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SPACE MEDICINE ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Young Investigators Award

K. Jeffrey Myers, M.D.

The Young Investigators Award is a competition intended for those making their first major efforts into Aerospace Medicine Research. To compete for this award, contestants must be making their first presentation of a scientific paper or poster at an AsMA meeting (excluding cases presented at Grand Rounds as a student resident); they must appear as first author on the paper; and they must prepare and submit a manuscript for judging. Finalists compete in a second phase of competition at the AsMA Meeting involving further evaluation of their presentation and interviews. The potential applicability of the findings to Space Medicine and the degree of involvement of the student in the project are major considerations.

The finalists in this year's competition, selected from 197 contestants, are richly talented and diversified. The winner of the 2006 SMA

YIA is Cadet 1st Class Donald T. "Tommy" Aretz. His paper is entitled "The Effects of Tactile and Visual Feedback on UAV Landings." Tommy is majoring in Human Factors at the U.S. Air Force Academy where he is the top ranking Cadet in his class. Human Factors play an ever increasing role in spacecraft and mission design. The challenges of even designing, much less flying an unmanned aerial vehicle on another world are daunting. But it is our job to be forward thinking. An astronaut utilizing a UAV to help plan and prioritize his/ her exploration of a new world would likely benefit from such an adaptation. Cadet Aretz put in many hours on this project, even in addition to the staggering demands the Academy places upon its students. His instructors report that Tommy spent more time in the laboratory than any of the other Cadets. These kinds of efforts have come to characterize the Young Investigators Award.

The first runner up is Capt. Miranda Hancock, from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda MD. Her paper is entitled "The Effects of Changing the Maximum Altitude from 43,000 to 35,000 feet in USAF Altitude Chamber Training." The other finalists include: Wen-Chin Li, a Ph.D. candidate at Cranfield University, United Kingdom, (he is on sabbatical from Taiwan); LT Trina Gates, Naval Aerospace Medicine Institute, Pensacola, FL; Jannemiek Sonneveld, an Optometrist from the Royal Netherlands Air Force; Yoshitaka Sada, Ph.D., Aeromedical Laboratory, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, and Robert Sanders M.D. University of Pittsburg, in collaboration with the National Space Biomedical Research Institute/ NASA Johnson Space Center.

I would like to thank the members of the YIA committee (without whom this competition would not be possible!): Drs John Darwood, Lloyd Tripp, Smith Johnston, Rich McCluskey, Art Arnold, Lu Moreno, and Vernon McDonald.



YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD--Jeffrey Myers (right) presents the YIA to the winner to Dr. Brian Self (left), a Professor from the USAF Academy, who accepted it for the winner, Air Force Cadet Donald T. "Tommy" Aretz.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD--Dwight Holland (President, left) giving an appreciation award to Jeffrey Myers (Chairman of the Young Investigators Award Committee, right) for his long dedication and support to the YIA. .



STRUGHOLD AWARD--Smith Johnston (Past President, right) presents the Hubertus Strughold Award to Jeffrey R. Davis (left).

This year something very special happened with regard to my involvement with the YIA. As you are aware, I have been doing this for a number of years. It is a great reward to watch these Young Investigators grow within our organization as they continue to make contributions to our science. Just this meeting, LCDR Deborah White, PhD, was elected an AsMA Fellow. LCDR White was one of the very first Young Investigators I had the privilege of working with in this competition and I believe the very first from any competition I coordinated to make Fellow. She is certainly a keen example of how Young Investigators become our future! Congratulations to her and to all the Young Investigators making their way in the Aerospace world!

The Hubertus Strughold Award

by Smith L. Johnston III, M.D.

The Hubertus Strughold Award is presented each year to a member of the Space Medicine Branch for dedication and outstanding contributions in advancing the frontiers of Space Medicine; for sustained contributions to furthering the goals of the Space Medicine Branch; and who best exemplifies the ideals of Hubertus Strughold. The recipient of the award is selected by the Awards Committee. Nominations for this Award will be made by the members of the Executive Committee and by former recipients of the Hubertus Strughold Award.

This year's recipient is Jeffrey R. Davis. Dr. Davis was born in Modesto, CA on April 8, 1954. He was received his Bachelor of Science in biology Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in 1976; his Doctor of Medicine from University of California at San Diego in 1980; was a Regents Scholar; completed his Aerospace Residence and Master of Science at Wright State University in 1983; and then received the Julian E. Ward Memorial Award for Superior Performance in an Aerospace Medicine Residency from the Aerospace Medical Association in 1985.

Dr. Davis began his flight surgeon career at NASA - Johnson Space Center, in the Flight Medicine Clinic, 1984-1986. During that time he authored the Most Outstanding Paper by a Young Investigator, Aerospace Medical Association, Space Medicine Branch, 1984; and received NASA Awards for Revising Medical Debriefings for Shuttle Crews, 1986; and for Participation in the Challenger Accident Investigation (51L), 1986 with development of the escape team report.

Jeff was Chief, Flight Medicine Clinic - NASA - Johnson Space Center from 1986-1987; Chief, Medical Operations Branch NASA - Johnson Space Center from November 1987 - July 1991; supervised the Flight Medicine Clinic and Dental Clinic, Shuttle Medical Operations, Hazardous Manned Test Support,

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Occupational Medicine, Environmental and Industrial Medicine, Employee Assistance Program, Space Station Medical Operations and Health Maintenance Facility development, and development of the medical requirements for the Space Exploration Initiative (SEI). He provided comprehensive diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive medical expertise and as an Aerospace Medicine Consultant.

During this time he received: the Exceptional Service Medal, NASA Johnson Space Center, December 1988; Harold B. Ellingson Literary Award, for the best paper by an Associate Fellow, from the AsMA Associate Fellows Group, May, 1989; NASA Group Achievement Awards for STS-26 Return to Flight in 1989, Lunar/Mars Study in 1990, and for his research on the Treatment of Space Motion Sickness in 1991; and Silver Snoopy Award from the Astronaut Office for Outstanding Support to the Space Shuttle Program, July 1991.

From 1991 to 1994 Jeff left NASA and became the Corporate Medical Director for American Airlines, Inc. His responsibilities included: supervision of six Area Medical

Directors, 112 full-time Medical and Employee Assistance Program personnel, and 11 medical clinics; Federal programs for OSHA and DOT/FAA drug testing; and pre-placement exams for pilots, flight attendants, other employees. During this time he received the Louis H. Bauer Founders Award given annually for the most significant contribution in aerospace medicine by the Aerospace Medical Association, May 1992; and in 1994, the C. Everett Koop National Health Award Nomination, for American Airlines Health Promotion Program. In November 1994 he established recovery efforts and AFIP identification for American Eagle crash in Indiana involving 68 passengers.

He entered Academia in February 1995 (through the present) as a Professor, University of Texas Medical Branch. He also served as Director of Preventive Medicine Residency Office; Director, Corporate Health Consortium; Director of Aerospace Medicine Residency from 1997 - 1999; and is a former Director, Preventive, Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Health and Safety Services.

July 1, 2001 he returned to NASA as

Assistant Associate Administrator for Crew Health and Safety. He was responsible for the development of space medicine including requirements, policy, and budget and for advice and recommendations to the Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Operations.

On September 9, 2002, Dr. Davis became the Director, Space Life Sciences, NASA-JSC, with assets of 200 civil servants, 800 contractor personnel and \$240 million in overall funding. He is responsible for science and health care leadership to promote the safety, health and performance of human space exploration. He led us through the Space Shuttle Columbia and hurricane disasters by establishing comprehensive response teams for life sciences, including recovery and investigation teams, critical incident stress, clinical and family support teams, and International Space Station (ISS) re-planning teams.

Dr. Davis is an instrument rated Private Pilot with over 600 hours; over 300 hours T-38 (NASA), Shuttle Training Aircraft, Zero-G Aircraft, and MD-80, and 727 Jump Seat Time.

It gives us great pleasure to award our Branch's Highest Honor to Jeffrey R Davis.

