Society of NASA Flight Surgeons Awards

Honorary SNFS Members
Robert Patlach and Adrien Adams

'Patlach' joined Wyle Space Medicine's Contingency Group in April 2002 and Adrien in August 2004. Together they manage a myriad of medical contingency plans and documents for both Shuttle and ISS programs and are now beginning to review and comment on Constellation documents. They ensure proper medical contingency representation on boards and meetings and ensure that JSC Flight Surgeons and Space Life Sciences managers are properly prepared for NASA aircraft and space vehicle contingencies. Between the two they provide non-stop, 24/7 on-call support, maintaining a readiness to deploy in response to any contingency. They manage such critical functions as the Space Operations Medical Support Training Course (SOMSTC), which familiarizes the first-responders at contingency landing sites with the relevant medical and Shuttle systems, for JSC Medical Operations. They also prepare and update the Medical Operations Support Implementation Plans (MOSIPs), except for KSC's. The MOSIPs are the implementation plans for the augmented landing site (CONUS and TAL). Their responsibilities also include managing the Emergency Medical System plan for Russia. The plan documents the medical response for NASA personnel working in Moscow and Star City and contains information about support for Soyuz landings, both scheduled and contingency.

They interface with a number of organizations and individuals in executing their day-to-day tasks, including the DoD's HSFS (formerly DDMS) and KSC's medical and ground operations personnel to ensure proper coordination and communication. They also assist JSC Space Medicine in ensuring proper agreements are in place with the Air Force Institute of Pathology and participate with NASA JSC mishap investigation teams as needed. At the Space Life Sciences Directorate level they assist in managing the Contingency Action Plans by ensuring Space Medicine is properly integrated into the plans for JSC and NASA-wide responses for spacecraft contingencies and non-spaceflight contingencies, such as hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

They work as a highly efficient team, but have noteworthy individual contributions. Patlach demonstrated outstanding leadership and courage as he deployed to Lufkin, TX, the afternoon of 1 February 2003, working tirelessly as he joined the search and recovery efforts supporting the Mishap Investigation Team following the STS-107 accident. Adrien was hand-selected by Space Medicine to mobilize along with a small medical and environmental health team shortly after the hurricane Katrina disaster struck valuable NASA assets. He worked tirelessly at Michoud and Stennis facilities evaluating environmental health conditions and briefing NASA personnel up to the HQ level on issues, needs, and facilities.

Not only have they provided exceptional service to NASA, but they have both served their country in the U.S. Air Force; Patlach as pilot and instructor pilot until 2000, and Lt. Adams currently serves in the Texas Air National Guard with the 147th Fighter Wing at the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base after being on active duty in Europe.

HONORARY MEMBERS--Recognition of new SNFS Honorary Members Robert Patlach and Adrien Adams. Mr. Bob Patlach is on the left, Mr. Adrien Adams in the middle, and the SNFS 07 President Art Arnold is on the right.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT--John Darwood gives the Secretary/Treasurer report.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER--The speaker at the SNFS Luncheon was Richard Scheuring, M.D., who spoke on the JSC Apollo Medical Operations Project.

PRESIDENT'S CITATION--SNFS President Art Arnold (right) presents the President's Special Citation to Mr. Don Doerr (left). The plaque reads: "In recognition of a career of contributions to flight crew safety, personal protection, emergency preparedness and life science research."

LOVELACE AWARD--SNFS President Art Arnold (right) presents the Lovelace Award to Terry Tadeo, M.D., (left) who was accepting it on behalf of the winner, Philip Stepaniak, M.D., who was unable to attend. Dr. Stepaniak received the award for having served as Lead Flight Surgeon more often than any other U.S. flight surgeon.

FRONT TABLE--The SNFS front table with (from left to right) 2nd Vice President Jeff Jones, M.D., Member-at-Large Volker Damann, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer John Darwood, M.D., and 2006-7 President Arthur Arnold, M.D.

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SPACE MEDICINE ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Jeff Myers Young Investigators Award

K. Jeffrey Myers, M.D.

The Space Medicine Association's Jeff Myers Young Investigators Award is a competition intended for those making their first major efforts into Aerospace Medicine Research. To compete for this award, contestants must be making their first presentation of a scientific paper or poster at an AsMA meeting (excluding cases presented at Grand Rounds as a student resident); they must appear as first author on the paper; and they must prepare and submit a manuscript for judging. Finalists compete in a second phase of competition at the AsMA Meeting involving further evaluation of their presentation and interviews.

The potential applicability of the findings to Space Medicine and the degree of involvement of the student in the project are major considerations. The finalists in this years' competition, selected from 177 contestants, were richly talented and diversified (listed later in this article).

The winner of the 2007 SMA JM YIA is Hirofumi Aoki, Ph.D. His paper is entitled "Virtual Reality Based 3D Navigation Training for Emergency Egress of Spacecraft." Hiro's interest in aerospace dates back to his kindergarten year when he expressed a desire to become a pilot. Several years later he became a glider pilot and soon had achieved his instructor rating, as well. He earned his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Waseda University and a Ph.D. in Human Factors Engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan. Hiro sought to apply these talents to his early dream of contributing to space exploration. He became aware of a potential problem of astronauts having difficulty at times choosing the correct path through nodes of space stations when moving about. What might seem simply an amusing nuisance could be quite serious during an emergency egress! Hiro wanted to help. He applied for and received grants from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and from the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI). He undertook this project at the Man-Vehicle Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was a lot of work. Hiro even had to write all of the software programs himself, but he has a working system which he plans to test with the help of JSC on a future flight. Someday the life he could save might be your own! These kinds of efforts have come to characterize the Young Investigator Award.

YIA Award--Jeff Myers presents the 2007 Young Investigators Award to Hirofumi Aoki, Ph.D., for his paper on virtual reality training for emergency egress of space stations.

The first runner up is Major James "Russ" Strader, from USAF School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks City-Base, TX. His paper is entitled : "Efficacy of United States Air Force Pilot Applicant Screening Echocardiography." The other finalists include: Eckard Glaser from Germany; Major Robert Kent from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences; Thomas Barth from Phoenix, AZ; Zuo-Ming Zhang, Ph.D., from China; and John Langell, M.D., Ph.D., with a collaborative project from the University of Utah and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, TX.

I would like to thank the members of the YIA committee (without whom this competition would not be possible!): Drs. John Darwood, Lloyd Tripp, Smith Johnston, Phil Scarpa, Art Arnold, Lu Moreno, and Vernon McDonald.

It is certainly my good fortune to serve in this capacity. This competition is a window to the good future of our field. These Young Investigators demonstrate not only the lessons of science, but of life, as they overcome its struggles to pursue their dreams. It is with special pride that I noticed one of our former Young Investigators, Dr. Jayashri Sharma, came all the way from India to help us with the Habitat for Humanity project at this meeting! This work has always been richly rewarding and an honor for me to be associated with. I am overwhelmed beyond imagination to have this award named for me! I thank you for recognizing me in this wonderful way.

Hubertus Strughold Award

Clarence Jernigan

The Hubertus Strughold Award is presented each year to a member of the Space Medicine Association for dedication and outstanding contributions in advancing the frontiers of space medicine, for sustained contributions to the Space Medicine Association, and who best exemplifies the ideals of Dr. Hubertus Strughold, the "Father of Space Medicine." The recipient of the award is chosen by the Awards Committee which is made up of the members of the Executive Committee and former recipients of the Strughold award. The 2007 recipient is Dr. Clarence Jernigan.

Clarence Jernigan was born in San Antonio, TX, in 1934 and received his B.A. in Biology in 1956 from Oklahoma Baptist University and his M.D. from the Baylor University College of Medicine in 1960. In 1966 he obtained a M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health. After a rotating internship at Wilford Hall in San Antonio in 1961, he completed residencies in Family Practice and Aerospace Medicine. He is board certified in Aerospace Medicine and Family Practice and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice. He became an Air Force flight surgeon after graduating from the Aerospace Medicine Primary course at Brooks AFB in 1961. He was a Flight Medical Officer with the Strategic Air Command and then Director of Aerospace Medicine at Altus AFB, OK (1961-1963). Dr. Jernigan joined NASA in 1964 and was a Remote Site Medical Flight Controller for Gemini 3, 4 and 5. He was the Crew Flight Surgeon for Apollo 7, 8, 12, and 15, and was also the Deputy Crew Surgeon and the Recovery Area Quarantine Manager (onboard the USS Hornet) for Apollo 11. The evaluation of the physiological capability of nitrogen/oxygen mixtures on the launch pad after the Apollo 1 fire was one of his notable accomplishments. He was the Chief, Flight Medicine Branch at NASA JSC from 1968-1972 and received a NASA Commendation for "Outstanding Contribution to the Apollo Program" in 1971. Oklahoma Baptist University awarded him the Profile in Excellence Award in 1982. Dr. Jernigan pioneered the implementation of the Electronic Medical Record at The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, TX. He currently is a Professor in the Departments of Preventive Medicine and Community Health and Family Medicine at UTMB.

It gives us great pleasure to award the Space Medicine Association's Highest Honor to Dr. Clarence Jernigan.

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STRUGHOLD AWARD--Jeff Davis presents the award to Clarence Jernigan.