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## SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

### International Committee Meeting

Last October the Greek Aerospace Medical Association hosted the Second Meeting of the International Committee of the Space Medicine Branch in conjunction with its First International meeting of Aerospace Medicine.

The meeting was held in Thessaloniki, Greece from October 10-12, 1997. Thessaloniki is the second largest city in Greece and is renowned for its history and beautiful location at the tip of Thermaikos Bay in the Mediterranean. The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) approved the meeting for 11 CME credit hours. Many Greek physicians and scientists and several Space Medicine Branch (SMB) members attended. The meeting was oriented to interested aerospace medicine international personnel who have not had the opportunities to attend previous AsMA, or other similar organization, meetings. The goals were to allow participants to understand key medical knowledge for practicing in challenging environments and to introduce some of the current medical research from the aviation and space fields. The location allowed scientists of Greece the exceptional opportunity for research interactions with other countries and an exchange of information on many important issues.

The guest speakers were outstanding and the large number of participants was unexpected. SMB members presenting at the meeting included: Melchor Antunano, Robin Dodge, Demetri Economos, Mary Anne Frey,

Richard Henderson, Nick Kanas, George Martin, Chiharu Sekiguchi, Claudia Stern, Joan Vernikos and Stephen Veronneau. Guest speakers included Astronaut Fred Haise, former Apollo 13 crewmember, who referred to the real story of Apollo 13 and his adventure in it, Astronaut Millie Hughes-Fulford who spoke about her research results on osteoporosis, and Physician-Cosmonaut Valery Polyakov who explained life on long duration spaceflights. He currently holds the world record for the longest period of time in space.

The presentations motivated many young students to the field of Aerospace Medicine. The meeting also gave Greek scientists and physicians the opportunity to learn about the Aerospace Medical Association and on how to become members. The meeting received five new applications for membership to AsMA and the SMB and we expect to have more soon.

The photograph shows all our speakers honored by the Mayor of Kalamaria for their contributions to the meeting. We believe that International meetings such as this one provide an opportunity for researchers, medical doctors and students in countries without aerospace medicine activities to be informed in this field and allow them to contribute as much as they can to the international effort of space exploration. We hope that other countries will continue our efforts to have this meeting in the following years and that we can be there to share our experiences.

**Chrysoula Kourtidou-Papadeli, M.D.**  
**President of the Greek Aerospace Medical Association**

### SMB's Young Investigator Award

The Space Medicine Branch Awards Committee is accepting applications for its Young Investigator Award for the 1998 year. The Young Investigator Award is presented to an investigator who is the first author of an outstanding paper (slide or poster session) in the area of aviation and/or space medicine presented at the current or previous scientific meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association. In addition to being the first author, the work must be original and the investigator must be presenting at the annual scientific meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association for the first time. The award is intended to encourage young investigators new to the field of aerospace medicine. The applicant must submit a draft manuscript of their presentation. To be considered for the 1998 award, manuscripts must be submitted by the end of March, 1998 to:

K. Jeffrey Myers, MD  
Space Medicine Branch  
Awards Committee Chairperson  
BOC-005  
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

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**FIRST INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE MEDICINE MEETING**—The Greek Aerospace Medical Association completed the First International Meeting of Aerospace Medicine and the Second Meeting of the Space Medicine Branch of the Aerospace Medical Association with great success. The AsMA approved the meeting for 11 CME credit hours and many medical doctors from Greece participated. This was an exceptional opportunity for those from many countries to interact and exchange information on many important issues. Their special guests, astronaut Fred Haise from Apollo 13 related the real story of Apollo 13, astronaut Millie Hughes-Fulford shared the results of her research on osteoporosis, and cosmonaut Valery Polyakov explained life in long duration flight (he holds the record for time in space). The photograph shows all of the guest speakers honored by the Mayor of Kalamaria for their contributions to aerospace medicine.