Casey Pruett

Casey Pruett earned his Bachelor of Science degree (Magna Cum Laude) in Kinesiology at Kansas State University in 1992. He focused on motor control topics, assisting Dr. Charles Layne with his projects investigating the effects of exposure to microgravity on postural control in astronauts. After graduation, Mr. Pruett began working as a research scientist in the Neurosciences Laboratory at the NASA Johnson Space Center for Wyle (formerly Krug Life Sciences) investigating the effect of exposure to microgravity on postural control and locomotion in astronauts. He was part of a team that conducted in-flight experiments on the MIR Space Station and several Space Shuttle flights, as well as pre- and post-flight experiments immediately after landing. During this time Mr. Pruett also earned his Master of Science degree in Exercise Science from the University of Houston in 1997. His thesis was titled, “The Effect of Target Distance on Neuromuscular Activation Patters During Treadmill Locomotion”. He earned his MBA degree from University of Houston – Clear Lake in December 2011.

In 1997, Mr. Pruett began working for Human Solutions (formerly TecMath) supplying ergonomic human modeling software for seated workspace designs to the automotive industry and 3-D full body laser scanners for apparel and research industries. He eventually became the General Manager in charge of the North American operations for this German-based company. He led a research project to develop an improved seated-posture prediction model and coordinated anthropometric research projects to develop new human anthropometry databases.

In 2002, Mr. Pruett returned to Wyle and began duties as the Managing Director for their business operations in Cologne, Germany. Mr. Pruett runs an office that provides medical support services to the European Astronaut Center. This office employees engineers, nurses, scientists, information technology and fitness experts, and consultants to optimize the health of European astronauts before a mission, support them during a mission, and help return them to optimal health after a mission. This office supports European life sciences research in microgravity analogues (e.g. Bed Rest Studies), developing aerospace medicine curricula in Europe, and countermeasure projects to help combat the deleterious effects of long term exposure to microgravity on human systems. Mr. Pruett was the deputy project manager for all medical and psychological elements of the recent ESA Astronaut Selection campaign.

He has participated in the support to the SMA luncheon for the past 10 years doing a variety of tasks to make the SMA meeting a success. He served as the SMA Executive Secretary for the period 2010 - 2012. He is currently serving as a Member-at-Large for the SMA Executive Committee (2012 – 2018).