

SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

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Message From The President

As you are aware, the annual meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association is next month in the beautiful city of Seattle, WA. I am very excited about the meeting and looking forward to seeing all of you there. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the activities in the Space Medicine Branch (SMB) and the space program over the past year. Within the Branch, we have established, or rather re-established, the History Committee lead by Dr. Wyck Hoffer. The SMB report in the March issue of the journal provided more details on this committee. I would encourage you to become involved in its activities to help us document the early days of space medicine and the Branch so that this important information is not lost with time. One thing I have noticed at NASA over the years is that we seem to work the same issues over and over again. Compiling the experiences of those that have gone before us would not only be extremely interesting but would certainly help future generations.

This year at the annual meeting, the SMB is sponsoring a panel put together by the History Committee. The panel is entitled "In Their Words: Footnotes in Space Medicine History" and will be presented on Wednesday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Seattle Convention Center, Rooms 602-604. The panel will review the

challenges of space medicine from the early days of the Mercury program through the early Shuttle days and will be presented by the flight surgeons who lived and worked those programs. The historical aspects of the space program have always been of interest to me and I am certain we will all find their presentations very interesting.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to the annual Space Medicine Branch Business Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, May 21 at noon in Rooms 618-620 of the Convention Center. We are looking forward to an exciting speaker. We will also be giving the annual Hubertus Strughold Award for excellence in aerospace medicine as well as the Young Investigator Award to a first time presenter at the meeting. Dr. Jeff Myers continues to lead the effort on selecting the recipient of the Young Investigator Award and could always use additional help in evaluating the papers and presentations. If you wish to help in this effort, please contact Jeff at (407) 867-3346.

This past year in the space program has also been a very busy one with six Shuttle flights as well as the flights of three more U.S. crewmembers on the Russian Mir Space Station--Dr. Mike Foale, Dr. Dave Wolf, and Dr. Andy Thomas. This cooperative effort with the Russians has provided us signifi-

cant insight into the differences in approaches needed for short duration Shuttle-based missions as opposed to long duration space station-based missions. We have also completed another astronaut selection after the examination of a group of 121 outstanding finalists and are looking forward to working with the new astronaut class. As of this writing, Neurolab was also scheduled to be flown in April. This mission focuses on research on the mechanisms of neurologic and behavioral changes in space. The upcoming year should be equally exciting as we press toward the start of the International Space Station. The long awaited launch of the first elements of the International Space Station are scheduled for this summer/fall and should herald an exciting era of international cooperation.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the Branch officers and committees for their work over the past year. It has been an honor to serve as your President and I greatly appreciate the opportunity. I will be leaving you in the capable hands of Dr. Jeff Myers. Jeff has faithfully served the Branch in many capacities in the past and I am certain he will do an outstanding job as President.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President in 1997-98. I look forward to seeing you in Seattle.

Denise L. Baisden, M.D.
1997-98 President



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