

Letters to the Editor

Association Presidents Review Their Terms in Office

May 17, 1978

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Year 1949-1950

In 1949, the Executive Council appointed a committee with instructions to prepare complete revisions of the Aero Medical Association's Constitution and By-Laws for consideration by the Association at its annual meeting in 1950. The Committee, composed of Capt. A. A. Corbet, RCAF; CAPT Wilbur E. Kellum, MC; USN; Dr. Thomas H. Sutherland; and COL Arnold D. Tuttle, USA (Ret), met at a hotel in Washington and after 2 days of concentrated effort produced first drafts of the documents. Group Capt. Corbet took these back to Canada and produced admirable final copies. I had been gravely concerned about a recent development which could have had serious weakening effects upon the Association. A group of Airline Medical Examiners, feeling that they were not adequately represented in the Aero Medical Association, decided to form an organization of their own and did so in 1948. Recognizing that other groups with special interests would likely develop in the future and fearing a weakening effect on the parent organization if they formed splinter organizations, I proposed a mechanism by which they could organize within the framework of the Aero Medical Association. The other members of the Committee shared my concern and saw some merit in the suggestion. So the new Constitution, adopted at the 1950 convention, provided for the

- ▶ formation of branches of the Aero Medical Association. Apparently it was an "idea whose time had come," for a new group with very special interests was then in the process of forming. As a result of the foresighted planning of Col. Paul A. Campbell and Dr. John P. Marbarger, this group met during the 21st annual meeting (1950) of the Association and took the first steps toward becoming the Space Medicine Branch of the Aero Medical Association. Today there are a number of branches

organized along geographic or functional lines.

Sincerely,
Wilbur E. Kellum, M.D.
Hacienda Carmel
Carmel, CA 93921

January 9, 1979

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Year 1951-1952

The history of aerospace medicine being prepared in connection with the Association's Golden Anniversary celebration will have more lasting value than any other feature of that occasion. However, that account must, of necessity, confine itself to the sweep of past worldwide events over a period of some two centuries and omit interesting details of our organization's affairs during the 50 years of its existence.

The suggestion that this situation be rectified by publishing a series of vignettes in the Journal is heartily endorsed and forms the basis of this communication. It will review the activities of our society during 1951-1952 when I was its president. My initial effort upon assuming that office was to thoroughly review the Association's affairs during the previous 5-year period in order to become familiar with the recent progress made and to identify any existing problems needing special attention.

As to the former, it was noted that in 1947 the society's name was changed, from The Aero Medical Association of the United States to The Aero Medical Association, in order to reflect the international character of the organization. In 1948, a committee was appointed to seek approval for board certification in aviation medicine for those physicians who could qualify. In 1949, that effort was intensified by the establishment of an interim board with Gen. Otis O. Benson as Chairman.

PAST PRESIDENTS REVIEW THEIR TERMS

August 25, 1978

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Year 1956-1957

I succeeded Dr. Kenneth Dowd as president of the Aero Medical Association. I can recall an episode before that when Dr. Dowd was president elect. The proposed annual meeting of the Association was to be in Canada during Dr. Dowd's presidency. Dr. Dowd felt that the Canada meeting could not be held for various reasons and it was decided to hold the meeting in Chicago. Dr. Dowd felt he should resign as President Elect because of this. We held a small group meeting to dissuade Dr. Dowd from this decision. I do not know who suggested that Dr. Louis Bauer be present but it was a marvelous suggestion. Louis talked to Ken for some time and persuaded him to stay on as President Elect. Those of us that had the privilege of knowing Louis realized what a wonderful speaker, diplomat, and all-around man he was and this episode rightly proved this.

The chief problem of my presidency was the up and coming civilian aviation medical group that was demanding more say in the management of the Association or they would split off from the Aero Medical Association. They had even gone so far as to form a smaller association and set up a meeting including separate commercial exhibits. The Association had two opinions on this. One, that they be ignored and allowed to set up a separate association, and two, that efforts be made to appease them by including a greater number in the governing committees of the Association, recognizing their problems and trying to deal with them, and broadening the subject matter of our Journal. This latter was my opinion and this finally won out. I felt that this group was a progressive, interested group that the Association could not afford to lose. I must say that certain aspects of my joining them rather than fighting them took some time to reach complete accomplishment.

Another problem, and I believe an oft-recurring one, was the Journal of the Association. There was a group who felt that the publishers of the Journal, the Bruce Publishing Co. of St. Paul, were making unreasonable profits from our Journal. They were constantly suggesting either some fly-by-night publisher who would do it for practically nothing, or well-known medical publishers. Investigation revealed that the Bruce Publishing Co. was not making large profits from us and, in fact, at times lost money publishing our Journal. We also discovered many of the proposed publishers had no concept regarding a medical publication and their low bids were not firm bids, but estimates. And finally, the recognized medical publishers would have nothing to do with us except at very high costs. A further problem was the subject matter of the Journal. The scientific group thought it too pedestrian and not oriented to research. The clinical group thought it too scientific and erudite, and not of interest to the practicing physician. I recall the only time when I felt like Abraham Lincoln presiding over a divided land was when I had two letters on my desk. One, was from a friend of mine wishing to take the Civil Avia-

tion Medical Group out of the Association so that they could have a journal that would fit their needs. The other from a well-known scientist suggested that the scientific and research group leave the Association and publish a truly scientific journal.

If there was an accomplishment of the Association during my year in office it was the joining together of the differing opinions and keeping together in one association the many people who are interested in aerospace medicine. A further helpful accomplishment was the recognition of the American Medical Association by the formation of the AMA Aviation Committee and an aviation medical member of the Council of Occupational Health. It also was at my meeting that we had the first sectional meeting of Space Medicine, which Dr. Hubertus Strughold chaired and organized.

Finally, it was an honor and a privilege to be elected a President of our Association and I shall cherish the memory of the office.

Sincerely,
Jan H. Tillisch, M.D.
1069 Plummer Lane
Rochester, MN 55901

December 8, 1978

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Year 1957-1958

It was the Navy's turn, my number came up, and I was gently eased into and out of office as the 27th President of our Association. By nature an activist, I was quickly taught the meaning of "ex officio." Upon retiring as President, a well-meaning friend advised me to fall back into the ranks and eschew all attempts to act as a leader. What my friend did not realize is that the presidency in our Association is designed to confer an honor, not power.

In addition to the responsibilities of the President set forth in our Constitution and By-Laws, the main events that I recall (the Navy abhors old files like nature does a vacuum) include the following: 1) arranging with a former President, Dr. Tamisiea, for the affiliation of CAMA; 2) chairing a meeting of the Executive Committee at Pensacola; 3) visiting our headquarters at Marion, Oh, where our Business Manager, Dr. Sutherland, had his office (total costs about \$4,000 yearly); 4) obtaining permission to offer student membership at approximately the cost of our Journal; and 5) initiating a hand-written letter of invitation to prospective new members. To accomplish the letter-writing, I volunteered my wife's services, and this effort resulted in an upturn in our previously declining membership. This was before the President's Page, T. G., was invented.

When I was President, a main responsibility was in connection with the annual meeting, which that year was held at the Washington Hilton. I was fortunate to have Hermann J. Schaefer in charge of the scientific program; his expenses (\$1.46 for post cards) drew a high dB applause. Dr. Norman Barr was in charge of all other arrangements. The USSR had just succeeded in launching

PAST PRESIDENTS REVIEW THEIR TERMS

Sputnik II with a dog as passenger and, on behalf of our Association, an official invitation to participate in our meeting was extended to the Russian Ambassador in Washington for transmittal to Moscow. This proved to be too much to accomplish in the short time available.

Our Association not only has survived 50 years but, also, has grown much stronger: in nature, we attribute survival to the ability to adjust to changing conditions; but too great a specialization also poses a risk when conditions suddenly change. I believe we are coping with this dilemma by making "conservatism" the watchword of our Association but "liberalism," i.e. to change with the times, the hallmark of our Journal.

Conservatism is reflected in the election of our Presidents and the membership of the Executive Council. Approximately half of our Council comprises members who have been or will become President. All of our Presidents have been male Doctors of Medicine. The first 11 Presidents were civilians. The next 27 comprised 15 from the Navy and Air Force and 12 civilians. Among the civilians was Kenneth Dowd of Canada, the first from outside the United States ever elected to the Presidency. Bringing in Dr. Dowd may have been inspired by a lingering desire to have Canada rejoin our union, which would at once solve their problem in divisiveness and our need for oil.

The last nine ran true to form with two important exceptions. The Army, thwarted early on by having to give up their aircraft, turned that misfortune to good account by introducing missileery. They were thwarted a second time by having to give up missiles to NASA but again they proved that necessity is the mother of invention by coming up with helicopters which could outperform many aircraft. Anyhow, in 1972, they made the Club in the shape of Spurgeon H. Neel. NASA has also been represented in the person of Chuck Berry, who became President in 1969.

Now take a look at our Journal. What was the *Journal of Aviation Medicine* became the *Aerospace Medicine* and is now *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*. When the last word, "Medicine," is dropped for a term with broader meaning which more accurately reflects the contents of our Journal today, conservatism will have gone out the window.

I now draw your attention to the six words of Article XII of our Constitution, "The Association shall have perpetual existence," which provides an opportunity to mention again a matter with which I have been concerned for some time. If our members take Article XII literally (synonyms for perpetual are everlasting and eternal), then we must devote thought and energy toward ensuring survival on Earth as long as possible and when it becomes uninhabitable, to find another "home." The overwhelming urge to do "something" is the fact that we are the only creatures on Earth (or elsewhere in the cosmos insofar as we are aware) that have an appreciation of the wonders of our Earth and solar system. I will assume that neither warfare nor pollution will lead to the eventualities just mentioned for the reason that even if we are half-devil as well as half-god, our instinct is to survive. Indeed, children should be taught the wonders of the cosmos and the fragility of our planet at an

early age. After reading the introduction to "The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" by the President of the University of Notre Dame, we can conclude that enlightened theologians no longer regard the Earth as the center of the Universe.

In the early part of this century, a popular idea that brought satisfaction to many was that life on Earth has its origin on Mars. Today's counterpart is the Big Bang theory that may account for our solar system as one among billions. Even assuming an infinite number of planets over infinite time, a habitable planet on which creatures such as ourselves might evolve has a finite life. Hence, added to what might be light years in terms of speed of communication, the likelihood of contacting "intelligent life" is vanishingly small.

The more we learn about the cosmos the greater the need for philosophers. This need coincides with a time when our universities are abolishing the appointment of philosophers even though endowed chairs of philosophy remain. If it is no longer *de rigueur* to speculate on the ultimate origin of matter, we still need philosophers to help explain human behavior, especially some of the actions of nations.

The preservation in perpetuity of our germinal code poses at once a problem and a purpose for mankind. For the near-term, it means that we must not compromise habitability on Earth before the elementary laws of physics dictate otherwise. The most likely natural course that could destroy mankind would be the impact caused by a meteor. Surely we could cope with such a prospect.

The core idea for the far-term is to send forth colonies, each self-sufficient for periods measured in generations. This would require unlimited energy and a global effort that beggars description. It would be regarded as impossible were it not for the alternative that is equally "impossible" for mankind to accept. Moreover, this goal offers a challenge of surpassing importance which could provide a unifying purpose for mankind.

Let me conclude with the fact that our Association, with its worldwide membership, is engaged in activities vital to man's well-being, and our Journal is unchallenged in making and broadcasting news of these activities.

Sincerely,
Ashton Graybiel, M. D.
P. O. Box 4063
Bayshore
Warrington, FL 32507

November 27, 1978

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Year 1958-1959

In response to your request on activities during my tenure as president of the Association, I submit the following:

Name Change: The Aero Medical Association became the Aerospace Medical Association, with appropriate unveiling of the banner depicting this at the annual meeting.

Journal Name Change: Similarly, at the institution

The Space Medicine Branch of the Aerospace Medical Association

HARALD J. VON BECKH

Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974

THE SPECTACULAR ADVANCES in rocketry during the 1940's stimulated an increasing number of aeromedical investigators to become interested in the biological and medical aspects of space flight. The great majority of the scientific community, however, remained skeptical whether space travel would be possible at all.

Showing great foresight, scientific know-how, and not a small amount of courage for those times, Maj. Gen. H. G. Armstrong organized a Panel Meeting on the topic of "Aeromedical Problems of Space Travel" in November of 1948. The presentations at the meeting, held at the USAF School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Tx, were made by Gen. Armstrong, Prof. Hubertus Strughold, who already then was regarded as the "Father" of space medicine, and the astrophysicist, Dr. Heinz Haber. Gen. Armstrong showed the same foresight 1 year later when he established a Department of Space Medicine at the School.

At the 20th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Aero Medical Association, held in New York in 1949, two papers were presented that pertained to space flight. The word "space," however, did not appear in the titles because, at that time, "space" was relegated to science fiction writers, and its use would not have been compatible with the serene and dignified atmosphere of the scientific sessions. Thus, the authors, Gen. Armstrong and Dr. Paul A. Campbell, respectively, spoke about "Some Aviation Medical Problems Associated with Potential Rocket Flight," and "Cybernetics and Aviation Medicine."

The discrimination against "space" very likely existed in most countries. As an interesting parallel, I would like to recount a situation that occurred at the same time in Buenos Aires. The Aeromedical Institute of the Argentine Air Force was conducting airborne studies on the effects of weightlessness, producing brief periods of weightlessness by vertical diving flights in an open cockpit aerobatic biplane (FW 44). The duration of weightlessness was severely restricted by the limited maximal allowable diving speed of the aircraft and by the altitude necessary to recover from the dive at a sufficiently high altitude over the airfield. As the experiments involved some risk, the responsible safety officers took a grim look at these studies, and threatened to ground the aircraft and the investigator several times. To obtain weightlessness of longer duration, it was necessary to fly parabolic (Keplerian) trajectories, and this could be accomplished only with a more powerful aircraft. In the formal request to Headquarters, Argentine Air Force, for the assignment of such an aircraft, the official justifi-

cation also avoided the mention of "space" flight; rather, it emphasized that periods of weightlessness can occur in some air combat maneuvers. The justification reads:

"... combination of diving flights and pull outs into parabolas do occur when fighter aircraft make—for instance—gunnery runs on bombers. The attacking plane penetrates the fighter escort by high-speed diving from a superior altitude, makes its pass at the bomber from below as he pulls out, then evades the bomber's tail guns by another dive. If this parabolic flight path by accident approximates a Keplerian trajectory, the pilot would experience short periods of weightlessness. Thus, it is desirable to investigate whether these periods of weightlessness affect the pilot's neuromuscular coordination and/or orientation, as has been predicted by several authors."

This diplomatic formulation very likely eased the favorable decision of the official at Headquarters, although he may have suspected the real purpose of the flights. The assigned aircraft (Fiat G 56) was deployed with a Fighter Wing at Mendoza, near the Andes Mountains, about 600 miles from Buenos Aires. Only 1 week after the request had been submitted, this aircraft was ordered to El Palomar Air Base in Buenos Aires. The Aeromedical Institute was notified of the favorable decision when the aircraft had already taken off from Mendoza, so that the investigator had to prepare the protocol and the airborne zero-G instrumentation very hastily.

This rapid assignment of a research aircraft was unprecedented and, for quite a while, was the topic of discussions in the aeronautical circles of Buenos Aires. Jokingly, it was stated that this victory over bureaucratic inertia was only possible because the project was "weightless."

Meanwhile, in the United States, the conception of a space medicine organization emerged as a result of a significant meeting. This was the symposium on "Biological Aspects of Manned Space Flight" held at the Medical College of the University of Illinois on 3 March, 1950. Gen. H. G. Armstrong and the late Dr. Andrew C. Ivy, then Vice President of the Chicago Professional Colleges of the University of Illinois, co-sponsored this historic meeting.

This time, the prominent authors no longer had to avoid the word "space," as can be seen from the titles of the lectures: "Space Medicine in the United States Air Force," by Maj. Gen. Harry G. Armstrong USAF, MC; "Multi-Stage Rockets and Artificial Satellites," by Dr.

Wernher von Braun; "Physiological Considerations on the Possibility of Life under Extraterrestrial Conditions," by Hubertus Strughold, M.D.; "Astronomy and Space Medicine," by Heinz Haber, Ph.D.; "Orientation in Space," by Paul A. Campbell, M.D.; "Bioclimatology of Manned Rocket Flight," by Konrad Buettner, Ph.D.

The great number of enthusiastic attendees, the spirited discussions, the public response, and the news media coverage were beyond all expectations. Dr. John Marbarger, then head of the Environmental and Aviation Medical Laboratory of the University of Illinois, participated in the organization of the meeting, and edited and published the symposium proceedings in book form at the University of Illinois Press. This book, entitled "Space Medicine—The Human Factor in Flights beyond the Earth," was soon in its third printing. Thus, for space sciences, the year 1950 can be considered as the break-through from the science fiction level to accepted scientific status.

The immediate outgrowth of this successful meeting was that the participants and attendees agreed that an organization was necessary to coordinate and exchange information related to space medical research. It was the consensus that this organization should be within the framework of the Aero Medical Association.

Thus, an "Informal Committee Interested in Space Medicine" was formed. Dr. A. C. Ivy kindly agreed to be the *pro tem* chairman of the group. The first session was scheduled as a luncheon meeting during the 21st Annual Meeting of the Aero Medical Association in Chicago. Dr. Strughold and Dr. Haber were asked to make formal presentations at this luncheon meeting in the Palmer House Hotel on 31 May, 1950.

Dr. H. Strughold made the first presentation, which contained the following prophetic remarks:

"It can be predicted that rocket and space flight are in the same state of development as was aviation in 1920, whose field of research, including the medical sciences, experienced an explosive development in the following decades. It appears that the space sciences will develop along similar lines. In order to enable the medical faculty to keep pace with the presumable technical development, it is mandatory to place space medicine on the broadest possible basis and, in this manner, effect a rapid and extensive development."

Dr. Haber summarized the physical characteristics of the high-altitude atmosphere and of sealed cabins. Also, he recommended a formal space medical organization. Drs. O. O. Benson, E. J. Baldes, P. A. Campbell, and R. S. Benford participated in the discussion and agreed.

Following the discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed, to petition the Aero Medical Association for affiliation as a section. A committee was established to prepare the petition for admission to be submitted to the Executive Council; its membership consisted of Drs. A. C. Ivy, J. P. Marbarger, R. J. Benford, P. A. Campbell and A. Graybiel.

Brig. Gen. Benson had to leave the meeting earlier to attend the Executive Council Meeting of the Aeromedical Association, where he submitted a "Memo for the

Record" which stated that a "Space Medicine Group" was meeting simultaneously and that the Group planned to petition the Council for branch or section status. Dr. Marbarger, Acting Secretary of this new organization "in statu nascendi," drafted this petition and also a constitution, which was accepted by the committee, submitted to the parent organization, and approved on 15 May, 1951.

Thus, the newly formed Space Medicine Branch (Table I) held its first formal meeting in the following year, on 17 May, 1951, during the 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Aero Medical Association in Denver, Co. Col. Paul A. Campbell, then Director of Research, USAF School of Aviation Medicine, became the first elected Branch President. Dr. J. P. Marbarger, who had volunteered to be Acting Secretary for the first "fledgling" year of the Branch, was extended the gratitude of the members for his outstanding services. The following year, he succeeded Dr. Campbell as the second elected Branch President. Dr. Hubertus Strughold, then Head of the Department of Space Medicine, USAF School of Aviation Medicine, was elected Secretary for the year 1951-52, and CAPT Ashton Graybiel, MC, USN, U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine, was elected Chairman of the Membership Committee.

The speakers were again Dr. Strughold and Dr. H. Haber, who presented a joint paper entitled "Space as a Functional Concept." Then, the chairman requested Dr.

TABLE I. FOUNDERS AND CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH.

FOUNDERS: Paul A. Campbell, M.D., and John P. Marbarger, Ph.D.

1950

CHARTER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT FOUNDING MEETING

Dr. E. J. Baldes	Dr. Fritz Haber
Col. R. J. Benford	Dr. James Henry
Brig. Gen. Otis O. Benson, Jr.	Dr. V. K. Henschke
Dr. K. Buettner	Dr. A. C. Ivy
Dr. Paul A. Campbell	Dr. J. P. Marbarger
CAPT Ashton Graybiel	Dr. H. J. Schaefer
Dr. V. Guillemin, Jr.	Lt. Col. B. Strickland
Dr. Heinz Haber	Dr. H. Strughold

CHARTER MEMBERS ELECTED AT FOUNDING MEETING

Maj. Gen. H. G. Armstrong	RADM B. Groesbeck, Jr.
Dr. L. H. Bauer	Dr. F. G. Hall
CAPT A. Behnke	Dr. J. Kaplan
Dr. D. Beischer	CAPT W. E. Kellum
Capt. L. D. Carson	Dr. G. J. Kidera
Dr. D. B. Dill	Dr. W. R. Lovelace, II
Dr. W. O. Fenn	CAPT J. R. Poppen
Lt. Col. A. P. Gagge	Lt. Col. H. M. Sweeney
Dr. O. Gauer	Lt. Col. J. M. Talbot
Dr. C. F. Gell	Col. A. D. Tuttle

From: The History of the Space Medicine Branch, Section I, by Paul A. Campbell, M.D. (Unpublished monograph).

SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH—VON BECKH

TABLE II. PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH.

Andrew C. Ivy, M.D.	Temporary Chairman for Organization
Paul A. Campbell, M.D.	1951-52
John P. Marbarger, Ph.D.	1952-53
John R. Poppen, M.D.	1953-54
Col. A. P. Gagge, USAF, MC	1954-55
CAPT Ashton Graybiel, MC, USN	1955-56
Fred A. Hitchcock, M.D.	1956-57
Randolph Lovelace, M.D.	1957-58
Alfred M. Mayo, B.E.	1958-59
Hubertus Strughold, M.D.	1959-60
CAPT Clifford P. Phoebus, MC, USN	1960-61
Col. John M. Talbott, USAF, MC	1961-62
CAPT Frank B. Voris, MC, USN	1962-63
A. H. Schwichtenberg, M.D.	1963-64
James G. Gaume, M.D.	1964-65
Charles A. Berry, M.D.	1965-66
Ralph L. Christy, M.D.	1966-67
Col. Rufus R. Hessberg, Jr., USAF, MC	1967-68
George B. McNeely, M.D.	1968-69
CAPT Frank Austin, Jr., MC, USN	1969-70
Col. Stanley C. White, USAF, MC	1970-71
A. Duane Catterson, M.D.	1971-72
CAPT Roger G. Ireland, MC, USN	1972-73
Col. James F. Culver, USAF, MC	1973-74
Walton L. Jones, Jr., M.D.	1974-75
David L. Winter, M.D.	1975-76
Karl H. Houghton, M.D.	1976-77
Maj. Gen. Heinz S. Fuchs, GAF, MC	1977-78

Herman J. Schaefer to make a few remarks about "Radiation Hazards in Space." Gen. H. G. Armstrong and Brig. General O. O. Benson participated in the discussion.

Nov. 6-9 of that same year, 1951, marked a most noticeable symposium, entitled "Physics and Medicine of the Upper Atmosphere—A Study of the Aeropause." This meeting was held in San Antonio, Tx, and was co-sponsored by the USAF School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Tx, and the Lovelace Foundation for Medical Education and Research, headed by the late Dr. William Randolph Lovelace, III, a prominent aeromedical investigator since the days of WW II, and a founding member of our Branch. The names of the organizers, session chairmen, and speakers read like a roster of the Space Medicine Branch, e.g. Drs. H. G. Armstrong, O. O. Benson, K. J. Buettner, P. A. Campbell, A. Graybiel, F. Haber, H. Haber, J. P. Henry, A. Krebs, U. Luft, A. Mayo, H. Schaefer, H. Strughold, J. Talbot, and Clayton S. White.

Similarly, as in the 1950 Chicago symposium on the "Biological Aspects of Manned Space Flight," a number of pioneers in disciplines other than space medicine participated. They included Drs. Wernher von Braun, Fred Whipple, James A. Van Allen, Marcel Nicolet, Homer E. Newell, and Joseph Kaplan.

Dr. Clayton S. White, then Director of Research of the

TABLE III. HUBERTUS STRUGHOLD AWARD WINNERS.

CAPT Ashton Graybiel, MC, USN	1963
Maj. Gen. Otis O. Benson, Jr., USAF (Ret.)	1964
Hans Georg Clamann, M.D.	1965
Herman J. Schaefer, Ph.D.	1966
Charles A. Berry, M.D.	1967
David G. Simons, M.D.	1968
Stanley C. White, M.D.	1969
RADM Frank B. Voris, MC, USN	1970
Don Flickinger, M.D.	1971
Col. Paul A. Campbell, USAF (Ret.)	1972
Dr. Andres I. Karstens	1973
CDR Joseph P. Kerwin, MC, USN	1974
Lawrence F. Dietlein, M.D.	1975
Harald vonBeckh, M.D.	1976
William K. Douglas, M.D.	1977
Walton L. Jones, M.D.	1978

Lovelace Foundation, referred to this symposium when he was the featured speaker at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Branch in 1952:

"The primary objective of the Symposium was to collect available data needed to form a background of information essential to the planning of aeromedical research for manned flights into and beyond the outer fringes of the atmosphere of the earth. Plans for the symposium recognized that a similar attack should be made on classified material, and that final research plans could only be made by working teams of experts armed with information which truly took them to the frontiers of knowledge.

"Those who planned the symposium also recognized another very significant fact; namely, that undistributed information was simply and practically equal to no information at all. Consequently, the San Antonio symposium was documented in book form and released 1 July, 1952, by the University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM. It is composed of 21 chapters containing contributions from 34 of the world's leading scientists representing talent from fields of radiobiology, upper-atmospheric physics, aviation medicine, toxicology, and aeronautical engineering. It is hoped that this volume will play a potent role in creating regions of common interest among individuals basically trained in biology and the physical sciences."

As a matter of fact, this book was considered in the following years the most useful "handbook" for aerospace medical research.

In the foregoing pages I have described the prodromal events which led to the foundation of the Space Medicine Branch. I also covered the first year of its existence and its gradual acceptance by the Scientific Community.

At this time, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Paul A. Campbell, whose unpublished monograph, "The History of the Space Medicine Branch," provided me with painstakingly detailed information, which I in-

SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH—VON BECKH

corporated with Dr. Campbell's permission into this report.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to chronicle the further development of the Branch over the ensuing 28 years with the same detail. Therefore I must apologize for not mentioning the many aeromedical scientists who contributed to the steady growth of the Branch by their excellent leadership and scientific achievements. As a matter of fact, the names of the 28 Past Presidents, which are listed in Table II, read like a "Who's Who" in manned space exploration.

As Prof. Strughold predicted at the Founding Meeting in 1950, the "explosive" development of space research became a reality. As a matter of fact it occurred in three stages. The first followed President Eisenhower's announcement on 29 July, 1955, to participate in the International Geophysical Year by launching an earth satellite; the second, after the launching of Sputnik I, on 4 Oct., 1957, when, overnight, unbelievers became believers, and "I told you so-ers" and bandwagoners came in from all directions; and the third, after President Kennedy announced the plan to land a man on the moon.

That in these years nearly the entire aeromedical community became involved in space projects, was reflected by the fact that our parent organization (not

without dissent) changed its name to the Aerospace Medical Association. Thus, the danger existed that our branch would become an "annual luncheon Society of old timers." Fortunately, this was not the case, because the branch did, and still does, attract young scientists and enthusiasts of manned space exploration. This recruiting of young talent has been further fostered by the creation of the Space Medicine Branch Award, which is presented to a junior scientist contributing an outstanding paper in the area of space medicine at the annual scientific meeting of our parent organization.

In 1963, the Branch created, in honor of the "Father" of space medicine, the Hubertus Strughold Award to recognize deserving members ". . . for dedication and distinguished contributions to the advancement of the science and art of space medicine, the allied sciences, and manned space flight."

The award winners (Table III) include founder and charter members, as well as the first American physician-astronaut, and members whose scientific or managerial brilliance made the nation's manned space program possible.

I have no doubt that the members of our Branch will remain in the vanguard of space exploration and provide unflagging leadership and resolute interest in all future space endeavors.