

Netherlands Association of Aviation Medicine
(Nederlandse Vereniging voor Luchtvaartgeneeskunde, NVvLG)

Annual Report 2013

We are a small association (in a small country) and have approximately 220 members. Most members have a aviation medical background (AME, authorized medical examiner) and about a quarter is active in the military as a flight surgeon. Their medical backgrounds are diverse, every specialism is represented. Our mission is to practice aviation medicine and to support and encourage scientific research in this area. We encourage our members to study the problems in this area of expertise and generate initiatives to find the answers through scientific research. Our means are professional advice and modest financial support. We encourage our members to publicize the results of their scientific research and offer help and advice in this. We do this by organizing seminars for our members that are focused on a relevant topic in aviation medicine.

In 2013 we organized 4 meetings: 1. a seminar on spatial disorientation, with demonstrations of the Desdemona, the simulator in use for training and experience. 2. We held our annual meeting at the Flight Simulator Company. After a lecture about the possibilities, challenges and technical features of the sims, our members had the possibility to "fly" the B737. 3. We invited André Kuipers, our multiple astronaut, for an inspiring lecture about living during his space flight in the ISS. 4. Together with AMABEL, our Belgian colleague association, we organized a seminar on several subjects: diverging light experience in the eye, medical issues in air travel passengers, sinus pathology and medication in relation to fitness to fly.

We have a small working group that is tasked with answering actual problems in the field of aviation medicine with scientific research. One of the goals of this group is to influence the international "rule-makers" with convincing evidence to improve regulations regarding flight medical licensing. The NVvLG has the task to organize the only AME course in the Netherlands in which medical doctors are trained in aviation medicine. This is a requirement for a license to do flight medical investigations on aviators.

For 2014 we organized a scientific meeting on Cabin Safety and Emergency Escape. The Annual Meeting with a scientific part will take place in the Aviodrome, a large civil aviation museum.

Best regards,

Marja Osinga, AME
Secretary of the NVvLG
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