious head injury that has been kept, and he is back flying as a Class 1 pilot... what do you do next?" Several members of the group were familiar with the story as it unfolded, and overall it was a very instructive session, with all the twists and turns.

The meeting was considered a great success, and Dr Stu Adamson is now determined that the next Regional WA Meeting should be held in Geraldton, and hopefully the local airfield will not be closed down at the time.

Dr Andrew Marsden



NEW ASAM MEMBERS

Carlo Breytenbach, Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates

Steven Cavanagh, Springfield Lakes Qld

Richard Costelloe, Medowie NSW

Adrian Danieletto, Holland Park West Qld

Judith Ellis, Riddells Creek Vic

Allison Graham, Lutwyche Qld

Tariq Hayat Jamaldini, Biggera Waters Qld

Debra Horston, Yatala Qld

Catherine Howell, Goolwa SA

Nicholas Ioannides, Balmain NSW

Aman Ullah Jamil, Saudi Arabia

Paul Joseph, Manuka ACT

Cary Kailis, West Perth WA

Mark Kent, Perth WA

Ziggy Kusiak, Malvern SA

Joshua Lazarus, Townsville Qld

Ross MacIntyre, Collingwood Vic

Craig Mattern, Riverwood NSW

Simon McLaughlin, Merewether NSW

Sherman Nazaire, Philippines

Fletcher Ng, East Perth WA

Carl O'Kane, Idalia Qld

Rob Perry, Jandakot WA

Mary Piepers, Gympie Qld

Greg Robertson, Randwick NSW

Ann Schippers, Gerringong NSW

Praba Sekhar, Clayton Vic

Mark Seychell, Fitzroy Vic

Laurie Shaw, Ascot Qld

Aaron Tracey, Annandale Qld

Maggy Wong, Chatswood NSW

Jacinta Wynne, Norman Park Qld

Scott Wyvill, Townsville Qld

Mauro Zambon, Sydney NSW

THE ASAM BOARD

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Dr Jeremy Robertson



WATCH DR MARC JURBLUM ON SCOPE

Network Ten's *Scope* which is an educational science television show for children recently filmed an episode on Space Medicine. Dr Marc Jurblum, member of the ASAM Space Life Sciences Subcommittee was the star of the show! Watch the episode (aired on 25 March) at <http://tenplay.com.au/channel-eleven/scope>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8 April 2017	ASAM SA Regional Meeting , Adelaide, SA
29 April – 4 May 2017	AsMA Annual Scientific Meeting , Denver, Colorado
27-28 July 2017	Medical Review Officers Course , Sydney, NSW
27 August – 29 August 2017	Humans in Space: Challenges for Exploration , Melbourne, Vic (preliminary and advanced courses)
31 August - 3 September 2017	ASAM + Aviation Medical Society of New Zealand Conference (hosted by AMSNZ) , Queenstown, New Zealand
1 September 2017	ACAAsM Annual Fellows Dinner , Queenstown, NZ
10-14 September 2017	International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine , Rome, Italy
30 August – 2 September 2018	ASAM Annual Conference , Alice Springs, NT

Dates may be subject to change, please check the relevant website.