

MATTHEW M. COOPER MD, MBA, FACS, FASMA, FCAMA

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SUMMARY

Visionary aviation and medical executive with over 25 years of leadership experience at the intersection of aerospace, healthcare, and public policy. Engaged with federal policymakers and industry stakeholders to shape regulatory policy and enhance safety standards. Background includes roles as certified flight instructor and senior aviation medical examiner, facilitating collaboration among diverse constituencies and driving strategic initiatives within complex environments.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Executive leadership and governance
- Regulatory and policy affairs (FAA/NTSB interface)
- Strategic vision and mission alignment
- Aerospace medicine and pilot safety
- Corporate health and operational strategy
- Board and advisory leadership
- Advocacy and stakeholder engagement
- Public-facing representation and communications
- Aviation network development
- Aviation safety standards
- Clinical and research integration
- Patient safety and quality initiatives
- Organizational design and change management
- Critical team performance and talent development
- Program and project management
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Aviation certification and compliance
- Innovation and Technology Commercialization
- Government relations and lobbying

EXPERIENCE

Principal / Chief Executive Officer **02/2024 to Current**
Lake Elmo, MN

Peak Aerospace Medicine & Cardiovascular Surgery

Provide executive advisory leadership focused on aviation regulatory compliance, aerospace medicine, safety systems, and mission-driven organizational strategy.

- Advise aviation organizations and individual pilots on FAA medical certification, special issuance pathways, and regulatory navigation strategies.
- Serve as Senior Aviation Medical Examiner and Special Consultant to the Federal Air Surgeon, contributing to certification standards and policy development initiatives.
- Lead public-facing engagements with general aviation organizations, military and civilian stakeholders, and industry associations.
- Design and implement performance frameworks grounded in aviation human factors and high-reliability organizational principles.
- Guide aerospace and medical device innovation initiatives ensuring regulatory alignment, commercialization readiness, and operational safety integration.
- Advocate for pilot interests while maintaining regulatory integrity and evidence-based safety standards.

Senior Aviation Medical Examiner & Special Consultant **01/2001 to Current**
Various U.S Locations

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Influence aviation safety, certification standards, and aerospace medical policy through national advisory and regulatory roles.

- Advise FAA leadership and federal stakeholders on medical certification standards, special issuance policy, and risk-based regulatory frameworks.
- Contribute to modernization discussions impacting pilot medical certification and operational safety.
- Serve as Aerospace Medicine Consultant and G-LOC Subject Matter Expert for the National Championship Air Races.
- Chair and advise Aerospace Medical Association Safety and Science & Technology Committees, shaping industry-wide safety strategy and policy dialogue.

- Facilitate regulatory discussions with FAA, military aviation authorities, and industry representatives to promote alignment and collaboration.
- Maintain an extensive aviation network spanning general aviation, commercial aviation, military aviation, and aerospace innovation sectors.
- Contributed to airport governance discussions on civilian-government coordination, federal grant frameworks, and operational use considerations.

Vice President, Medical Affairs, Corporate Health, & Safety

04/2014 to 02/2024

3M Health Care

St. Paul, MN

Senior executive responsible for global medical affairs, enterprise safety governance, regulatory interface, and innovation strategy within a Fortune 100 science and technology organization.

- Directed global health, safety, and operational strategy for regulated markets and domestic and international operations, enhancing compliance and operational integrity.
- Acted as executive liaison with regulatory agencies, policymakers, and industry consortia on compliance and safety initiatives.
- Provided oversight for medical device ideation, commercialization strategy, regulatory approval pathways, and risk mitigation frameworks.
- Led global patient safety and quality system integration, influencing corporate policy and governance standards.
- Guided M&A diligence, technology assessment, and enterprise risk strategy, ensuring alignment with corporate objectives during major transitions.
- Built and mentored cross-functional leadership teams across clinical, regulatory, research, and operational domains.
- Developed stakeholder presentations that strengthened organizational credibility in policy and compliance, fostering trust with key external partners.
- Directed research grants and corporate innovation programs aligning clinical science with regulatory and operational frameworks.

Chief Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery

07/1992 to 02/2013

Adult, Pediatric & Transplant Programs

Various Medical Centers

- Led award-winning cardiovascular and thoracic surgical programs recognized for innovation, growth, and quality excellence.
- Initiated and expanded pediatric cardiac surgery and adult cardiac transplantation programs, enhancing patient care and surgical outcomes.
- Conducted NIH-affiliated bench and clinical research in transplantation and cardiovascular medicine.
- Served as faculty mentor developing high-performance surgical and research teams.
- Developed regulatory-compliant, evidence-based clinical protocols that prioritized patient safety and operational excellence.
- Contributed to advisory committees that shaped institutional clinical policy frameworks, influencing best practices and standards of care.

Senior Consultant

01/2006 to 06/2012

Life Wings Partners, LLC

Memphis, TN

Delivered aviation-based high-reliability models enhancing safety protocols in healthcare and complex operational organizations.

- Applied aviation safety practices to healthcare systems nationally.
- Integrated human factors engineering and system redesign frameworks, resulting in improved safety measures and operational performance.
- Led executive leadership development engagements, fostering structured communication and accountability among senior leaders.
- Personally delivered inaugural Patient Safety Symposia for the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

MBA: Business Administration	Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
Doctor of Medicine	New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY
Bachelor of Arts: Mathematics & Biology	Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSES

- FAA Designated Senior Aviation Medical Examiner
 - Commercial Pilot – Instrument Aircraft Single & Multi-Engine Land, Single Engine Sea
 - Certified Flight Instructor (CFI)
 - Medical License multiple states
 - Diplomate, American Board of Thoracic Surgery
 - Diplomate, American Board of Surgery
 - Agile ScrumMaster & Product Owner
 - Lean Six Sigma Green Belt
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PROFESSIONAL AVIATION MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) – Member #01378757 since July 1998
 - Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) - Aeromedical Council; International Aerobatic Club (IAC)
 - Fellow, Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) - Member-at-Large, Board of Directors; Vice Chair, Aerospace Safety Committee; Vice Chair, ad hoc Safety Committee re Military Aviation Safety; Vice Chair, Science & Technology Committee; Aerospace Human Performance Committee; Aerospace Human Factors Association; Space Surgery Association; Mentor, Aerospace Medical Student and Resident Organization (AMSRO)
 - Fellow, Civil Aviation Medical Association (CAMA) - Trustee Executive Board; Space Medicine Committee
 - Fellow Member, International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS)
 - International Aerospace Neurology Consortium
 - National Championship Air Races (NCAR) - Aerospace Medicine & Preparedness Consultant; Subject Matter Expert for "G-LOC"; Judge, Contest Committee
 - Board, Pilot Medical Solutions, Inc. - LeftSeat.com
 - Affiliate, Aviation Medical Advisory Service (AMAS)
 - Orbital Reef (Replacement Space Station) Industry R&D Advisory Council
 - National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI)
 - Red Star Pilots Association
 - Minnesota Pilots Association
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AWARDS & HONORS

2023 Audie and Bernice Davis Award – recognizes outstanding Aviation Medical Examiners