



## Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine

The highlight for 2013 was the annual scientific meeting convened by Dr Ian Cheng in Hong Kong. Scientific sessions and site visits at Cathay Pacific Airways, facilitated by Dr Michele Liew, proved enormously popular with members. 175 doctors from 14 countries participated in the 4 day event, making it the second largest meeting held in recent years.

Undoubtedly part of the appeal was the opportunity to visit the Cathay Pacific training facility. The departments made available to delegates included:

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Management Centre      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cathay Pacific Catering Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Procedures Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Flying Service        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Facilities        | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Operations Centre     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simulator Training            | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Aviation Department        |

The John Lane Oration *Command Under Duress* was delivered by Captain David Evans, and the Patterson Trust Lecturer was Dr Rob Lee. Captain Evans was not available to deliver the John Lane Oration at the annual conference of the Aviation Medical Society of New Zealand (AMSNZ). At the invitation of AMSNZ, Dr Adrian Smith delivered the John Lane Oration at that meeting.

Dr Greig Chaffey stepped down as President having completed a 3 year term. Prior to his term as President, Greig was a member of the committee for 14 years, undertaking the role of Treasurer for 13 years.

Drs Warren Harrex, Barney Cresswell, Heather Parker and Dave Emonson stepped down from the committee, having each made a significant contribution over many years.

Dr Ian Cheng was elected President, and committee members Dr Adrian Smith (Vice President), Andrew Marsden (Treasurer), Gordon Cable, Craig Schramm and Tracy Smart were elected to another term. New committee members Drs Pritti Bhatt, Kate Manderson, David Fitzgerald and Ian Hosegood were also elected. Dr Greig Chaffey remains on the committee as Immediate Past President.

Under the Editorship of Dr Adrian Smith, the Journal of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine continues to publish annually and has become a valued resource. News of members is published quarterly in our newsletter, and this is the primary communication tool with members.

ASAM mourns the passing of honorary members Dr John Craig and Prof Rod Westerman, and also Judith Donaldson, wife of honorary member Dr Eric Donaldson.

Regional scientific meetings were held in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia with excellent attendance. At each of these meetings, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority provided an update for Designated Aviation Medical Examiners by the Principal Medical Officer, A/Prof Pooshan Navathe.

The 2013 ASAM *President's Prize* (for the best original paper published by a member on an aerospace medicine-related topic in a peer-reviewed journal in the preceding financial year) was awarded to Dr Thomas Smith who led all aspects of the published research and was lead author of the paper: "TG Smith et al. Pulmonary artery pressure increases during commercial air travel in healthy passengers. *Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine* 2012;83(7): 673-676.

Dr David Baldwin was awarded the *Eric Stephenson Award for Best Presentation by an ASAM member* at the Hong Kong conference.



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John Cherry and Rahul Muthalaly were the recipients of the inaugural *Medical Student Conference Scholarships*.

*The ASAM award for Dux of Course of the Australian Certificate of Civil Aviation Medicine, Monash* was presented to Dr Sally Cornish (July 2013) and Dr Foti Blaher (Nov 2013).

*The LT George P Merz Prize*, awarded jointly by the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine and ASAM to the student with the highest overall performance on the ADF Aviation Medical Officers Course, was awarded to FLTLT (Dr) Justin Dickie (March 2013) and SQNLDR (Dr) David Cooksley (August 2013).

In summary, 2013 was a successful year for ASAM, and members continue to be engaged and enthusiastic.

**Dr Greig Chaffey**

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