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 Antutuano, 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 candidates who applied for the 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 cardiovascular 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.