

Dear ESAM Colleagues,

It is a great honour to have been nominated by SMAPOR, the Portuguese Aerospace Medicine Society, to submit my candidacy for a position of Vice-President of ESAM.

I hold an international Master's degree in Aviation Medicine, and altogether I have been working for over two decades in aviation medicine, namely as Medical Director for an airline and since 2008 heading a major aeromedical centre in Portugal. Having been a member of the IATA Medical Advisory Group for several years, I was appointed as the IATA Medical Advisor in 2023.

I have contributed to various international aerospace and airline medicine committees and working groups and have lectured at conferences and post-graduate programmes. I am currently honoured to be serving both as President of IAMA, the International Airline Medical Association, for the 2024/25 term, and as Chair of the Organizing Committee of ICAM 2024.

I had the unique privilege of being a founding member of the Portuguese Aerospace Medicine Society and its inaugural President. One of my early priorities was to integrate SMAPOR into our European family of aviation and space medicine Societies at ESAM. I firmly believe in close international cooperation to achieve our shared goals to promote safety and health in aviation.

One of my passions is education and interdisciplinary communication. I have taught in both graduate and postgraduate aerospace and travel medicine programmes at national and international levels, addressing doctors, medical students, and aviation professionals. My experience in pharmacovigilance has allowed me to approach risk management from diverse perspectives, which I believe can offer innovative insights for aerospace medicine in its interactions with allied sciences and professions.

ESAM embodies many of the values I hold dear – cooperation, communication, educational and scientific development, and professional camaraderie. I am confident that, as Vice-President, I will be able to contribute to the goals and initiatives of ESAM, fully supporting its President, Boards, and Committees, and ultimately supporting all of ESAM's members across Europe.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Rui Pombal