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SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

Priorities of the Education Committee

Introduction

The Education Committee of the Space Medicine Branch of AsMA was established to identify and develop priorities for space medicine education and training. The first step involved identification of mission priorities for the Committee. The Committee consists of a cross-disciplinary representation of the aerospace medicine community, i.e., aerospace medicine practitioners, researchers and educators, and aerospace physiologists. Backgrounds represented include civilian and military, with NASA, U.S. Air Force, and university/medical school affiliations. Committee members work on a strictly volunteer basis.

Findings/Recommendations

A consensus of members indicated a need to establish a process for tracking trends in space medicine research activities and changing educational demands, and accepting ownership of such a process. Additionally, the need for development of a network/database for dissemination of new, potentially beneficial training opportunities linked to established Points of Contact (POC's) in the field was identified. This system would provide several services: 1) enhanced communication and facilitation of new/existing opportunities to educators, and students; 2) education of those seeking additional information about the field (i.e., college students, medical students, physiologists); and 3) promotion of synergistic exchange of educational solutions across the aerospace medicine discipline, thus supporting a self-sustaining, unified environment for good scientific research.

The committee placed a strong emphasis on the education and familiarization of young students, as a means of sustaining the field and motivating qualified applicants.

Proposed Activities

In an attempt to respond to identified tasks for the Education Committee, the following tentative milestones have been proposed. Input from the Space Medicine Branch membership is encouraged. POC is Dr. Annie Sobel @ (505) 844-2057 (FAX) or alsobel@sandia.gov (E-mail). Input by 15 April, 1995 would be appreciated.

German Space Medicine Branch Activities

by Claudia Stern

The first founder meeting of the working group of space medicine within the German Society of Aviation and Space Medicine took place in March 1994. The working group has about 35 members; all of them have several years experience in space medicine. The elected chair is Prof. R. Gerzer, who is also the head of the Institute of Aviation Medicine of the DLR; the Executive Officer is Prof. Draeger, who is also the President of the German Society of Aviation and Space Medicine. The working group meets at least twice a year. Its first objective is the improvement of the cooperation between ESA representatives and scientists. Furthermore, it was founded to help German scientists with the procedure in scientific proposals for future space missions. The most important future aims of the working group are working on a new German Space Mission and producing a European Journal of Space Medicine.

Note: A few days ago, the German astronaut Ulf Merbold finished his third space mission. He stayed on the space station MIR for 30 days on behalf of the ESA and performed many life science experiments.

SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH "Young Investigator" Competition

The Space Medicine Branch is requiring this year that all candidates for the Space Medicine Branch "Young Investigator Award" submit a draft manuscript of their presentation. To be eligible, the authors must be making their first presentation.

The manuscript must be submitted by March 31, 1995, to: K. Jeffrey Myers, M.D.
 Mail Code: BIO-6
 Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

AEROSPACE MEDICINE SELF-ASSESSMENT PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

From 1982-1985, a Self-Assessment Program was published in each issue of *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*. It consisted of multiple-choice questions (including answers, narrative explanations, and references) covering every area of aerospace medicine. The Education and Training Committee recently reviewed and edited the 155-page program. This new self-assessment set of questions is useful not only as a general review for those engaged in any aspect of aerospace medicine, but particularly for students and residents in training and for preparation for the Aerospace Medicine Board Examination (and USAF Flight Surgeons preparing for the Senior Flight Surgeon's exam).

If you would like to purchase the 155-page self-assessment program, please send your request, including \$15.00 to cover postage and handling, to:

Ms. Pamela C. Day
 Aerospace Medical Association
 320 S. Henry Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314-3579

AsMA FUTURE MEETINGS

May 7-11, 1995
 Disneyland Hotel
 Anaheim, CA

May 5-9, 1996
 Atlanta Hilton & Towers
 Atlanta, GA

May 11-15, 1997
 Hyatt Regency Chicago
 Chicago, IL

*Action Item	Completion Date	Responsible Party
Established aerospace subject matrix/database format	30 June 95	education committee members
Explore POC's (individuals, facilitates, etc.) for each major subject area	31 Dec 95	education committee members
Establish focal points for: R & D, Clinical Rotations; reinforce subject area POC's	31 Mar 96	education committee members
Disseminate tentative education matrix with POC's to Space Medicine Branch members	May 96	education committee chair
Endorsement of finalized matrix plan and dissemination to general AsMA membership via Journal	31 July 96	Space Medicine Branch President; education committee chair

* This schedule is intended to represent a rough framework for actions to be taken. The hope is that the Education Committee of the Space Medicine Branch will initiate a mechanism by which the education of future practitioners will be enhanced, and the field, as a whole, will be strengthened.