

Advisory Board

Annual Report November 2009 – November 2010

On 6th November 2009 the AB meeting was held in Milan. Ries Simons, Uwe Stüben, and Declan Maher were elected as Chair, Deputy Chair, and Secretary, respectively.

In January 2010 the AB's Governing Rules have been published. These rules, which have been prepared by Anthony Wagstaff, describe the process of decision making within the AB and provide directions about how AB consensus reports to the EC will be made.

During a combined EC/AB meeting on 26th February 2010, the ESAM Space Medicine Group was founded. The aim of this group is to work for the safety and health of all people engaged in space operations. The group is open for ESAM members and will report to the Advisory Board.

During the ESAM panel at the annual meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) in May 2010 (Phoenix) the AB presented a position paper entitled "Cabin Air Quality: How bad is it?". This paper was also published on the ESAM website.

It was felt that within the AB expert groups should be formed to deal with various specific aeromedical issues. In order to try and stimulate participation of as much as possible AB members in such expert groups, the secretary mailed all AB members in February 2010 requesting them to indicate their willingness to participate in an expert group and in which expert group they wished to participate. Positive reactions were received from Germany, Croatia, Italy, Norway, Russia, Scotland, and Switzerland. We felt that the response rate was disappointingly low and considered that we should try and find other ways to activate more AB members in order to be able to advise the EC.

During a combined EC/AB meeting on 4th July in Antwerp, it was decided that the AB, as scientific body of ESAM, will prepare a number of "Position Papers", representing the official scientific point of view of ESAM. Because such papers should be based on thorough analysis of literature and expert knowledge, the expertise and efforts of experts within the AB is needed. To stir up the interest and activity of the AB members, we will produce brief papers with challenging questions (step1). These papers will be mailed to all members. After contributions of the various experts have been received, draft position papers will be produced (step 2). After review by the EC, these papers will be finalized and published on the ESAM website (step 3). Presently we are working on the first steps concerning the following issues:

- Use of insulin in diabetes therapy and medical assessment for fitness to fly: a proposal of standardization of requirements across Europe.
- Fatigue Risk Management of flight crew
- Cabin crew medical certification: usefulness?
- Other issues that will be considered are "Competence based AME-training" and "New rulemaking (NPL): proposal for changes".

At the 4th July meeting in Antwerp, the EC has asked Uwe Stüben to set up an Expert Group Meeting for EASA-NPA review in 2011 in analogy with the past Specialist Meeting in Wiesbaden.