### SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

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# Message from the SMB President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve you as President of the Space Medicine Branch for 1997-98. I will be supported in this role by President-Elect Jeff Myers, Secretary-Treasurer Phil Scarpa, and the rest of the Executive Committee with newly-elected Members-at-Large, Mike Barratt and Dave Ward. Jim Collier will also be replacing Jeff Myers in his position as Member-at-Large.

I am looking forward to an exciting year in the Branch and in the space program. If you are interested in becoming involved in the activities of the Branch, we would welcome your participation in the various committees. We have recently established a History Committee chaired by our Historian, Dr. Wyck Hoffler. This committee is discussing a number of ideas for records of the Space Medicine Branch to be archived at the Fordham Library at Wright State University and should be fairly busy over the next few years. If you would like to become involved in any of the activities of the Branch, please contact the appropriate committee chair below:

Awards: Jeff Myers, M.D. (407) 867-3346 Education: Annette Sobel, M.D. (505) 844-1411 Program: Brad Beck, M.D. (719) 548-5814 Membership: Roger Bisson, M.D. (805) 277-2010 Long Range Planning: Robin Dodge, M.D. (513) 276-8338 Corporate Membership: Brad Beck, M.D. (719) 548-5814 Policy: Melchor Antunano, M.D. (405) 954-6206 International: Chrysoula Kourtidou, M.D. (011) 30-31-999-318 Nominations: Jeff Myers, M.D. (407) 867-3346 History: Wyck Hoffler, M.D.

The next year in the space program should be a busy and interesting one with 7 Shuttle flights scheduled including the Neurolab mission scheduled for April 1998. Neurolab is a 16-day mission dedicated to research on the mechanisms of neurologic and behavioral changes in space and will involve a variety of animal and human experiments. The International Space Station activities are also increasing as we move closer to the launch of the first element, currently scheduled for next summer. Node 1, the first U.S.-built segment, was delivered to the Kennedy Space Čenter in June for processing for launch aboard STS-88. The Russian-built Functional Cargo Block will be launched 2 weeks prior to STS-88 and will supply early power and propulsion systems for the station. During the STS-88 mission, Node 1 will be docked to the Functional Cargo Block as part of the first step in assembling the International Space Station. The National Space Biomedical Research Institute also is getting underway with Dr. Larry Young selected as its director. The Institute offers the unique opportunity for cooperation between NASA, the scientific community and industry.

Within the Space Medicine Branch, a number of activities have also been ongoing. Along with the other constituent organizations, we were asked to help develop goals and objectives for the Association to permit it to follow its new mission statement to "apply and advance scientific knowledge to promote and enhance the health, safety, and performance of those involved in aerospace and related activities." Dr. Brad Beck, Dr. Jeff Myers and myself together with the rest of the Executive Committee submitted a proposed set of goals and objectives related to the field of space medicine. These were submitted to the AsMA Planning Committee in July. We are also currently in the process of planning the next meeting in Seattle and would welcome your input. If you have any suggestions or recommendations and would like to contact me, I may be reached at (281) 483-7999 and Phil Scarpa, our SecretaryTreasurer, may be reached at (407) 867-3152. We are looking forward to an exciting meeting in Seattle and hope to see each of you there.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President. I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

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

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## Nominations Sought for 1997 AsMA Awards

The Awards Committee of the Aerospace Medical Association, which is responsible for selecting the annual winners of special awards, has set a December 15 deadline for receiving nominations for awards to be presented at the 1997 Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, IL.

The committee chair emphasizes, however, that the names of prospective award winners should be submitted as far in advance of the deadline as possible. Lots of time is needed to review all of the names and select the winners.

Nominations can be made by any niember of the Association. The nominations must be submitted on forms available from the ASMA Home Office, and printed in the journal.

Nomination form and 14 copies should be mailed to:

Chair, Awards Committee Aerospace Medical Association 320 South Henry Street Alexandria, VA 22314-3579

(407) 867-4028

Policies:

- 1. The nominee must be a current member of the Association, except that the Sidney D. Leverett, Jr. Environmental Science Award is open to nonmembers. Deceased members may be nominated.
- 2. The Chair of the Awards Committee does not vote and is not eligible for an award during his/her tenure.
- 3. Winners may receive only one award in any year and may receive additional awards only at 7-year intervals, except for the Sidney D. Leverett, Jr. Environmental Science Award.
- 4. Employees of a company sponsoring an award are eligible to receive the award.
- 5. Awards involving a published paper will be made only to the senior author.
- 6. Unsuccessful nominees for an annual award will be retained in the active file through three award cycles.