

SPACE MEDICINE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Space Medicine Branch Changes Name

Executive Committee Meeting Report, Review of Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon Activities, and Farewell

The Annual Executive Committee Meeting of the Space Medicine Branch was held at the Orlando Marriott Convention Center on Thursday, May 18, 2006, at 0700 hours until approximately 0915. The Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting was held from 1200-1355. President Dwight Holland called the meeting to order and congratulated the Committee members and officers present for doing an outstanding job during the year for the various initiatives for "The Branch" (as this organization is affectionately known). Most of the initiatives evolved from a general plan developed by these officers over the past several years to continue to update the organization's structure and operations, bring it into the modern era of financial/information management, and to recognize the importance of the internet as a communications and organizational vehicle. Most of the officers and committee chairs in this year's work are represented in the group photo (below) commemorating this rather historic year for the organization, since this year we voted to change our name to the Space Medicine Association (SMA).

Before I go further, on a personal note, I cannot say enough good things about my most recent predecessor (2004-05 President, Smith Johnston) who was an outstanding President, and as a very supportive and wise immediate Past-President who provided much good advice throughout the year. I will miss routinely working with him for the Branch's various causes. Similarly, Jon Clark has been a very supportive President-elect in many areas of our work, and I am sure he will be a fine and very successful President for 2006-07.

Secretary's Report--Alan Moore, reported that the Access database he created was up to date, and he encouraged the members to update their addresses and check up on their dues status. Alan is to be commended for his behind-the-scenes work in converting the Excel spreadsheet membership roster over to Access format for better data management. This database represents a big step forward in updating our organization's information. He also managed our communications via e-mail with the membership over the past 2 years-- Thank you, Alan. President-elect Jon Clark reported on the election results with Dr. Mark Campbell assuming the role of President of SMA in 2007-08, and Vern McDonald will assume the role of Secretary for a 2-year term from 2006-08. Newly elected Members-at-Large were Jan Stepanek and Doug Hamilton.

Treasurer's Report--Genie Bopp reported that the long-sought after Not-for-Profit 501(c)(3) status was obtained from the IRS. Genie Bopp is to be commended for all of her efforts over the past year to enable this



Space Medicine Branch Officers 2005-06--(front row left to right kneeling-Jeff Jones, Dwight Holland; second row left to right-Jeff Myers, Judith Hayes, Mark Campbell, Genie Bopp, Alan Moore; back row left to right-Phil Scarpa, Mike Chandler, Smith Johnston, Jon Clark)-not pictured but at the meeting: Denise Baisden, Karen Breek, Aly Calder, Mary Anne Frey.

outcome. She received a Special President's Award/Citation for her extraordinary support in this and many other areas of our operations throughout the year. She also organized the first-ever Branch Coffee Mugs with our new SMA logo, and coordinated the new SMA Polo shirts. Genie Bopp was the bedrock for implementing these initiatives, and we cannot thank her enough for this excellent work.

As a part of our efforts to reach out to the professional community our members serve, and to stabilize our finances and provide scholarship money to students and other space-related organizations, we are delighted to announce the following contributors to our organization this year. Due to these philanthropic efforts and more effective management of our finances, Genie reported that after the meeting we will have well over \$10,000 in our Treasury, with about \$5,000 earmarked especially for Young Investigator Awards and Scholarship money. Genie and Finance/Corporate Sponsor Chair, Dwight Holland, were delighted to report the following financial support of SMA's activities, with deepest thanks to our donors:

Donations:

Wyle Labs - \$3000 (with special thanks to CEO George Melton, and Vice President Bob Ellis)
Kelsey Seybold \$1000 - (with special recognition to Dr. James Hoyle)
Dr. Jeff Myers-- for another \$1,000 personal contribution for the Young Investigator Award Fund

Comprehensive Health Services-- \$500 for Young Investigator Award Fund (with special thanks to CHS and to Jeff Myers for enabling the contribution from this company again this year--see p. 892 in the August issue of ASEM)

Mark Campbell-for his donation of \$350.00 to aid in website development, and hundreds of more dollars of gratis office time and support to create and maintain the new SMA website.

Other Contributors:

Phil Scarpa-for his contribution of \$250.00 toward a Scholarship Award for this year's recipient of the Young Investigator Award
Smith Johnston and Dwight Holland-as additional Patrons contributing several hundred dollars between them to SMA's General Operating Fund.

Thanks to Jeff Myers, and our Wyle Laboratories supporters, we now have approximately \$5,000 of "Endowment" money. The goal is to grow this to over \$10,000, and use the interest from a conservative vehicle (such as a steady and safe CD) to fund the YIA Award and Scholarship Money each year, without having to take any principal away from the fund. We are seeking additional sources of funding to help grow this fund to a safe level for reasonable annual withdrawals. Our Executive Committee also voted to provide \$500.00 in outreach seed money to our colleagues in the United Kingdom in order to help them with their 3rd Annual UK Space Medicine Day which will be held September 30-October 1. This gift is designed to encourage our younger international members to participate in organized space medicine activities, and this new UK group is young and dynamic. Several Branch members attended and presented at the 2nd UK Medicine Space Day. We hope to continue to grow another scholarship fund (aside from the YIA Fund), to support and help develop our younger colleagues and students. This contribution was a first step in that general direction by our organization.

Branch Committee Reports:

Webmaster Report - Mark Campbell reported that the website was difficult to integrate into the AsMA Website, but it is linked to the AsMA site, and running. There is a "Members Only" section and an Executive Committee" section. Mark also reported that a bulletin board is up and running. He is now requesting submissions for this section. Mark Campbell is paying for the memory on the server - it his donation to the branch. Mark also wanted to start a "lessons learned" section on this website-in the hope that we can learn from past mistakes, so as not to repeat them in the future. We also wanted to thank his daughter and

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SPECIAL AWARD--Treasurer Genie Bopp receives a Special Award from the Space Medicine Branch from President Dwight Holland for her far-beyond-the-call of duty support of "The Branch" and its programs



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD--Mark Campbell receives a Space Medicine Branch Special Recognition Award from President Dwight Holland for his website overhaul efforts.



LUNCHEON SPEAKER--Dr Greg Olsen gives the luncheon attendees a "standing room only" talk on his quest to go into space, his training and his 5-day stay aboard the International Space Station.

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new member Becky Campbell for helping us with the photography for the luncheon. Mark received a Special President's Award for his work on the special Space Surgeon panel with our younger international members, supporting the history committee, and for his surgical practices time and contributions to actually getting the website up and running. He was involved in many other smaller tasks behind the scenes that need not be listed here.

Awards--Smith Johnston gave a report on the Strughold Award Winner for 2006, who is Dr. Jeff Davis (see p. 892 in the August issue of ASEM). Dr Myers - reported on the YIA (7 finalists of 197 potential candidates) The recipient was Candidate 1st Class Donald Aretz, a USAF Academy Student (see p. 892 in the August issue).

Nominations--Jon Clark reported on nominations and elections results as noted above.

Program-- Phil Scarpa/Denise Baisden Co-Chairs: This year there were two Branch-sponsored session and six endorsed sessions. One of the sessions that created special interest was led by our younger international members on selecting a Surgeon for a Long-Duration Space Mission, with veteran researchers and members serving on a "round-table" style discussion panel moderated by Dr. Mark Campbell with several leaders from the space community. S. Guyton, V. Wykes, V. Nangalia, and T. Banerjee, with A. Calder, helped to put this interesting session together.

Policy--Phil Scarpa distributed the changes to Constitution that were approved in the past year's Business Meeting to enable the 501 (c)(3) application to move forward. As a Past-President, and Policy Chair, Phil took considerable time to give the Executive Committee advice on the proposed changes this year with regard to a potential vote for a name modification from "Space Medicine Branch" to the "Space Medicine Association."

International Activities--Karen Breeck/Aly Calder Co-Chairs: Alyson Calder was present and gave a report on international membership activities, and the new UK Space Medicine Day conference. She thanked our Executive Committee for voting to provide financial support to help the 3rd UK Space Medicine Day conference this fall. Aly Calder steps into the "lead" Co-Chair role this year for International activities. We thanked Chrysoula Kourtidou-Papadeli for her past efforts as the Chair of this Committee, and for her service as a Member-at-Large.

History--Denise Baisden requested that the committee consider a replacement, since her term expires this year. We thanked her for her never-ending support of the organization's goals and programs, and for dutifully recording our meetings photographically, and for other extensive support of the organization over many years as an engaged Past-President of the Branch. Mark Campbell discussed some historic information he found concerning Dr. Strughold. Mark is corresponding with several organizations about and will report back to the Executive Committee later. Denise Baisden also agreed to Chair the newly revived SMA Membership Committee.

Corporate Individual Donors/Sponsorship(s)--as noted above. The Annual Business Meeting and lecture this year was named the Wyle Lecture in Honor of Wyle's sustained support of our various programs.

Representative to AsMA Council--Dr. Jon Clark: Phil Scarpa, Jeff

Myers, and Smith Johnston attended. They report that the Branch initiatives are viewed very favorably by many groups within AsMA, and others are starting to emulate some of our initiatives and efforts.

Representative to the AsMA Nominations Committee--Phil Scarpa reported that several Branch members were nominated and supported for AsMA level office this year. Denise Baisden was elected to a 3-year AsMA Member-at-Large term, and Jeff Myers was elected as one of the four AsMA Vice Presidents. Other members currently serving AsMA-level offices include: Immediate Past-Presidents Melchor Antuñano and Mike Bagshaw, newly inaugurated AsMA President Richard Jennings, Vice-Presidents Jim Webb and Jeff Myers and Aerospace Medicine Regent Jeff Davis. Members-at-Large and AsMA Council Representatives include Jon Clark, Dave Hiland, and Dwight Holland.

President Dwight Holland thanked both Past -President's Phil Scarpa and Denise Baisden, for the continuing "unsung hero"-and vital-work they did on behalf of the Branch.

New Business-Executive Committee/Luncheon--Name Modification-from "Space Medicine Branch" to "Space Medicine Association": Some extensive discussion occurred with regard to Constitutional and Policy matters. Phil Scarpa helped to frame this aspect of the discussion, while Dwight Holland and Mark Campbell, among others, spoke in favor of bringing this to the membership soon for a Luncheon/Business Meeting vote. The name modification notion was sent to the membership by email in the Spring for review and remarks. Several very positive remarks were sent into the Executive Committee, and it was noted that not a single negative email was received from the membership in opposition of this modification was received by any Executive Committee member. One Executive Committee member expressed concern and opposition, stating (essentially) that there was no need to fix something that was not a problem.

A process by governed by our Constitutional rules was then initiated to ascertain the will of the membership:

i. A vote to bring forward name modification to membership at this luncheon was carried by the Executive Committee unanimously. And;

ii. A vote for the Executive Committee Members for an endorsement to the membership for name modification at the Luncheon passed: Count - 12 for a vote by the membership at the luncheon, against 1, no abstentions. (One Executive Committee member agreed it needed to come to a vote before the membership to decide it, but disagreed that a name modification was beneficial.)

iii. Phil Scarpa noted to the Board and gathered Luncheon Membership that the Constitution required a "voice vote" by the membership to waive a waiting period in order for the vote to actually proceed at that Annual Business Meeting/Luncheon. A voice vote of the assembled members at the Business Meeting/Luncheon was taken with many "Yes" votes heard, and some "no's." As the "Yes" voice votes were clearly in the majority, this allowed a membership vote on the recommended change to go forward at the luncheon meeting. Mark Campbell presented the pro and cons of a name modification before the Yes/No Vote actually occurred. No members raised their hand to further discuss the topic, and a vote was taken.

iv. The votes for a name modification were counted twice, and the result was that 2/3's of the membership present voted to support the Executive Committee's recommendation for modifying the name from



INCOMING SMA PRESIDENT--2005-06

President Dwight Holland hands over the gavel to incoming President Jon Clark while wishing him well.

the "Space Medicine Branch (of the Aerospace Medical Association)" to the "Space Medicine Association."

Luncheon Speaker--Dr Greg Olsen-the 3rd "Tourist in Space, provided a talk on his personal journey to fly in outer space. He detailed his struggles to get through the medical qualification and the training he underwent to be able to fly on a Russian Rocket to the International Space Station for a 5-day stay. It was standing room only to hear his well-delivered presentation. President Dwight Holland thanked Dr Olsen for his presentation and valuable time away from his business, and presented him with a special award plaque.

New President Remarks--Dr. Jon Clark thanked the board for all of their hard work, and presented Dwight Holland with a past President's Award plaque for his service to the organization. He then adjourned the Luncheon and Business Meeting at 13:55.

Dr. Steven Hawking, the world-renowned astrophysicist, recently stated very publicly at a conference that he believes that humankind needs to be more than a one-planet species to ensure our long-term survival, given the various threats to our existence. I think he is right, and in the bigger picture that is a part of what our Space Medicine Association is all about, and why we are so unique.

Finally, I want to personally thank all of the officers and members in the Space Medicine Association for their support of our programs this year. Serving as the President this year was a highlight in my life, and I'll never forget all of the wonderful discussions, shared vision/hope for the future, and our work together over the past several years with our leaders past and present. Godspeed to you all.

**Dwight Holland, M.S., M.S.E., Ph.D.
President, Space Medicine
Branch/Association 2005-06**