

Aerospace Medical Association



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Mr. Daniel S. Goldin
NASA HQTS
300 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Mr. Goldin:

I am writing to you as Executive Director of the Aerospace Medical Association, an organization of 3,600 physicians and scientists engaged in aviation and space associated clinical medicine and life sciences research. Over the past 35 years, the aerospace medicine community has successfully defined the effects of microgravity on the human organism for missions as long as approximately one year. Likewise, much time and resources have been given to the search for effective countermeasures to ensure that our astronauts are effectively protected in space and upon return to Earth. As we examine the efficacy of these countermeasures, one can only conclude from the published data that they, at best, only ameliorate or retard those physiological aberrations caused by microgravity. There is certainly no evidence at this time that they would be truly effective for long duration missions.

Consequently, we strongly recommend that life sciences research expend resources in an area that appears to be promising -- that of artificial gravity. Aggressive ground based and inflight research may very well reveal that artificial gravity, even for short periods of time at low acceleration levels, is an effective countermeasure for long duration missions planned for the coming decades.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Rayman M.D.
Russell B. Rayman, M.D.
Executive Director

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61