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SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

Space Medicine Branch Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The annual Space Medicine Branch (SMB) Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting and the 50th Annual Business Luncheon were held during the 72nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Aerospace Medicinal Association (AsMA) on Thursday, May 10, 2001, at the John Ascuaga Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada, May 10, 2001. The first activity of the meeting was to pose for photos to archive the historic meeting. Philip J. Scarpa, M.D., Branch President for the 2000-2001 term, was presented the gavel by the gavel custodian and called the meeting to order. He honored the past presidents in attendance, introduced the members at the head table (see photo, below), and held a moment of silence for deceased members.



SMB PRESIDENT—Philip Scarpa, SMB President, gives his address at the SMB 50th Anniversary Meeting, May 10, 2001, in Reno, NV.

To help recognize this 50th annual meeting for the Branch, Dr. Scarpa called upon Dr. Glenn Mitchell, President of AsMA, to receive a Declaration of Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the SMB. The Declaration will be permanently displayed at AsMA Headquarters, in Alexandria, VA.

Dr. Antuñano, Vice-President, reported on the nomination process and the creation of this year's ballot. He collected the nominees and prepared the ballot. There were 297 ballots mailed out for this year's election of which 90 were returned. The Secretary/Treasurer, Lloyd Tripp, actually mailed, collected, and tallied the ballots. The results of the election were: Vice President: Chiharu Sekiguchi, M.D. (Pres, 2002-2003); Members-at-Large: Joseph Dervay, M.D. (2001-2004) and Dwight Holland, M.D., Ph.D. (2001-2004). Dr. Sekiguchi has been serving as a Member-at-Large with a term to end in 2003. In order to serve as Vice President, he will vacate his Member-at-Large position. This position will be filled by Patrick McGinnis, M.D., who was next in line in the voting count for Member-at-Large.

Mr. Lloyd Tripp, Secretary/Treasurer, reported that the SMB has 297 members of which 180 are current paid members, 27% are international members. Our account balance was \$3,133.94 before the AsMA meeting. On behalf of the Branch, Mr. Tripp wished to thank contributions received from Comprehensive Health Services, Inc., Wyle Laboratories, Inc., the Greek Aerospace Medical Association, Dr. Wyck Hoffer, and Dr. Phil Scarpa.

Mr. Tripp also mentioned that for the 50th Anniversary, the Branch has produced the standard SMB patch and a commemorative patch for sale. The Secretary/Treasurer also participated in the several activities with the President and the History Committee related

to commemorating the 50th anniversary, such as collecting archives and producing a banner.

Dr. Wyck Hoffer, Branch Historian, emphasized the importance of this year and this meeting. With regard to this, the Historian and History Committee were very active this year in identifying and collecting our archives, visiting our archive sites at Wright State University and at AsMA Headquarters, and producing an appeal letter to former Branch officers. The Historian also pointed out the one-page flyer distributed at the meeting which contains historical facts about the SMB, where to view the archives, and how to contribute to them.

Dr. Phil Scarpa thanked all the Officers and members of the Branch for their great work throughout the year and remarked that it had been a privilege and honor to serve as your president. He mentioned the many tasks accomplished this year in reflecting on our past, and improving on our future. He reported that the updated Constitution and By-Laws was overwhelmingly passed by the membership which will allow for greater flexibility and better representation of how we operate. He noted that this year marks a half century of the Space Medicine Branch. Conceived in 1950 and sanctioned as a constituent organization of AsMA in 1951, the Branch history is truly one to honor and learn from. He particularly thanked the History committee for all their work related to this anniversary year. Dr. Scarpa also mentioned the expansion of our web site and our expanding international activities.

The Branch's activities at the current meeting included sponsoring two slide sessions and co-sponsoring a third, presenting the Strughold Award and Young Investigator Award. Dr. Scarpa pointed out several other important space anniversaries, in addition to

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SMB HEAD TABLE—(Left to right) Phil Scarpa, M.D.; President, Melchor Antuñano, M.D., Vice-President; Smith Johnston, M.D., co-Chair of the Awards Committee for the Strughold Award; K. Jeffrey Myers, M.D. co-Chair of the Awards Committee for the Young Investigator Award; G. Wyckliffe Hoffer, M.D., Historian and Custodian of the Gavel; and Lloyd Tripp, B.A., Secretary-Treasurer.



PAST PRESIDENTS—Those Presidents of the Space Medicine Branch who were present at the 50th anniversary meeting posed together for a photo (left to right): Melchor J. Antuñano, Philip J. Scarpa, James M. Vanderploeg, Frank H. Austin, Stanley C. White, Charles A. Berry, Denise L. Baisden, K. Jeffrey Myers, Mary Anne Frey, Robin E. Dodge, Richard T. Jennings, Jeffrey R. Davis, and G. Wyckliffe Hoffer.



HUBERTUS STRUGHOLD AWARD--Dr. John B. Charles, SMB Guest speaker and Hubertus Strughold Award Winner, present his lecture on "Medical Aspects of a Mission to Mars", May 10, 2001, in Reno, NV.

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the Branch's, and emphasized that despite the many years of space exploration, there have been few significant problems that we weren't able to solve. This year in space was also noteworthy for the installation of the science lab on the space station, tourism in space, landing on an asteroid, continuing exploration of Jupiter, launching of the Mars Odyssey, and several advances in astrobiology, which seeks to answer the age old question, "Are we alone in this vast universe?" He reflected on the changes seen in the last century and the promises for the next one, and encouraged us to not discount the possibilities or else they might never happen, recalling that "every great human activity begins as a dream."

Dr. Jeff Myers, co-Chair of the Awards Committee for the Young Investigator Award, reported that there were 149 candidates for this year's Young Investigator Award and 16 finalists. It was emphasized during the Executive Committee meeting that while other groups present awards to young investigators, the SMB is the only



DECLARATION OF RECOGNITION—Dr. Phil Scarpa (right), President of the Space Medicine Branch presents Dr. Glenn Mitchell (left), President of the Aerospace Medical Association, with this Declaration of Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Space Medicine Branch as a Constituent Organization of AsMA. The Declaration will hang in the AsMA home office.

AsMA group available to emphasize and foster young investigators in the field of space medicine. After interviewing and evaluating finalists at the AsMA meeting, the award was decided by vote of the award committee members. The runner-up was Robert Haddon, M.D. from Wright State University, Dayton, OH, and the recipient of the award was Andrew Kirkpatrick, M.D. from Vancouver, Canada, for his paper entitled "Percutaneous Aspiration of Intra-Peritoneal Fluid in Weightlessness: A Potential Component for the Management of Secondary Peritonitis in Deep Space." Dr. Kirkpatrick was presented with the Young Investigator's Award plaque along with an honorarium of \$200.

Dr. Smith Johnston, co-Chair of the Awards Committee for the Strughold Award, gave his report on the Strughold Award and the selection process. He mentioned that the Hubertus Strughold Award is presented by the Branch each year to that person in the field of Space Medicine for dedication and outstanding contributions in advancing the frontiers of Space Medicine and/or for sustained contributions to furthering the goals of the Space Medicine Branch. The Strughold Award was then presented to John B. Charles, Ph.D. of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Charles has performed research into the cardiovascular effects of spaceflight and was the principal investigator on several experiments that flew



PAST PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE—Dr. Melchor Antuñano (left) presents Dr. Phil Scarpa with the SMB Past President's Plaque.

on Space Shuttle flights and on the Russian space station Mir. He has published over 45 scientific articles, contributed to 7 book chapters, and has given over 50 formal scientific presentations. He has received a variety of scientific awards including NASA's Exceptional Service Medal and was a former receipt of the Space Medicine Branch's Young Investigator Award in 1985. Dr. Charles also served the SMB as Secretary/Treasurer from 1988-1990.

Dr. Scarpa then introduced Dr. Charles as the guest speaker. He presented a very interesting and exciting lecture entitled: "The Biomedical Aspects of Early Interplanetary Expeditions". Dr. Charles summarized the current biomedical issues of an interplanetary mission pointing out the questions that would need to be answered for a trip such as to Mars—answers that are within our reach.

Following the guest speaker, Dr. Scarpa passed the gavel to Dr. Melchor Antuñano who was installed as the new Branch President. Dr. Antuñano presented the Past President's Plaque to Dr. Scarpa, and thanked him for his great service and energetic work for the Branch over the last year. Dr. Antuñano closed the meeting by mentioning some exciting upcoming issues for this year, including those of commercial spaceflight, and said he looked forward to serving as your President.

Lloyd Tripp, B.A.
Secretary-Treasurer
Philip J. Scarpa, M.D.
Former President (2000-01)



REGISTRATION—Members registering at the SMB Meeting in Reno were able to buy patches commemorating the 50th Anniversary and admire the poster and banner designed for the event.



50th ANNIVERSARY—Board members and others gather to celebrate the Space Medicine Branch 50th Anniversary during the AsMA Annual Meeting in Reno, NV, May 10, 2001.