53rd International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine (ICASM), Warsaw, Poland 28 Aug-01 Sept 05

The 53rd ICASM was held at Hotel Marriott, Warsaw, Poland from 28 Aug-01 Sept 05. Air Mshl (Mrs.) P Bandhopadhyay AVSM VSM PHS, DGMS (Air) and Wg Cdr CK Ranjan, of IAM Bangalore were the members of the Indian delegation. Sqn Ldr Piush Renjhen of IAM, IAF Bangalore also attended as an AMERIT scholar for the year 2005 and presented his paper titled ‘Effect of availability of footboard support on cardiovascular response to orthostasis’. Other members of the Society who attended the conference were Wg Cdr Pooshan Navathe (Retd), Wg Cdr A Dhingra (Retd) and Wg Cdr S Sodhi (Retd).

Prof Krzysztof Klulowski delivered the Andre Allard Memorial Lecture on ‘Limits of Human Tolerance’. There were eleven scientific sessions which also included the John Ernsting Panel discussion. The poster sessions during the conference covered various topics from the field of Aerospace Medicine.

Air Mshl (Mrs) P Bandhopadhyay gave a presentation on hosting the 54th ICASM at Bangalore both during the Academic and the General Body meetings of IAASAM. During the closing ceremony after the gala dinner at the Palace of Culture, she was presented with the traditional bugle by the President of IAASAM. This is passed on to the country hosting the next conference. There was a keen interest among delegates on attending the 54th ICASM at Bangalore in Sep 2006.

The John Ernsting panel included the following papers: ‘The new cardiovascular standards of International Civil Aviation Organization’ by ADB Evans, ‘An airline pilot with an automatic implanted defibrillator’ by JR Hickman, ‘Brugada pattern electrocardiograms in pilots- the aeromedical dilemma’ by AJ Batchelor, ‘Metabolic syndrome and flight safety’ by A Wielgosz and ‘Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in a 46 yr old pilot- evaluation of aeromedical risk’ by AJ Batchelor. This session was very informative and brought out the work done in other health and medical organizations dealing with aircrew.

Workshop on "Human Factors Approach to Accident Analysis and Prevention" held at 11 Wing, Air Force

A workshop on Human Factors Approach to Accident Analysis and Prevention was organized at 11 Wing, AF in Nov 05 under the aegis of HQ, EAC. This workshop was attended by about 52 delegates from all over the EAC. All delegates were of the flying branch and at supervisory levels. The aim of this workshop were to:-

(a) Enhance the awareness of investigators about the causes of human error and the role of latent errors in accident/incident causation

(b) Enable accident investigators to investigate human factors as possible contributors to incident/accident causation

(c) Increase the supervisors knowledge of HFACS so that it could be applied efficiently
The workshop was held on 21 Nov 05 and 22 Nov 05. Two different batches of delegates were planned for the two days, in order to make it possible for a greater number of personnel to benefit from the workshop.

On 21 Nov 05 the workshop was inaugurated by Air Mshl PK Barbora VM SASO, HQ EAC. In his keynote address, Air Mshl PK Barbora dwelled on the interaction between man, machine and the environment. He also spoke of a number of accidents / incidents, emphasizing on the human factors involved. He stressed on the need for far greater interaction and confidence building measures between doctors and aircrew. Lastly, he conveyed his best wishes and hoped that the workshop would see fruitful deliberations.

This was followed by a series of lectures delivered by Aviation Medicine specialists on various aspects of HFACS and paradigms for design of intervention strategies. At the end of the talk an interactive session was held with case discussion. This generated lively debate amongst the participants. Gp Capt G Gomez, Senior Advisor Aviation Medicine was in attendance and moderated the talks, lectures and discussions, clarifying any contentious issues that were raised.

Telemecine in the Indian Air Force

The IAF in collaboration with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) launched Phase-I of its ambitious telemedicine project on 06 Oct 05 at CHAF Bangalore. Telemedicine is the latest cutting edge technology that overcomes the geographic and climatic barriers to make specialist medical care accessible to all. The Phase-I of this project has created a telemedicine network between CHAF Bangalore, 5 AFH Jorhat, 9 AFH Halwara and SMCs at Air Force Station Naliya and Air Force Station, Jaisalmer.

Phase-II of this project is in an advanced stage of processing and is likely to be operational by the end of 2006. This will create an extensive telemedicine grid in the Air Force encompassing all the Air Force Hospitals and 37 SMCs located in the peripheral Air Force units.

Establishment of Medical Evaluation Centre (East)

The IAF Medical Services took another step forward by establishing of a full fledged Medical Evaluation Centre at the No 5 Air Force Hospital Jorhat. The MEC (East) was inaugurated by Air Marshal AD Joshi VM, AOC-in-C EAC, IAF on 31 May 05. With the establishment of this Centre, a long felt need of performing standardised medical evaluation of both military and civil aircrew in the Eastern sector has been fulfilled. This step will not only lead to saving of precious manhours but will also likely enhance the convenience of aircrew that are based in the Eastern sector.

46th Annual Conference of the Society

The 46th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) was held at Hotel Grand Ashok and Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) Bangalore from 14-16 Sep 05. Admiral Arun Prakash, Chief of the Naval Staff inaugurated the Conference. Air Marshal (Mrs.) P Bandopadhyay AVSM VSM PHS DGMS (Air) delivered the Presidential address. Surgeon Vice Admiral VK Singh AVSM PVSM VSM DGAFMS released the Technical Mini Series on
Flying Clothing. This is the second technical mini series published by the ISAM, the first being on Aviation Accident Pathology. Air Marshal S Bhojwani PVSM AVSM VSM ADC AOC-in-C Training Command IAF released the conference souvenir. Air Cmde H Subramanya, Chief Coordinator and Commandant IAM IAF Bangalore expressed the vote of thanks. Wg Cdr CK Ranjan and Wg Cdr Vipin Sharma who were the Organising and Asst Organising Secretary respectively ensured that everything went off with clockwork precision.

Dr. Devi Shetty, Director, Narayana Hrudayalaya Bangalore delivered the Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee oration titled “Converting Atoms and Bytes”. He impressed everyone with the path breaking policies adopted by his group in providing healthcare to the community at unbelievably low prices.

More than 200 delegates attended the conference including delegates from USA and the DGMS (Air) from Sri Lankan Air Force. The entire proceedings on the inaugural day were held at Grand Ashok, whereas the venue shifted to the familiar Srinagesh Auditorium at IAM IAF (though now beautifully renovated) on the second day. The CME was held on 16 Sep 05.

The following were adjudged as the best papers/posters in the respective categories:-
(a) Institutional Category: Maj A Chawla
(b) Field Category: Wg Cdr ML Thambi
(c) Poster Presentation: Wg Cdr R Baijal

**General Body Meeting**

The GBM of the Society was held on 15 Sep 05 at IAM IAF. The Body approved the grant of Associate Fellowship to following members of the Society:
(a) Wg Cdr AK Roy (Retd)
(b) Wg Cdr CS Thakur
(c) Wg Cdr S Chowdhary
(d) Dr VK Batra (Air India)

**Award of Presidential Colours to Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), Indian Air Force**

His Excellency Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India and also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces presented the Presidential Colours to the Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Indian Air Force, Bangalore and Presidential Standard to Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE), Bangalore at a well attended ceremonial function at ASTE on 21 Nov 05. The President also released a first day cover to commemorate the momentous occasion.

The origin of Standard and Colours can be traced back to the earliest days of history and find mention in the war epics of India, Egypt, Greece and Rome. These used to serve two purposes in those times; one as a distinguishing mark among the tribes and races, and the other, as a rallying point in battle. These signs also helped in quick identification of friend and foe.

The award of Standard/Colours is a great honour bestowed by the President in recognition of the outstanding services rendered by the Institute and its Members.
of the service rendered by a unit to the Nation. It is the highest form of appreciation an Armed Forces unit could be bestowed within a lifetime of its existence. This feat would not have been possible without the hard work, perseverance and focused vision of all the officers and personnel who have contributed in their own way to the progress of the units.

While we at IAM IAF can bask in the glory of the occasion today, the seeds to reap this honor were sown almost five decades ago, when Wg Cdr Arunachalam took over as the first Commanding Officer of the erstwhile School of Aviation Medicine on 29 May 57. As the saying goes, you have to dream big to achieve big. Aviation Medicine specialists since then had the vision and foresight to think big; they had the fortitude and resolve to make dreams come true. From its humble beginnings, the Institute has grown in size and stature, where, today, it represents the centre of excellence in Aerospace Medicine in our country. Each and every person, both uniformed and civil who has been associated with this Institute, has in his/her own way contributed to earn this honour today. This award is truly theirs.

Adieu to Past President

Air Marshal (Mrs.) P Bandopadhyay retired from the IAF on 30 Nov 05. She had taken over the President of the Society in Oct 2004. On her retirement, the Society wishes her the very best in her future endeavours and looks forward to her continued association with the Society.