

SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

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Report of the 1999 Space Medicine Branch Meeting

The Annual Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting and Business Luncheon were held at the 70th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) on Thursday, May 20, 1999, at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI. At the luncheon, Dr. Jeff Myers, Branch President for the 1998-99 term, called the session to order and presented the members seated at the head table, including Robin Dodge, M.D., president-elect; Jim Collier, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer; and Sam Pool, M.D., Guest Speaker.

Dr. Myers noted that, thanks to continued work by Dr. Mel Antuñaño, the Branch's proposed resolution on medical standards and other regulatory guidelines for commercial aerospace operations that were forwarded last year to the parent organization have been approved by the AsMA council. All told, this has been a good year for the advancement of spaceflight. John Glenn's return to space aboard STS-95 has helped show that advancing age may not be the barrier to spaceflight participation that it was previously thought to be. The year ahead is exciting as well. Both NASA and the commercial world are preparing for efforts to increase access to space. In addition, Dr. Myers thanked Comprehensive Health Services, Inc., for their generous sponsorship during this past year.

Dr. Jim Collier, Secretary/Treasurer, reported that the Branch has had expenses totaling \$2825.00 during the past year (since the last annual luncheon) and \$2110 of income during that time (including \$500 in corporate sponsorship from Comprehensive Health Services, Inc.). The current balance is \$4216.92. He also reported that there are 298 names currently carried on our Branch membership roster as of May 20. There are 166 members who have dues paid through the year 2000 or beyond. There are 64 members who are current but whose dues are due in 1999. There are 65 people (21 due in 1998, 23 due in 1997, and 21 due in 1996) who are no longer current in terms of dues payment. There are three emeritus members. There were 17 new members added during the 1998-99 year. Dr. Collier also added that he had received numerous comments from our international members. Submitting dues in U.S. funds was difficult for them and often the cost of doing so exceeded the amount of the dues. The Branch will research ways to more easily allow our international members to pay their annual dues.

Results of the annual Branch elections were also reported. Approximately 300 ballots were mailed out in February 1998. The results were as follows: President-Elect, Phil Scarpa (2000-2001); Members-At-Large, Chrysoula Kourtidou-Papadeli (1999-2002) and Arthur A. Arnold (1999-2002). In addition, because Dr. Scarpa was selected as president-elect, he will move out of his member-at-large position. Mr. Lloyd Tripp, next in

line in our voting process for member-at-large, will fill the rest of Dr. Scarpa's term. He has 2 years on that term (through 2001). Dr. Jeff Myers will join Drs. Papadeli and Arnold as members-at-large for the 1999-2002 year group.

Mr. Lloyd Tripp reported that there were 65 candidates who applied for the Young Investigator Award (YIA) this year. Of those, 8 finalists were chosen and interviewed. Every finalist at the AsMA meeting was invited to the Branch's Business Luncheon. From the 8 interviewed finalists, a winner was selected. The finalists represented a broad range of projects and came from a large diversity of countries. The winner was Torsten Lindgren of Stockholm, Sweden. His paper was entitled: "Cabin Environment and Perception of Cabin Air Quality (CAQ) Among Commercial Airline Crew." Mr. Tripp noted that he was pleased to have had papers submitted from many countries around the world such as Japan, China, Finland and Sweden, as well as from both civilian and military sources. Dr. Myers thanked Mr. Tripp for the work he has done in this past year in improving the YIA selection process. He has developed a process whereby much of the work of the nominations, interview, and selection processes can be carried out via e-mail.

The Strughold Award winner, that person in the field of space medicine who most exemplifies the ideals of the Father of Space Medicine, Dr. Hubertus Strughold, was Sam L. Pool, M.D. Dr. Pool was also our guest speaker and presented a motivational and thought-provoking discourse on spaceflight to Mars. He believes we have the capability to do so and that a rotating space craft could eliminate many of our physical problems which arise in prolonged exposure to microgravity. He also stated that a physician may accompany the crew, not as a mission specialist who also happened to be a physician, but as a physician who also happened to be a mission specialist.



NEW PRESIDENT--Robin Dodge, M.D., was installed as the 1999-2000 President of SMB. Congratulating him is outgoing President, K. Jeff Myers, M.D.

Following the guest speaker, Dr. Robin Dodge was installed as the new Branch President. Dr. Dodge presented the Past President's Plaque to out-going President, Dr. Jeff Myers. Dr. Dodge thanked Dr. Myers for his hard work and excellent leadership of the Branch during the past year. He closed the meeting by looking forward to a very bright year in which the general AsMA membership continued to become more and more aware of SMB activities.

James D. Collier
Secretary-Treasurer

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

(*PHYSIOLOGY*, from p. 945) symbology, it is hoped, will significantly decrease the incidence of spatial disorientation and reduce spatial disorientation consequences, such as control reversal errors, while also decreasing the cost and duration of initial instrument flight training.

Capt. Cohen also leads a U.S.-Israeli collaboration investigating the connection between otolith response to vertical acceleration and spinal reflexes. This investigation produced the first demonstrated physiological evidence for the debilitating "Giant Hand" phenomenon and advanced our fundamental understanding of vestibular physiology. He also applied, for the first time, advanced carbon-resistive sensor technology to determine the actual magnitude and distribution of pressures on the buttocks and thighs of seated pilots. This technique will produce timesaving and economical quantitative approaches to optimizing seat comfort.

Capt. Cohen is the author of over 25 journal and technical publications, including "An Objective Measure of Seat Comfort," which appeared in the April 1998 issue of *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*. The 1999 Biomedical Sciences Corps selectee for the Air Force Intern Program, Capt. Cohen was assigned to the Pentagon in July.