

## SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH REPORT

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### MIT Professor to Head NASA-Sponsored Research Institute

MIT Professor of Astronautics Laurence R. Young has been named director of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI), a new NASA-sponsored program. The announcement was made March 20, 1997.

The NSBRI will be the focal point of NASA-sponsored space biomedical research. Its two-fold mission is to address the medical obstacles to safe, productive, long-term human presence in space and to apply the knowledge gained from space research to medical problems of people on Earth.

"It's a very exciting job. As director, I will have some say in determining the shape of our future space program and in how we protect people who go into space," said Young. He will assume his new responsibilities in the spring of this year and will divide his time between MIT and the NSBRI thereafter.

Professor Young was a principal investigator on four space shuttle missions and an alternate NASA payload specialist for the Space Life Sciences-2 mission in October,

1993. He has been internationally recognized for his research on space motion sickness and the functions of the inner ear. He is Director of the Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium and was co-founder of the Man-Vehicle Laboratory at MIT.

The NSBRI consortium will be led by Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. NSBRI members are MIT; Harvard Medical School; Johns Hopkins University Medical School and Applied Physics Laboratory; Morehouse School of Medicine; Rice University, and Texas A&M University. The NSBRI will function as a geographically distributed consortium using computer links.

"We expect to have close collaboration among the consortium members. Now we can use the first-rate work already being done by universities with NIH-supported work and direct its application to space problems," said Young. "The Institute is a great opportunity to allow Space Life Sciences to reach its full po-

tential. We have a lot of homework to do to send people to Mars."

NASA-Johnson Space Center will sponsor the multidisciplinary NSBRI. The total value of the 20-year agreement is approximately \$145 million, beginning at \$10 million per year.

In addition to its two-fold mission, the National Space Biomedical Institute will focus on developing a partnership among NASA, the scientific community, and industry as their efforts relate to human development, exploration, and long-term presence in space.

### Space Medicine Branch Errata

The Message from the President in the April issue was wrongly attributed to Larry Pepper. Dr. Bradley Beck was the Space Medicine Branch President in 1996-97, due to Dr. Pepper's abdication. We are sorry for the mistake.

The address for Dr. Philip Scarpa was also incorrect. The correct address is shown above.