

ISSUE 13

HONOURED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE MEDICINE

Recognised for his work in bringing together the international, regional and national aviation and public health sectors to put in place pandemic preparedness plans, Dr Jarnail Singh, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Medical Board (CAMB) with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), was honoured with the 2011 Won Chuel Kay Award at the 81st Annual Scientific Meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska. Organised by the Aerospace Medical Association, a professional organisation in the fields of aviation, space and environmental medicine, this award is presented annually to a member who has made outstanding contributions to international aerospace medicine.

One of Dr Singh's most notable efforts included spearheading, facilitating and coordinating the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of the Spread of Communicable disease through Air travel project to Africa, the Americas and the Middle East, transforming it into a global project. He has also contributed to the training of doctors in aviation medicine and pandemic preparedness across the globe in countries such as India, Africa, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. In addition, he chairs ICAO's Medical Provisions Study Group, which reviews the existing medical requirements in Annex 1 in the light of medical advances and availability of epidemiological data to facilitate global harmonisation of medical standards for pilots and air traffic controllers.

At the juncture of a streamlined global aviation sector and an increasingly mobile world, it is especially important to contain and mitigate the threat of international public health emergencies. This award is a validation of Dr Singh's body of work, and a testament to Singapore's commitment and contribution to strengthening pandemic preparedness in the international aviation community.