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SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

A Message from the President:

SMB: Looking back, looking forward to the year ahead

During the last year, under the leadership of Dr. Jeff Davis, the Space Medicine Branch (SMB) made several beneficial changes. One of the most visible changes has been the SMB Report that has tapped various individuals to pass on items of interest to the Aerospace Medical Association membership. The branch has also encouraged young investigators by inviting all of them to the SMB luncheon in Cincinnati, in addition to giving the Young Investigator Award. I would like to thank the corporate sponsors of the Young Investigator Award, Kelsey-Seybold and Krug Life Sciences.

Dr. Davis has also helped to see that the participation from the membership has been increased through an involvement of various SMB committees. The education committee is working to develop a proposed core curriculum for space medicine education, and the policy committee has reviewed several items, including the possibility of establishing a space medicine fellowship. The mem-

bership committee has current plans to increase awareness of the SMB through a limited recruitment campaign.

The coming year appears to be exciting for both the SMB and the U.S. Space Program. After a decade of anticipation, the first dedicated Life Sciences spacelab will fly in May/June of this year. The Extended Duration Orbiter medical program is beginning in earnest and should provide great insight into microgravity physiology and countermeasure development. Two international spacelabs, SL-J (Japan) and D2 (Germany) are quickly moving closer to launch, and the international microgravity flight (IML-1) occurs early next year.

The design of Space Station Freedom now includes early man-tended capability and will serve as a test-bed for extended human space flight. Extended-duration human space flight will challenge all of us for many years to come.

It is my hope that the excellent work initi-

ated in the SMB by Dr. Davis can be continued in the coming year. We are both encouraged that the new officer nominees reflect the international nature of space exploration. I particularly seek varying opinions for this SMB Report, and encourage those interested to submit brief articles.

Even though manned space flight is 30 years old, there remains much for us to accomplish. The basic questions regarding the requirement for artificial gravity for long-duration space flight and potential for extending space flight with the Space Shuttle remain to be answered. We must also be prepared to make the transition from caring for healthy crews in weightlessness to providing medical care and MEDEVAC for ill or injured crewmembers. It is my hope that in the year ahead, our organization can be visible in pressing for additional Life Sciences emphasis in all space programs.