48th Annual ISAM conference was held on 01-03 Dec 08 at IAM, IAF, Bangalore with the theme being ‘Operational Space and Civil Aviation Medicine’. Air Mshl PP Rajkumar PVSM AVSM ADC AOC-in-C CAC IAF presided the function. Air Vice Marshal Pankaj Tyagi VSM, former Commandant IAM emphasized on the importance of IAM in future space mission and the goals to be set to achieve high standards. There were eight scientific sessions on the conference theme spread over first two days with exemplary memorial and guest lectures. A large number of eminent doctors and scientist both of national and international fame participated actively in the conference. The best paper award went to Wg Cdr P Kinra for his presentation on ‘Proteinuria in aircrew’ and the best poster award was bagged by Lt Col A Chawla. The best paper in Civil Aviation was awarded to Dr LD Cunha and the best paper in field category was awarded to Wg Cdr SK Kaushik. The CME program followed on with two sessions dedicated to medicine, surgery and other allied specialties on 03 Dec 08. Later during the ISAM general body meeting, names of new members, associate fellows and fellows were approved and announced.

An ultra modern, state-of-the-art High Performance Human Centrifuge (HPHC) was inaugurated by the then Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal FH Major PVSM AVSM SC VM ADC, at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), Bangalore on 21 Mar 09. Air Marshal KK Nowhar VM, Senior Air Staff Officer, Training Command and Air Marshal P Madhusoodanan AVSM, VSM, PHS, Director General Medical Services (Air) and various other dignitaries were also present on the occasion. This centrifuge is one of its kind in the whole of South East Asia. With this new acquisition, IAM, IAF has one of the most modern facilities for centrifuge training in the world.

The HPHC has been procured through an Austrian firm namely AMST. The HPHC is a high performance operational aviation simulator capable of simulating various G profiles. It can also produce multi-axial accelerations akin to those seen during super manoeuvres in modern thrust vectored fighters. It has an 8 m arm and can generate G forces to a maximum of 9 G for aircrew training needs and 15 G for medical research and material testing. The medical monitoring system in the new centrifuge is also a state of the art system capable of simultaneously recording 38 different physiological parameters including ECG, EEG, respiratory rate, heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation and trans-cranial Doppler (amount of blood flowing to the brain). With this advanced equipment, the IAF is now poised to take training of fighter aircrew to a new level to achieve combat preparedness.

All officers of the 46th Advance Course in Aviation Medicine successfully completed their course on 27 Mar 09. Sqn Ldr MD Sharma received the Commandant’s Rolling Trophy for best outgoing student.

A Memorandum of understanding has been signed between ISRO and IAM on 30 Mar 09 for the Human in Space Program (HSP). Air Vice Marshal Pankaj Tyagi VSM, Former Commandant IAM signed the historic document on behalf of IAF.

Air Marshal P Madhusoodanan AVSM, VSM, PHS, Director General Medical Services (Air) and Air Cmde Giles Gomez, Commandant, IAM, IAF attended the 80th Annual Meeting of Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) at Los Angeles from 03-07 May 09. Air Cmde Giles Gomez presented a paper in the conference. Dr. Savitha Shekar received the best Young Scientist Award during the
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conference. The paper has been published in this issue.

Air Marshal P Madhusoodanan AVSM, VSM, PHS, Director General Medical Services (Air) has been awarded the President’s Honorary Surgeon (PHS).

A Continuing Medical Education (CME) on the HPHC was conducted at IAM on 13 Jun 09. It was inaugurated by Air Marshal P Madhusoodanan AVSM, VSM, PHS, Director General Medical Services (Air).

Operational Training in Aerospace Medicine (OPTRAM) for aircrew is being conducted at IAM. One course per week is conducted. The courses are for duration of 3 days for transport/helicopter pilots and 5 days for fighter pilots. The course syllabus includes Centrifuge Training (for fighters only), Spatial Disorientation Simulator training, Hypoxia Training, Night Vision Goggles (NVG) Training and Survival Training.

57th ICASM is to be held at Zagreb, Croatia from 06-10 Sep 09.

The 49th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine is scheduled to be held from 13 to 15 Nov 2009 at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi.

Honorary Fellow of The Society

Lt Gen Y Singh VSM PHS, DGAFMS and Air Mshl P Madhusoodanan AVSM, VSM, PHS, Director General Medical Services (Air) were conferred Honorary Fellow of the society.

New Associate Fellows
Wg Cdr P Pant
Dr Mahesh Shirke

New Life Members
Sqn Ldr HPS Sahota
Maj. Anandh Babu KP
Maj. TS Rana
Sqn Ldr. Parul Goel
Dr. Yogendra Vidhani
Dr. SK Verma
Dr. N Ashok
Dr. R. Nirmal Kumar
Dr. Usha Kishor Jain
Dr. Jawahar Bakhru
Dr. Angeline Selvaraj
Dr. AK Prabhune
Dr. Piyali Dutta
Dr. Krishan Kumar Goyal
Dr. Raghunandan V
Dr. CN Sowgandhi
Dr. E Kalpana Rani

The Chief of Naval Staff Award for best published article in the field of Medicine and Allied Specialities including Marine and Aviation Medicine for the year 2008 was awarded to Gp Capt Deepak Gaur, Senior Advisor, Aviation Medicine for his article titled "Semi-closed capsular ejection revisited: Is it too late to modify an old aircraft?" published in the summer 2007 edition of Indian Journal of Aerospace Medicine. The award was presented to him during 57th Armed Forces Medical Conference held on 04 Feb 09 at AFMC, Pune.