Our New President: Air Marshal Dipankar Ganguly VSM & Bar

Air Marshal Dipankar Ganguly VSM & Bar took over as President of the Society on 01 Jun 10, consequent to his appointment as DGMS (Air). He is a graduate from AFMC with an excellent academic record and recipient of six gold medals, the ‘Kalinga trophy’ and the President’s Gold Medal. A Cardiothoracic Surgeon par excellence, he has held multiple appointments as Classified Specialist, as Senior Advisor at Cardio Thoracic Centre Pune, as Consultant & Professor (Cardiothoracic Surgery) and finally assuming charge as Deputy Commandant at Army Hospital (R&R), New Delhi. He is also a hard core academician and has held multiple appointments at AFMC. He has been responsible for starting Coronary Artery Bypass Graft in the Indian Armed Forces. He went on to command the prestigious Command Hospital, Northern Command Udhampur and later assumed charge as MG Med of Northern Command. On promotion to Lt General he was posted as DCIDS (Med) at Integrated Defence Service Headquarters before taking over as DGMS (Air). The Society is very proud to have such a thorough clinician, exemplary academician and an able administrator as its president.

Continuing Medical Education Program on Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

A Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program on Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy was organised at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bangalore on 24 Apr 10. The CME was inaugurated by Air Marshal SP Singh AVSM VM, Senior Air Staff Officer, Training Command, IAF. The inaugural session commenced with a Guest Oration by Dr Tarun Sahni, Head of Hyperbaric Medicine, Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. He spoke on “Challenges in the practice of Hyperbaric Medicine in India: Review of a decade of experience”. The oration was an eye opener for the distinguished audience present. A total of 150 delegates including eminent doctors and scientists of national fame participated. The delegates were from varied fields of speciality of Aerospace Medicine, Clinical Specialties, Physiologists, Aeronautical Engineers, Physicists, Biomedical Engineers, Psychologists, Pilots etc. The CME with its theme “HBOT: Current Concepts and Utilisation” had three scientific sessions devoted to sensitize the doctors of multiple disciplines of medicine and surgery on the various aspects of Hyperbaric Medicine. It showcased the scientific advancement in this very specialised field. Hyperbaric Medicine is not taught at undergraduate level medical colleges and is a highly specialised field thereby making it quite a unique field of Medicine. During the CME, there were also demonstrations of facilities available in the new Hyperbaric Chamber and methodology for administration of HBOT.

The new state of the art Hyperbaric Chamber and its associated hypobaric chamber are in the final stages of establishment at IAM and will soon be commissioned. The chamber has been procured through Kasco Industries which is an Indian firm. It will provide a boost for hyperbaric therapy for patients. The new chamber can treat 2 lying and 5 sitting patients simultaneously. A state of the art computerized climate control facility, communication system and Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras are installed to monitor patients. The functioning of the new hyperbaric chamber is fully computerized. The maximum depth that can be achieved is 6 ATA (165 feet sea water pressure). The operating software will be pre-fed with standard diving tables for easy administration of HBOT. New profiles can also be generated and stored in the operating software.
Society News

Workshop on Civil Aviation Medicine for Class I & II Medical Examiners

A workshop on Civil Aviation Medicine was organized for Class I & II Medical Examiners in Mar 10 at IAM under the aegis of the Society. A large number of civilian medical officers attended the workshop and were updated on the latest policies and trends in the practice of Civil Aviation Medicine.

Visits Abroad by Society Members

Gp Capt GS Sethi visited Malaysia from 19-22 Apr 10 to attend the 12th Defence Service Asia Exhibition and Conference at Kuala Lumpur. Wg Cdr Pallavi Goswami visited Indonesia from 05-09 Jun 10 to attend 20th Annual Asia Pacific Military Medicine Meet.