

## **Editorial - The quest for international quality standards**

Dear members of the International Aerospace Community,

The ranking of academic institutions around the world can be influenced by their capacity to publish in top rated journals. At an individual level the socialization and dissemination of new knowledge through publication in journals is usually one of the key criteria for appointment, tenure and promotion in universities (Bailey, 2002). For this reason, journal publication and assessment of journal quality is important not just for universities, but also for academics. The search for quality, thus, needs to be an ongoing process.

Journal quality assessment usually relies on the meeting of certain previously established criteria. Statistical analyses is now widely used in the study of patterns of authorship, publication and literature use, have become widely used by research funding bodies, publishers, universities, governments, and researchers. A number of different citation indexes may be used to rank journals in an attempt to certify their quality. This quantitative approach to ranking journals described above is called 'revealed preference'. Journal quality assessment can also use a less quantitative approach known as 'stated preference'.

For a young journal, like AVIATION IN FOCUS - which emerges from an area that has neither strong tradition in producing new knowledge through research nor in disseminating said knowledge through the publication of academic papers - it is not easy to be part of this system. Having survived for more than two years without interruption (2010-2012), the journal now needs to focus on meeting international quality standards. In striving for this quality, close adherence to qualitative and quantitative publishing standards is essential and will be the main focus of the journal in the next couple of years. Some of the standards that we will specially pursue are:

**Timeliness** - Publish according to the stated frequency.

**International Editorial Conventions** - Observe international editorial conventions, which aim at facilitating the retrievability of source articles.

**Full Text in English** - Publish full texts in English, or at very least, bibliographic information in English.

**Peer Review** – Use a double-blind peer-review process, another indication of a journal's standards and of the overall quality of the research presented.

**International Diversity** - Look for international diversity among the journal's contributing authors, editors, and editorial board members.

**Open Access** – Remain as an entirely open access journal.

Having talked about some of the plans for AVIATION IN FOCUS in the next two years, we move on to presenting the journal's sixth issue. In this issue we have one interview and five articles. The interview with Professor Dr. Walter Kuehnegger, NASA Apollo Researcher, was undertaken by Kirsty Lindsay MSCP, MSc BHSc (Hons), MSc Space Physiology and Health student from the Centre for Human and Aerospace Physiology at King's College London. As for the articles, three deal with Aviation and Health topics, one with Aviation and Language, and another with Aviation and Safety/Security.

The first text, **The human body in a microgravity environment: long term adaptations and countermeasures**, was written by Philip Carvil, MSc, MSc (Hons), BSc, a researcher for Kings College London and undertaking a course in space biomechanics at MicroG Centre (PUCRS/Brazil); Rafael Baptista, professor at the Physical Education Faculty and researcher at the MicroG Centre, (PUCRS/ Brazil); and by professor Thais Russomano, PhD, coordinator of the MicroG Centre, (PUCRS/Brazil). This paper discusses several components of current and future gravity loading countermeasure skinsuit (GLCS) research.

The second paper - an article by Bernardo Amarante de Lara, Physiotherapist and graduate in Health and Sport Sciences (PUCRS/Brazil); Rafael Baptista, professor at the Physical Education Faculty and researcher at the MicroG Centre (PUCRS/Brazil); and professor Thais Russomano, PhD, coordinator of the MicroG Centre (PUCRS/Brazil), - is called **Performance maintenance strategies of athletes exposed to hypobaric environments: A literature review**. This text analyzes the attenuation strategies or treatments for the effects of acute exposure to altitude in exercise situations through a review of forty-one articles.

In the third paper, **The flight attendant and health care: professional training in Brazil**, Luisa Maria Cabezas Urbano, who holds a degree in Biomedicine (UNISA/ Brazil) and José Antonio Maia, MEd in Health Education (UNIFESP/Brazil) present a document-based research outlining flight attendant training practices concerning health care responsibility.

The article under the category Aviation and Language, **ANACpédia: what is it, current status and availability on the Internet**, written by Camila Souza de Andrade, Fernanda Alves e Silva and Gabriela Pinto Mafra, aims at presenting a project called ANACpedia. This project is comprised of databases of aviation vocabulary composing two bilingual glossaries (English-Portuguese/Portuguese-English; Spanish-Portuguese/Portuguese-Spanish) and a list of acronyms in English.

**Loss of Control on the Ground - An Analysis by SERA Software** is the last article of this issue, and it was written by Simone Figueira Sobreda, MSc in Aviation Safety and Continued Airworthiness (ITA/Brazil) and Paulo Afonso de Oliveira Soviero, professor at Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica (ITA/ Brazil). This paper aims at analyzing an

accident which took place in Brazil with the respective investigation already concluded by the authorities. For this purpose, the SERA software was used as a tool to investigate, analyze, classify and prevent recurrences.

We do hope you enjoy reading the texts that have been put together in this issue of the journal. Have fun!

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Editors