

SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

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President's Message

Detroit is behind us and as I begin this year of work on behalf of the Branch, I have to acknowledge you, the Branch membership. Your loyalty to the Branch and continued support of its activities is our backbone and is what keeps the Branch moving forward as a thriving entity. I am honored to be your President and your support is appreciated. It is the entire executive team, however, working together, that ensures the Branch's vitality.

My plan for the year is to continue in the direction the Branch has been moving for the past few years. We will focus on its strengths and begin to build on one or two other areas. The executive and committee structure will be basically the same as last year except for the Long Range Planning Committee which will cease to exist. The planning activity will revert back to an executive committee function.

The annual Branch business breakfast was very productive. Several action items emerged. One main item will be the review of our Constitution and By-laws, with specific emphasis in the area of membership services enhancements. With respect to Branch activities, the areas of education and international activities will continue to grow. Dr. Sobel (education committee chair) and Dr. Papadeli (international committee chair) have been asked to continue their respective initiatives. They are also to explore avenues that will foster areas of mutual interest. One possibility, in particular, is ways to use the "web" to serve their common functions, such as international outreach/mentoring with respect to educational opportunities relevant to space medicine.

Branch representation in the annual scientific session offerings continues to be strong. Examples of this were demonstrated by panels sponsored by the Branch alone or jointly

with other constituent groups such as the Aerospace Human Factors Association. Look for Branch sponsorship of panels/talks at next year's meeting in Houston as well.

The recognition of young investigators continues to be a major role of the Branch. This specific Branch activity, although not new, has grown into a large undertaking involving many Branch members. The pool of candidates for the award seems to be growing and the Branch's recognition of these individuals helps to highlight the depth of their ingenuity. Some of these talented young investigators will be the future leaders of our Branch and in the field of aerospace medicine. The committee responsible for this award is doing an excellent job.

Over the past year a few more written pieces of history relevant to the Branch were located. However, I urge you (not just Branch members, but anyone who reads this) to contact our Historian, Dr. Hoffer (e-mail: HYPERLINKmailto:wyckliffe.hoffler-1@ksc.nasa.gov), with any information you may have regarding Space Medicine Branch activities since its inception (copies acceptable).

As we listen to the news and documentary programs discussing the 30th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon, it is hard to believe that some people would like to see man's foray into space as a short lived event on the time continuum. Even so, the International Space Station (ISS) became a reality last year and keeps the door open to the ever present challenges of providing continuing health care to a permanently manned presence in space. Many current Branch members and definitely future members will be involved with this care, problem solving and planning for changes in ISS. There is also more open vocalization of the need for future manned space missions including a return to the Moon, and possibly on to Mars. The future does have a role for humans in space and we must be active in our role to support their

health and ensure the medical safety of their space presence.

There is also considerable talk about the commercialization of space travel to include regular passenger-carrying flights. This endeavor brings with it a new set of challenges, both engineering and medical. This is an exciting new avenue of professional development, research and clinical activity where the Branch and its members can contribute.

This is still an exciting time to be involved with space medicine activities. The path ahead is not flat nor wide but steep and narrow and fraught with both known and hidden challenges. I look forward to working with you as the Branch navigates in its orbit through these challenges over the next year.

Robin E. Dodge, M.D.
1999-2000 President

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR'S AWARD

The Space Medicine Branch Awards Committee is accepting applications for its Young Investigator Award for the 2000 year. The award recognizes an investigator who is the first author of an outstanding paper (slide or poster) in the area of aviation and/or space medicine presented at the current AsMA meeting. The applicant must submit a draft manuscript of their presentation. To be eligible, the work must be original and the author must be presenting at the Aerospace Medical Association Annual Scientific Meeting for the first time. The manuscript must be submitted by March 1, 2000 to:

Lloyd Tripp
Space Medicine Branch
Awards Committee Chair
60 South Garland Ave.
Dayton, OH 454032

Nominations Sought for 1999 AsMA Awards

The Awards Committee of the Aerospace Medical Association, which is responsible for selecting the annual winners of special awards, has set a December 15 deadline for receiving nominations for awards to be presented at the 2000 Annual Scientific Meeting in Houston, TX.

The committee chair emphasizes, however, that the names of prospective award winners should be submitted as far in advance of the deadline as possible. Lots of time is needed to review all of the names and select the winners.

Nominations can be made by any member of AsMA.

The nominations must be submitted on forms available from the AsMA Home Office, and printed in the journal.

Nomination form and 14 copies should be mailed to:

Chair, Awards Committee
Aerospace Medical Association
320 South Henry Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3579

Policies:

1. The nominee must be a current member of the Association, except that the Sidney D. Leverett, Jr. Environmental Science Award is open to nonmembers. Deceased members may be nominated.
2. The Chair of the Awards Committee does not vote and is not eligible for an award during his/her tenure.
3. Winners may receive only one award in any year and may receive additional awards only at 7-year intervals, except for the Sidney D. Leverett, Jr. Environmental Science Award.
4. Employees of a company sponsoring an award are eligible to receive the award.
5. Awards involving a published paper will be made only to the senior author.
6. Unsuccessful nominees for an annual award will be retained in the active file through three award cycles.