

Live from Paris: The 1st International Conference of Aerospace Medicine

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The First International Conference of Aerospace Medicine 2022 (ICAM 2022) was a resounding success! While the planners hoped 400 people would attend, the final total was 848 from over 70 countries. The meeting was co-hosted by the AsMA, European Society of Aerospace Medicine, International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine, and French Society for Aviation and Space Medicine. It was the first meeting in three years for all except AsMA. The organizations owe a huge thanks to Jeff and Deborah Sventek, as well as Giselle Vargus and Sheryl Kildall in the Home Office, who handled registrations in two currencies, overcoming digital and time zone challenges. Further, with the two delays for the Paris meeting, each task was performed several times over the years. The dedication of all the organizers and the French Society greatly contributed to the success of the meeting and they deserve our thanks!

The meeting itself, after the Allard Lecture and the JS Ernsting Panel, broke into three concurrent sessions covering everything from fatigue to diabetes to mental health to mishap investigation and space. The Ernsting Panel reviewed many of the initiatives the world and aviation medical community undertook in response to COVID-19. We hope to have the same group come to our May meeting and discuss ending a pandemic and returning to normal operations. The Scientific Program Committee did an outstanding job creating a robust program of papers.

One paper on fatigue was especially interesting. Three high school students from Indonesia presented research to determine level of fatigue based on voice. The ladies, working with a teacher, taught an app to indicate when an individual was fatigued

based on the pronunciation of vowels. Each subject had to record several statements with varying times since their last sleep event. In their limited population, the app was able to then determine time since last sleep when subjects were kept awake for periods of time. The concept that our phone can indicate fatigue based on our speech patterns is exciting—and from high school students! If we can find more young scientists like this, our society and profession will do well.

On a personal note, I thoroughly enjoyed the comradery and collaboration with the international community of aviation and space medicine experts. I met people whom I had been working with for years via Zoom. The ability to exchange ideas and discuss pathways forward for our professional challenges in person was sorely missed as we weathered the pandemic. Many of the attendees will be joining us in New Orleans. We are very lucky to have such a glorious organization.



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