

Society News

Report on Human Engineering – Symposium – August 1994

A symposium on human engineering was organized by Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bangalore, in August 1994. The Symposium was spread over three days. Papers presented in the Symposium were from various fields of aviation medicine, that reflects the multifarious nature of human engineering. Speakers belonging to varied disciplines of engineering and aerodynamics, interacted with experts in human factors, mental workload and aviation physiology. Design and development aspects of life support systems for future aircraft were also reviewed extensively in various papers. An interesting feature of the symposium was a series of expert lectures by some of the foremost specialists in the field. Dr KG Narayanan, Dr Kota Harinarayana, Air Vice Marshal Kuldip Rai, Dr W Selvamurthy, Dr Lazar Mathew and Dr CA Verghese were some of the many experts who presented these lectures. In keeping with its pre-eminent place in the science, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine had a large presence at the Symposium, with 16 presentations on various subdisciplines of the subject.

Report on 42nd ICASM – New Delhi, 25–29 September 1994

The Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine had the privilege of hosting the 42nd International Congress on Aviation and Space Medicine at New Delhi. The Congress was held at Hotel Taj Palace from 25–29 September 1994. It was attended by 110 international delegates from 25 countries, and 152 delegates from India.

The Congress was inaugurated by Air Chief Marshal SK Kaul, Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force, with the traditional lighting of the lamp. In his Presidential Address Dr Stanley White, President of the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine, recalled the origin of the Congress and how it had found its way to New Delhi. The Alan Allard Oration was delivered by Dr JS Bajaj, Member Planning Commission and Professor Emeritus at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The topic of the oration was the current classification of diabetes mellitus. Prof Bajaj brought out the fallacies in the current ICAO standards on diabetes mellitus, and stressed on the need for an update. Over the next three days' academic sessions several papers were presented on various aspects of aerospace medicine. There were symposia on high altitude, space medicine, bird strike, and a session on civil aviation medicine. Clinical aviation medicine, operational aerospace medicine, aviation ophthalmology and hyperbaric medicine were also extensively discussed in various papers. The presentations provided the Indian aeromedical scientist with an insight into the current state of knowledge in these important areas. Indian scientists and doctors exchanged data, notes and information with their western counterparts. Among the delegates were some renowned world leaders in the subject. They gave presentations and actively participated in the discussions, thereby providing encouragement to the younger and newer aspirants in the field of aerospace medicine. Guest lectures by Dr KG Narayanan and by Mr VP Singhania were other highpoints of the busy academic schedule. A total of 92 papers were presented. During the Congress, Air Vice Marshal Kuldip Rai, MD MNAMS, FAeMS, IAF, was bestowed the singular honour of being elected Fellow of the International Academy of Aerospace Medicine. The Society conveys its heartiest congratulations to him.

If the academic aspects of the Congress were stimulating, the social aspects were no less. A welcome dinner held on the rolling lawns of the IAF auditorium at Subroto Park was an Indian cultural extravaganza. Traditional Indian hospitality was evident throughout the Congress and was enjoyed by our foreign guests and their spouses. The Congress banquet was held on the last day of the Congress, when Air Marshal PC Sharda, DGMS (Air), blew the traditional ICASM trumpet before handing it over to Prof. John Ernsting of UK, who will be the host for the 1995 Congress.

It now remains for all of us in the Society to continue the effort of increasing the world's awareness of the work being carried on in India.

Promotions

We congratulate the following members on their promotion:

- ◆ AVM KN Ghosh
- ◆ Air Cmde S Guha
- ◆ Air Cmde Karamjit

Retirements

The members who have retired from active service are as follows:

- ◆ AVM SK Adaval, VSM
- ◆ Gp Capt RK Mallick
- ◆ Gp Capt D Jayapaul
- ◆ Wg Cdr VR Ketkar
- ◆ Wg Cdr SN Sharma
- ◆ Wg Cdr SP Chiwane
- ◆ Wg Cdr KN Chatterjee

We wish them all the very best and hope that their active association with the Society will continue.

Obituary



Sqn Ldr AK Roy Chowdhary
(27 Aug 1956 – 30 May 1994)

It is with great regret and a deep sense of sorrow that we report the tragic and untimely demise of one of our young and active Society members Sqn Ldr AK Roy Chowdhary (16368) Med. On 30 May 94 Sqn Ldr Roy Chowdhary died in an accident onboard INS Vikrant, which was the unit he was last posted to. He leaves behind his wife and two young children.

Sqn Ldr Roy Chowdhary was a graduate of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. He was commissioned into the Air Force on 9 March 1981. He did his post-graduation in Aerospace Medicine from Bangalore University in 1987. He had been posted to various fighter squadrons. Sqn Ldr Roy Chowdhary was awarded 'Mention in Despatches' for his exemplary services during Operation Pawan in 1991.

Sqn Ldr Roy Chowdhary took active interest in the field of aerospace medicine and had a special interest in ergonomics. He had been granted admission to a full-time PG course in ergonomics in Loughborough University of Technology, Leicestershire, UK, and was given study leave to pursue this course, but his wish remained unfulfilled.

Sqn Ldr Roy Chowdhary will always be remembered as a bright young specialist who made valuable contribution to the field of aerospace medicine. For those who knew him personally he was a kind, humane helpful person and a perfect gentleman. At the same time he was a true professional. He will be remembered by all. All members of the Society convey their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.