



European Society of Aerospace Medicine

# 15th ESAM General Assembly

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021,  
2pm-4pm (CEST)  
web-based (ZOOM Webinar)

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome by the President, Dr. Declan Maher

The President opened the General Assembly greeting the members, associated members, and observers. It was noted that the number of attendees is very limited, as expected due to the online format and the latest difficulties of communication with the member associations during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Declan Maher highlighted the Covid-19 pandemic as of a development of unexpected lengths and magnitude. He outlined the challenges the pandemic raised for the society, for himself and predominantly for the aerospace community as a particular vulnerable area of concern. For the near future the president spread optimism pointing out that the path to a “New Normal” has already been taken, yet there is a lot of work still lying ahead of us all.

The following participants were represented at the General Assembly:

	<b>Position/Association</b>
• Declan Maher	ESAM President, Irish Society of Aviation Medicine
• Claudia Stern	ESAM ABC member, ESAM Academy Executive Director
• Francisco Rios	ESAM ABC member
• Goran Bogdanovski	ESAM Director of Communication, Eurocontrol Head of Medical Service
• Roland Vermeiren	ESAM ABC member
• Simon Ries	ABC Co-Chair
• Vincent Feuille	ESAM ABC member
• Antonello Furia	ESAM Secretary
• Steffen Kerkhoff	ESAM Treasurer, German Society of Aerospace Medicine
• Elena Catman	EASA Director, Moldovan Society of Aviation Medicine
• Felix Liebold	ESAM Administrative Assistant
• Lilla Ungvary	ESAM Nomination Committee, Hungarian Association of Aeromedical Examiners
• Ljiljana Belosevic	Croatian Society of Aviation Medicine
• Maria Blomquist	Swedish Aero-Nautical Medical Association
• Ursula Diestel	German Association of Aeromedical Examiners
• Pedro Pinto	UK Civil Aviation Authority
• Carlos Velasco	Spanish Society of Aerospace Medicine

## 2. Reports from:

### 2.1 President, Dr. Declan Maher

The President made a review of the objectives, plans, strategies, and specific working items of ESAM, mentioning the importance of the society which is participating and contributing to international research, meetings, and congresses. Specifically he mentioned the 2020 Denver AsMA Meeting which could be attended by Anthony Wagstaff on behalf of ESAM despite Covid-19 restrictions. The Presidents congratulated Dr. Ries Simons for receiving the Boothby-Edwards Award and Anthony Wagstaff for being chosen for the 7<sup>th</sup> Reinartz Memorial Lecture. The German Society of Aerospace Medicine (DGLRM) was given an honourable mention as

the organisation celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. Janis Vegers was welcomed as the new Senior Medical Expert of EASA which was recently appointed. Dr. Maher further emphasized the importance and success of ESAMs representation and participation regarding the EASA Medical Expert Group (MEG), the EASA Stakeholder Advisory Body (SAB), the EASA Scientific Committee and the Aeromedical Repository (EAMR).

In regard of the EASA research activity the president pointed out three areas of research which were proposed to be initiated and which will involve the participation of ESAM:

- Mental Health in AirCrew and ATCO
- Research in Cardiovascular Assessment
- Research in Insulin Treated Aviation Staff Diabetics

ESAM continues its successful cooperation together with AsMA, EAMAC and the Interstate Aviation Committee. The ESAM succession activities also continue. In this regard the treasurer Steffen Kerkhoff is in close contact with the Deutsche Bank and all requirements of the German Notary have already been completed at the Germany Embassy in Dublin. The ICAM Webinars as a virtual conference throughout the year in place of the ICAM 2021 were held by ESAM, AsMA, IAASM and SOFRAMAS and were considered a great success due to the high number of participants.

Eventually Dr. Maher emphasised the participation of ESAM in launching the European Pilot Peer Support Initiative (EPPSI) and the corresponding efforts to implement a standardisation of accreditation of aviation psychologists which is making great progress.

## 2.2 ABC (Advisory Board Committee), Dr. Ries Simons

Dr. Ries Simons (Advisory Board Co-Chair) reads out the Report of the Advisory Board Committee in 2021:

*ESAM's Scientific Advisory Board Committee (ABC) was founded in 2007 and is tasked to provide scientific advice on aerospace medical questions to the Executive Committee. It is an independent body within ESAM. During 2021 the ABC consisted of Trond-Eirik Strand (Chair), Ries Simons (Co-Chair), Martin Hudson (Secretary), Claudia Stern, Olivier Manen, René Maire, Olga Verba, Roland Vermeiren, Jochen Hinkelbein and Felix Stollo.*

*Due to the covid-19 pandemic the activity has been somewhat lower than usual in ABC. Only two digital meetings have been conducted up-to September 2021. Members of the ABC participated actively in scientific webinars organised by ESAM Academy (Effects of the COVID-*

*19 pandemic on the aviation community and on aircrew), EASA (two workshops on Pilot Peer Support), and lectured in several basic and advanced courses for AMEs.*

*Members of ABC have been engaged in ESAM Academy (Claudia, Ries, Roland, Felix). Olivier is involved in planning ICASM 2022 and Martin represented ESAM in ICAO Mental Health Group. The Circle of Experts groups Ophthalmology (chaired by Claudia), Space Medicine (chaired by Jochen), Cardiology (chaired by René), Mental Health (chaired by Ries), and Human Factors (chaired by Ries) have started their activities. The Space Medicine group published in November 2020 (after the last annual report) a paper on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) during spaceflight on behalf of the German Society of Aerospace Medicine (DGLRM) and the European Society of Aerospace Medicine Space Medicine Group (ESAM-SMG).*

*In the coming year, the ABC will further promote the expertise potential of the Circle of Experts groups to assist National Authorities and EASA in their scientific issues. Where relevant, collaboration with working groups of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) and the International Academy of Aerospace medicine (IAASM) will be sought.*

### 2.3 Treasurer, Steffen Kerkhoff:

The Treasurer Steffen Kerkhoff presented the financial state of ESAM in 2021:

- Starting Point January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021:
  - On the checking account: 14.300,11€
  - On the savings account: 39.356,43€
  - Together: 53.656,54€
- September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021:
  - On the checking account: 19.378,94€
  - On the savings account: 39.356,43€
  - Together: 58.735,37€

Until the day of the GA, 29 out of 39 societies and 4 out of 4 associated organizations have paid their membership fee, altogether 17.431€. 10 organisations have not yet paid their membership fee:

- Czech Association of Aviation Medicine
- Finnish Aerospace Medical Association
- Group of Aviation Medical Experts of Georgia
- Hungarian Society of Aviation and Space Medicine (Not the Examiners)

- Polish Society of Aviation Medicine
- Romanian Civilian Aeromedical Examiners Association (Not the Society for Aerospace Medicine)
- Scottish Association of Authorised Medical Examiners (SAAME)
- Serbian Aviation Medicine Society
- Slovak Association of Aviation Medicine
- Association of Aerospace Medicine Montenegro

The expenses for 2021 were distributed as follows:

- Website and IT: 2479,37€
- Tax Consultant: 848,26€
- Assistant and Insurance: 4050€ + 1325,3€
- Payment for ICAM 2022: 3000€
- Loan to ESAM (Expenses paid per year): 1342,12€
- Bank costs: 83,98€
- Notary: 190,9€
- Total: 13.319€

All in all the treasurer acknowledge a stable financial situation. In this context the society benefits from the postponement of the ICAM 2021 and reduction in travel activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tax declaration for 2020 has been completed but was not yet communicated by the tax authority. In contrast to recent years, no budget plan was prepared for 2021, but one will be elaborated for 2022.

#### 2.4 ESAM Academy, Dr. Claudia Stern:

Dr. Claudia Stern, executive director of the ESAM Academy, presented a short timeline about the history of the foundation of the ESAM Academy. Accordingly, the status of the new organization was established in June 2020. The registration as non-profit organisation was done in Norway due to high administrative barriers in Germany. The Board members shall be elected every two years by the members of the Academy. The president of ESAM is appointed as a member of the board. Further on, Dr. Stern outlined the initial process of finding a name for the new academy. First of all there were several proposals at choice. The name ESAM Academy was chosen because of its clear link to ESAM and its status as an educational institution. Recently, the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine sent a letter suggesting renaming ESAM Academy due to potential confusion. The matter is still under

discussion and will be responded as soon as a decision could be reached. However the great importance of a good interaction between the two academies was emphasized.

The ESAM Academy advanced courses currently involve a theoretical part which is held online. Concerning the practical part, exploration for an appropriate and affordable training site is ongoing. Most recently Bucharest was proposed as one option as the local training site held basic courses before and provide excellent demonstration and training facilities. The respective decision is postponed to 2022 due to the uncertainties in regard of COVID-19. The academy is inviting interested members of the aerospace community to help out with the courses or host courses themselves presuming the required conditions for a practical training site can be fulfilled. An initial course is planned for spring 2022 and at least yearly thereafter. Course duration will be 3-4 days with a group of about 20 participants.

### 3. Information about upcoming congress

#### a. ICAM 2022, Dr. Vincent Feuillie

Dr. Vincent Feuillie presented the scientific committee, topics, location, and timetable for the ICAM 2022. The conference will take place between 22-24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the *Cité des science et de l'industrie* in Paris. The official ICAM2022 website is [WWW.ICAM2022.COM](http://WWW.ICAM2022.COM). Due to coronavirus crisis and doubt over in long term, organising committee and new PCO have decided to reduce costs. Neither lunch nor the final dinner in la Villette (80@p.p.) will be included in the registration fee. The Academy dinner will take place in the Cercle National des Armées and will be 120€ p.p. The ESAM GA as well as the ESAM EC Meeting will be held on Sunday morning, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### b. Invitation for ICAM 2023, Dr. [Declan Maher](#)

The president invited the associations to apply for hosting the ICAM 2023. Roland Vermeiren raised concerns about whether the ICAM should be repeated in 2024 rather than 2023 because of temporal and contentual collisions with other conferences e.g. the ICASM 2023.

### 4. Nomination Committee Report and election results for Executive Committee, Dr. Roland Vermeiren

Dr. Roland Vermeiren, chair of the ESAM Nomination Committee, introduced the members of the committee Lilla Ungvary, Christian Panait and himself. In the further course he presented

the election process and outcome. Accordingly, both the nomination process and the election met all the deadlines. The announcement of the GA and the nomination of the candidate took place in a timely manner. The quorum was determined with the presence of the participating associations. Dr. Declan Maher was proposed as the only nominee by the Irish and the Swiss Aerospace Societies. The elected candidate accepted the election. A presidential mission statement and a CV of Dr. Maher was published online on [www.esam.aero](http://www.esam.aero) in advance of the voting process. The EC and the NC decided to organize a web-based system election via the online platform SurveyMonkey©. The voting was possible between 11th - 18th September 2021. Every member association who had paid the membership fee did receive a voting link via email through the website [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) where the vote could be casted. The associations holding voting rights are displayed below:

- **Aeromedical Association of Belgium**
- **Aviation medicine doctors' association (AMDA)**
- **Bulgarian Association of Aviation and Space Medicine and Psychology**
- **Bulgarian Society of Aviation, Navy and Space Medicine**
- **Croatian Society of Aviation Medicine**
- **Cyprus Association of Aeromedical Examiners**
- **Danish Aeronautical Medical Association**
- **Estonian-Latvian-Lithuanian Society of Aviation Medicine**
- **Francophone Society of Aviation and Space Medicine**
- **German Association of Aeromedical Examiners**
- **German Society of Aerospace Medicine**
- **Hungarian Association of Aeromedical Examiners**
- **Irish Society of Aviation Medicine**
- **Italian Society of Aerospace Psychiatry and Psychology**
- **Macedonian Society of Aerospace Medicine**
- **Malta Association of Authorised Medical Examiners**
- **Moldovan Society of Aviation Medicine**
- **Netherlands Association for Aviation Medicine**
- **Norwegian Association of Aviation Medicine**
- **Portuguese Aerospace Medicine Society – SMAPor**

- **Romanian Society of Aerospace Medicine**
- **Spanish Society of Aerospace Medicine**
- **Slovenian Aerospace Medical Association**
- **Swedish Aero-Nautical Medical Association**
- **Swiss Society of Aviation Medicine (SSAVMED)**
- **Turkish Aerospace Medical Association**
- **UK Association of Aviation Medical Examiners**
- **Group of Aeromedical Examiner of Ukraine**

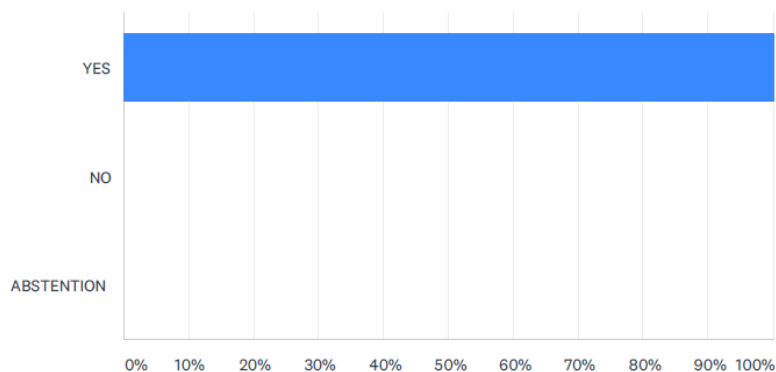
The vote took place on a yes / no / abstention system. This was the question: *Do you support the election of Dr Declan Maher for the position of President-Elect of ESAM? YES? NO? Abstention.* To ensure an utterly transparent as well as equitable election, every member association only received one voting link. 19 out of 28 associations made use of their right to vote. 19 out of 19 voting's (100%) were in favour of Dr. Declan Maher who was hence appointed as president-elect. There were no abstentions and no contra votes (Fig.1). The Nomination Committee Report as well as the new president-elect were accepted by all attendees. The President Declan Maher accepted the election.

Election for President Elect of the European Society of Aerospace Medicine

SurveyMonkey

### Q1 Do you support the election of Dr Declan Maher for the position of President-Elect of ESAM?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	100.00%	18
NO	0.00%	0
ABSTENTION	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 18		



Fig. 1: election results (1 vote was only cast after the creation of Fig.1)

#### 5. Final remarks and close, Dr. Declan Maher

Finally, the ESAM president closed the General Assembly by thanking all the participants, members, and associations for the good cooperation. The General Assembly closed at 4pm.

Draft Minutes prepared by: Felix Liebold (Assistant)