**SOCIETY NEWS**

**Distinguished Honour for President ISAM**

It is indeed a matter of great pride for all members of the Society that President of the Society and Director General Medical Services (Air), Air Mshl (Mrs) P Bandopadhyay AVSM, VSM has been appointed as President’s Honorary Surgeon. We wish her many more laurels.

**76th Annual Meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association**

A three member IAF delegation attended the 76th Annual Meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association at Kansas City, MO, USA from 08 to 12 May 2005. The delegation was led by Air Mshl (Mrs) P Bandopadhyay AVSM VSM PHS, DGMS (Air) and included Wg Cdr N Taneja and Wg Cdr P Pant as the other members.

The DGMS (Air) updated the Executive Council and General Assembly of the International Academy of Aviation & Space Medicine on the preparations for 54th ICASM to be held at Bangalore in September 2006. The presentations were very well received and there was a palpable enthusiasm among the delegates to attend the conference in India. Wg Cdr N Taneja presented two papers titled 'Pilot Ejections From Fighter Aircraft: Identifying Factors That Influence successful Ejection' and 'A preliminary analysis of Musculoskeletal disabilities among IAF Aircrew: Implications for Preventive and Rehabilitative Strategies'. Wg Cdr P Pant presented an 'Analysis of morbidity pattern among civil aircrew in India'. All these papers generated a lot of discussion among the delegates. There were two other Society members who presented papers during the conference. Sqn Ldr MS Nataraja, the IAF Medical Officer who was undergoing the Advanced Aerospace Medicine International Medical Officers (AAMIMO) course presented a paper as part of a session conducted by the AAMIMO group. The paper was review of a case of Mitral valve prolapse with Mitral Regurgitation and Keratoconus in an USAF fighter pilot. Surg Lt Cdr SS Mohapatra discussed the respiratory changes in ground crew on exposure to aviation fuel.

In order to promote the 54th ICASM to be hosted by ISAM at Bangalore in September 2006, the IAF delegates to the conference also manned a display stall. Publicity material like conference brochures, pens, key chains and stickers were displayed/distributed at the stall. The display generated a great deal of interest among the delegates. All in all, the visit was highly successful in showcasing the aerospace medicine activities from the country to the international community.

The IAF delegation was also invited to visit various USAF Aeromedical establishments. The two-day visit to the USAF establishments in San Antonio from 13-16 May included a visit to the Wilford Hall Medical Center (WHMC), USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAF SAM) and USAF Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). The visit provided an opportunity to see the functioning of one of the biggest Armed Forces Hospital within the USAF. The briefing and visit to the Critical Care Air Transport (CCAT) / Flight Nurse training facilities, Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) training unit and AFRL was very educative. The delegation came back enlightened on the current facilities and likely future areas of research in the field of aerospace medicine.
World Congress on Military Medicine, St. Petersburg, Russia

Gp Capt Harish Malik, DMS (AM) and Secretary ISAM presented a paper titled 'Inflight Incapacitation in Aviation' at the 36th World Congress on Military Medicine, held from 05-11 June 2005 at St. Petersburg, Russia.

International Workshop on Emerging Trends in High Altitude Physiology and Medicine, New Delhi

Lt Col KK Tripathi was invited to deliver a presentation on 'Hypoxia and related issues in aviation' at the above workshop at DIPAS, New Delhi in January 2005.

Awards and Honours for Wg Cdr Pooshan Navathe (Retd)

Wg Cdr Pooshan Navathe was nominated to the Scientific Committee of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine. This announcement was made during the recently concluded General body meeting of the IAASM held at Kansas City during the Annual Meeting of AsMA.

There were more honours for Wg Cdr Navathe, who won the Ramazzini Prize in Australasia. He is currently undergoing training in Occupational Medicine through the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Dr. Navathe was awarded the Ramazzini Prize for his research presentation titled 'The effect of acclimatization on psychomotor performance on pilots inducted to high altitude'.

Congratulations to Wg Cdr Pooshan Navathe and we are confident that these are just the prelude to many more to come in the future.

Awards and Honours for ISAM Members

26 January 2005 brought a lot of cheer for the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine. The following members of the Society were recognized for their distinguished services to the Armed Forces by way of awards and honours. Our heartiest congratulations to these officers. We wish them many more laurels in the years to come.

Ati Vishistha Seva Medal (AVSM)

Air Vice Marshal JK Gupta

Vishistha Seva Medal (VSM)

Air Cmde PJ Vincent
Gp Capt KM Suryanarayana
Gp Capt P Tyagi

Sena Medal

Wg Cdr R Chandola

Commendation by Chief of Air Staff

Wg Cdr GR Singh
Wg Cdr AK Dash
Sqn Ldr V Singh

Commendation by AOC- in- C

Wg Cdr B Nandi
Sqn Ldr Pawan G Kumar
The Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine, formerly known as the Aeromedical Society of India, is a professional organization composed of specialists in Aerospace Medicine, Physiology, Medicine, Psychology, Neuropsychiatry, Biophysics, Life Sciences, Medical Electronics, Aerospace Engineering and Technology and allied fields. The objective of the Society is to promote the science and art of Aerospace Medicine by stimulating investigations as well as disseminating knowledge. The Society establishes and maintains co-operation between the medical and other sciences concerned with aviation and space activities in an effort to promote and maintain safe mission accomplishment in aerospace environment.

The following will be eligible to be admitted to the Society as Ordinary members subject to the approval of the Executive Committee:

- A Medical practitioner or scientist, civil or military, who is interested in aerospace medicine or allied sciences.
- A serving or retired officer of the medical or dental branch of Indian Air Force, Indian Navy or Indian Army.
- A serving or retired officer of Indian Air Force.

**The views expressed in this journal are those of the authors and are not to be construed as official opinion or policies of Air HQ, New Delhi.**