

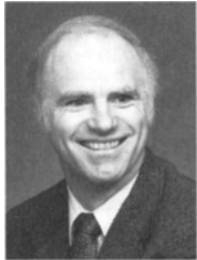
SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

Send information for publication on this page to: **Philip J. Scarpa, M.D., M.S.**
Biomedical Dept., JJ-C
NASA-Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899
(321) 867-6386
philip.scarpa-1@ksc.nasa.gov

Presidents Comments--Spring 2000

The Space Medicine Branch is in a stable configuration. Membership remains relatively constant, as does the financial ledger. This is comforting news as the end of another year draws near.

As the year ends, thoughts of the annual Branch meeting and the luncheon spring to mind. However, in addition to these well-recognized events, I would like to remind you that the Branch has an overall presence throughout the AsMA scientific session presentations. Admittedly, some Branch members are also members of other AsMA Constituent organizations; this does



not detract from the fact that their involvement in various presentations or endeavors is also done as Branch members. The prevalence of Branch activity is underscored by the large number of scientific sessions the Branch is endorsing this year. The endorsement is based on the subject and/or Branch member contribution to the presentation. These events were enumerated for you in a recent Branch news page in this Journal.

Looking forward to the Houston meeting we have taken to heart the AsMA president's philosophy for his year of "new horizons". This revolves around the fact that NASA is no longer the only agency responsible for setting medical standards for humans exposed to orbital or sub-orbital flights. This represents a new dimension in "space medicine" and

members of the Branch are actively involved in this development. It is also reasonable to expect more Branch members will participate in this area as this sector of space activity grows. To highlight this new horizon, our luncheon speaker, in Houston, will address the issue and I anticipate some interesting speculation on what the future will bring in this realm.

The Young Investigators Award committee, led by Lloyd Tripp, is busily contacting the eligible presenters scheduled for this year's scientific sessions. The Committee will review the papers in preparation for hearing the presentations as a comprehensive selection process for the eventual finalist. The team is very dedicated and the process has become very exacting as the Branch has matured. The members of this committee deserve a tremendous amount of credit, appreciation and thanks for all their hard work.

An Ad Hoc committee of the Executive Group has reviewed the Branch Constitution and By-Laws. Changes will be discussed at the Branch business meeting and recommendation for any necessary improvements will be handed off to the next Executive Group.

Art Arnold, MD, as a Branch member-at-large, was asked to create a database detailing the flight surgeons involved with all of the U.S. manned space launches. He has been working enthusiastically on this project. When it is completed the Branch will make it available.

The 13th "Humans in Space" conference follows the AsMA meeting and is being hosted this year in Santorini, Greece. Much of the motivation behind this meeting site and

its organization belongs to our Branch member from Greece, Chrysoula Kourtidou-Papadeli, MD. Dr. Papadeli is also the Chair of the Branch's International Activities Committee.

It has been an honor to be the Branch President for the past year. The honor is especially notable as the Houston meeting represents the 50th Anniversary of the Space Medicine Branch being granted Constituent organization status of the Aerospace Medical Association. The evolution of manned space endeavors and the contributions, over this time, by Branch members, to the safety of humans in the space environment give the Branch a rich history. Thus, the Branch has matured and perhaps has come of age in this period of the "new horizons" and I feel privileged to have been a part of the process. I thank you, the membership, for your loyalty and support. I owe the Officers, members-at-large and the Committees a large debt of gratitude for their dedicated efforts. Two individuals that must be recognized are Col. Jim Collier and Dr. Phil Scarpa. Dr. Collier has done an excellent job as secretary/treasurer and I expect to see continued significant contributions from him in the future. Dr. Scarpa, has expended a tremendous effort in keeping the Branch focused and visible. He has been responsible for the Branch web page and has worked hard to ensure the Branch has had a constant presence in the Journal over the past several years. Phil will be a good President and I ask that you give him your full support.

Again, thank you for your support over the past year; let's have an outstanding meeting in Houston.

Robin Dodge, M.D.
1999-2000 President

From the AsMA Gift Shop

Publications

Decompression Illness Workshop \$50
Consists of 27 presentations on pathophysiology, treatment principles, and treatment alternatives.

Hypobaric Decompression Sickness \$40
The first significant document concerning hypobaric decompression sickness in over 25 years.

Raising the Operational Ceiling \$35
A workshop on the life support and physiological issues on flight at 60,000 feet and above.

Medical Guidelines for Air Travel \$18
Up-to-date guidelines concerning specific medical conditions.

Clothing

Baseball Cap \$10
This 100% cotton cap is one size fits all with velcro closure. It's available in navy with the AsMA winged logo embroidered in white.

Shirts \$20
These 100% cotton shirts in Polo and Henly styles have the AsMA logo embroidered on the left breast. They come in white with a navy blue logo, and navy or black with white logo. Available in L and XL.

Tie \$20
The AsMA tie is navy blue polysilk and has *Aerospace Medical Association* printed as a gold stripe diagonally across the front.

To order any of these items, write to the Aerospace Medical Association, 320 S. Henry Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314-3579; or fax (703) 739-9652.