

**SPACE MEDICINE BRANCH
OF THE
AEROSPACE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

Dear Branch members:

March 28, 2003

As you are aware, this year's meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association is in the historical and beautiful town of San Antonio, Texas. The scientific program has been finalized and appears to be outstanding. I hope you can make it to the meeting. The Branch is sponsoring a space medicine history panel. The sponsored session is entitled "Biological Aspects of Manned Space Flight: Space Medicine in 1950" occurring on Wednesday, May 7, 4:00 p.m. in room 201 of the San Antonio Convention Center. The panel members will be re-presenting the original presentations from the first space medicine symposium ever held which took place at the Medical College of the University of Illinois on March 3, 1950. In addition to the sponsored panel, there are seven sessions being endorsed by our Branch of space medicine interest. They include ISS Space Medicine I and II, Ultrasound Applications in Microgravity, Space Medical Support and the Space Medicine Oral and Poster sessions. These sessions should prove to be very interesting and informative to our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the annual Space Medicine Branch Business Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, May 8th at noon in the room 103A of the Convention Center. Branch business will be reported, the Strighold and Young Investigator Awards will be presented and a talk will be given by Dr. Seth Shostak who is an astronomer at the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute in Mountain View, CA.

We have an excellent group of candidates for Branch offices this year. Included in this mailing is your ballot. Please be sure to vote and return your ballot before the deadline. Also enclosed in this mailing is your dues statement. Please check to see when you owe membership dues. This year the dues needed to be increased slightly to meet the ongoing costs of the Branch and keep us financially sound. However, our dues are still one of the best values in the world for such an organization. Membership dues have increased to \$15 per year (from \$10) or \$40 for three years (from \$25). You can pay by mail or at the meeting if you wish. You can also use your dues form to update any of your information. Please return your ballots, any dues, and updated information to our Secretary-Treasurer, Dwight Holland.

As you know, it is a very sad memory for us to have had a tragedy of the Space Shuttle Columbia accident in February. It is a great sadness and loss not only for us but also all of humanity. The STS-107 crew of Columbia, which included 2 physicians, had performed a great deal of medical experiments on board shuttle and stood to greatly contribute to space medicine research. I think it is fitting this year to present the annual Hubertus Strighold Award to them for their efforts to advance the field of Space Medicine, and in our appreciation for their great sacrifice.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve as your President over the past year. I think we have made several accomplishments. I will be leaving you in the capable hands of Dr. Annette Søbel. Annie has been active in support of the Space Medicine Branch for many years. I am certain that she will be an excellent President.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President in 2002-2003.

Sincerely,



Chiharu Sekiguchi, M.D., Ph.D.
President, Space Medicine Branch