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FLIGHT IN AN AGEING SOCIETY - ESAM PANEL DISCUSSION

AVIATION DANS UNE SOCIÉTÉ VIEILLISSANTE - PANEL DE DISCUSSION - ESAM

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Introduction: The 5 papers presented in the panel show different aspects of the older population and flight, from the viewpoint of assessing aeromedical risk in individuals who are part of a group with increasing health risk. The different aspects and perspectives pose some general questions which will be explored in order to involve the audience in alternative views on this complex subject.

Background: An introductory overview of some general questions regarding the ageing pilot and passenger will be given – questions which regulators, pilots and passengers in different flight environments will have to face: Do we have enough evidence to change age limits for professional pilots now, and to what age? Do we have the tools to do away with age limits? If we have these tools, how would we design aeromedical follow-up? Are there any benefits of older pilots? - to flight operators, society and to flight safety? Is there a risk/benefit cutoff point for each pilot – and is this possible to assess? Are there any new technologies which may change our acceptance criteria regarding aeromedical risk? Is it useful to incorporate key principles of aviation medicine in the curriculum of the basic medical education? Should pre-travel consultation for each elderly passenger be introduced?

Summary: The panel will challenge the audience to enter into discussion on these and other aspects, spurred by some questions - The panel members will also prepare at least one question each to each other during the course of the session, teasing viewpoints for an interesting discussion.