

# Aerospace Medical Association



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*Executive Director*  
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**Russell B. Rayman, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Association Home Office

Mr. Sean O'Keefe  
NASA HQTS  
300 E. Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Mr. O'Keefe:

I am writing you on behalf of the officers and members of the Aerospace Medical Association, an organization of 3,300 physicians, scientists, physiologists, psychologists, and flight nurses. Many are affiliated with NASA and our international partners.

We have reviewed the Institute of Medicine Report, "Longitudinal Study of Astronaut Health" and fully support its four recommendations. Occupational surveillance and research into the long term health effects of space flight are essential if we are to have reasonable certainty that long duration missions to the moon and Mars can be accomplished with minimal risk to our astronauts. We also applaud the recommendation to NASA to "assume responsibility for the life-long health care of the active and former astronauts". Like military personnel, our astronauts put their health and lives at risk. They are most deserving of this benefit. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melchor J. Antunano, M.D.  
President

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