



Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Aviation Medicine

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine



Aviation medicine is a unique field, and is concerned with the interaction between the aviation environment and human physiological and psychological systems. It is a specialized subset of the wider field of occupational medicine. The main emphasis of the Aviation Medicine Unit is on understanding the implications of exposure to the flight environment on human performance. As such, it is fundamentally concerned with health consequences in pilots, aircrew and aircraft passengers.

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The Unit is responsible for teaching the highly successful short course, the Australian Certificate in Civil Aviation Medicine, which is a prerequisite for medical practitioners who wish to register with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia (CASA) as Designated Aviation Medical Examiners. This two week course is currently held twice a year in Melbourne at The Alfred Hospital.

The Unit also provides a number of other training courses for both aircrew and aviation medicinequalified doctors.

Current training courses:

- Australian Certificate in Civil Aviation Medicine
- ACCAM refresher course
- Advanced Practical Aviation Medicine Course (Singapore)

Future training courses:

- Rotary wing aviation medicine course
- Accident investigation course
- Flight simulation experience (flight simulator-based)

Research

The Unit also conducts a wide range of research activities in aviation medicine and aerospace physiology, with an emphasis on the effects of altitude, G forces, spatial disorientation and motion sickness in both pilots and passengers. Research in these areas is designed to gain a better understanding of the human consequences of exposure to the flight environment, and ultimately to improve flight safety.

Much of the Unit's research involves collaborations with national and international partners, and in conjunction with the aviation industry.

Current research areas:

- Neck injuries in pilots exposed to high G
- Cardiovascular regulation and control in the high G environment
- Spatial disorientation in aircrew
- Passenger health in airline operations
- Super-agile flight and its biodynamic implications

Postgraduate research student opportunities

The Aviation Medicine Unit welcomes applications from suitably qualified candidates wishing to undertake postgraduate research in the aviation medicine field, up to PhD level. Contact A/Prof David Newman for more details.



Students attending the Advanced Practical Aviation Medicine course get the chance to ride an ejection seat trainer.







Contact Us



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