



Website is now open for Membership!

We have been busy re-designing the website to make the most of our internet presence. As of today, you can now join the Aerotoxic Association online. The site is subscription based, allowing us to deliver key information to our members in the most efficient way.

For an annual cost of £15.99 (or local equivalent) you will gain access to a forum where you can communicate with other members, health contacts, scientific evidence, the full version of the AOPIS documentary, a health survey and regular updates on our campaign. The money raised will be used fund the website and to support the work of the Aerotoxic Association.

To join, please visit www.aerotoxic.org and follow the links to the subscription payment section. You will receive an email confirming your details giving you access to the member's section of the site. We look forward to welcoming you as a member!

Background

The concept of an Association for victims of Aerotoxic Syndrome and their carers was first proposed in January 2007.

The term 'aerotoxic syndrome' was first described by Professor Chris Winder, Head of the School of Safety Science in NSW, J – C Balouet and Harry Hoffman. It refers to the association of symptoms observed among flight crew, cabin crew and passengers when they have been exposed to hydraulic fluid or engine oil vapours or mists. Such people

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have a commonality of reported symptoms that provide the symptom basis for Aerotoxic syndrome.

On 18th June 2007, the Aerotoxic Association was launched at the Houses of Parliament in London, UK. Some delay was caused by trying to become a UK registered Charity; this plan has been temporarily suspended due to the amount of time necessary to register and the costs involved.

Every day messages are received from pilots, cabin crews, engineers and passengers asking for information; the web site has been available for the past 3 months and has been viewed by over 12, 000 people from all over the world.

We are now in a position to offer you more detailed information; the opportunity to contribute to the debate and help gather the evidence necessary to provide the required balance of proof that contaminated air exists and can be extremely unhealthy for many people.

I am reminded of The Reverend John Woodley's experience (a former Australian Senator's comments - which you can now read in the BALPA Contaminated Air conference manual Page 197 - 198) where he mentioned flying with an Australian Cabin Attendant for several years in the mid 1990's between Brisbane and Canberra. They got to know each other well and he appreciated her 'bright, attentive, chatty' disposition.

The Cabin Attendant was subsequently not seen again by him until the Australian Senate Inquiry of 1999 when he noted that she was 'pale (very white), withdrawn, halting in speech, at times vague and clearly, very unwell'.

So there is little doubt that something caused this dramatic change in her health and this is what energised The Reverend Woodley to fight for this particular victim and for the rights of others likewise harmed. It is interesting to note that some people seem to be affected worse than others; in this case, The Reverend John Woodley did not appear to be personally affected, despite obviously having been in the same aircraft.

We are aware that around 30% of people will be affected (5% severely) whilst 70% would appear not be so badly affected, if at all.

One of the hardest messages to get across is the devastating personal effect that contaminated air has on victims. Perhaps the apparent invisibility of it is a large part of the problem for others who are not affected?

But the Association would argue that changed personalities, lost careers and the resulting wrecked relationships exist – it's just that the industry doesn't acknowledge the scientific evidence; no agency has begun to look at all of the underlying symptoms that various people have, still less analyse them and compare them in total.

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Health Survey

How widespread is the problem? You can now help us by logging any symptoms you have in the **Health Survey**. Even if you have been unaffected personally we are serious about balance in this debate and welcome everybody's input. To minimise the possibility of misuse, we have limited the survey to members only. Members can complete the survey online by following the link in the member's section.

Health Survey results will be returned as soon as we have sufficient data, so please contribute to this unique survey.

At Aerotoxic Association we can not advise you of any medical protocols but we are able to open doors to those who may be able to help you.

Any members who are able to share new medical contacts from other countries are most welcome to send details in for publication for the benefit of other members.

We can however recommend, from personal experience, that by limiting future exposures to contaminated air – you will limit any further damage to yourself and perhaps begin a recovery. Our advice is to remove yourself from the cause of the damage.

Don't forget to check back regularly as we plan to have regular 'Invited Articles' by medical and technical experts. We also look forward to bringing you the results of important Government tests presently being carried out in the UK.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Association and we look forward to responding to your ideas and working towards our common aims and objectives.

John Hoyte
Chairman Aerotoxic Association

17th September 2007

www.aerotoxic.org

'DON'T FLY IN IGNORANCE'