Michael R. Barratt Receives the first Joseph Kerwin Award

Michael R. Barratt, M.D., was the first recipient of the Joseph Kerwin Award. The award, established and sponsored by Wyle, was presented during the AsMA's 81st Annual Scientific Meeting, Honors Night, May 13, 2010, at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Barratt was recognized for leadership, passion, and accomplishment in aerospace medicine. From his days as a Wright State University resident, through a distinguished career as a NASA Flight Surgeon and astronaut, his peers have sought his guidance and leadership. He is an exemplary role model for his colleagues and his many space medicine accomplishments include his pioneering work in establishing medical operations in Star City, Russia, for the Shuttle-Mir Program, leading the ISS medical operations team for several years, and publishing the first text on Clinical Space Medicine.

A native of Washington state, Dr. Barratt graduated from the University of Washington in 1981 with a B.S. He earned his M.D. at Northwestern University in 1985 and completed a 3-year residency in internal medicine at Northwestern in 1988. He completed a year of Chief Residency at Veterans Administration Lakeside Hospital in Chicago in 1989 and a residency and Master’s in aerospace medicine at Wright State University in 1991. He is board certified in internal and aerospace medicine.

In 1991, Dr. Barratt joined NASA Johnson Space Center as a project physician with KRUG Life Sciences working on medical systems for Space Station Freedom. In 1992 he was assigned as NASA Flight Surgeon working in Space Shuttle Medical Operations. He was assigned to the joint US/Russian Shuttle–Mir Program in 1994, working and training extensively in the Cosmonaut Training Center, Star City, Russia, in support of the Mir-18/STS-71 and subsequent missions. From 1995 through 1998, he served as Medical Operations lead for the ISS. He then served as lead crew surgeon for first expedition crew to ISS from 1998 until his selection as an astronaut candidate-mission specialist in 2000. Following the completion of 2 years of training and evaluation, he was assigned technical duties in the ISS Operations Branch. Assigned to long-duration flight training in 2005, he subsequently launched on Soyuz TMA-14 on March 26, 2009, to the ISS and served as a member of Expeditions 19 and 20. This increment included the transition from three to six ISS crewmembers, two EVAs, two visiting Shuttles, and the arrival of the first Japanese H-II Transfer Vehicle. Completing 199 days in space, he landed on the Kazakh Steppe on October 11, 2009. He is currently assigned to the STS-133 mission to deliver a logistics module to the ISS.

Dr. Barratt is a member of the American College of Physicians, the American Institute for the Advancement of Science, and the Aerospace Medical Association. He serves as Associate Editor for Space Medicine for the journal Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine and is senior editor of the textbook Principles of Clinical Medicine for Space Flight. His awards include the W. Randolph Lovelace Award from the Society of NASA Flight Surgeons, the Melbourne W. Boynton Award from the American Astronautical Society, the Julian Ward Award from the Society of USAF Flight Surgeons, and the Wright State University Outstanding Graduate Student in Aerospace Medicine award.

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Established by Wyle to honor Joseph Kerwin, astronaut and physician. It is given annually for advances in the understanding of human physiology during spaceflight and innovation in the practice of Space Medicine to support optimal human health and performance in space.

About the Aerospace Medical Association

The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) is the largest, most-representative professional organization in the fields of aviation, space, and environmental medicine. The Aerospace Medical Association is an umbrella group providing a forum for many different disciplines to come together and share their expertise. The Association has provided its expertise to a multitude of Federal and international agencies on a broad range of issues including aviation and space medical standards, the aging pilot, and physiological stresses of flight. AsMA’s membership includes aerospace medicine specialists, flight nurses, physiologists, psychologists, human factors specialists, and researchers in this field. Most are with industry, civil aviation regulatory agencies, departments of defense and military services, the airlines, space programs, and universities. Approximately 25% of the membership is international. Through the efforts of the AsMA members, safety in flight and man’s overall adaptation to adverse environments have been more nearly achieved.