

Aerospace Medical Association



President
David J. Schroeder, Ph.D.
2601 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2209

320 South Henry Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3579
Phone: 703-739-2240
Fax: 703-739-9652
www.asma.org

Executive Director
Secretary-Treasurer
Russell B. Rayman, M.D., M.P.H.
Association Home Office

March 22, 2004

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The officers and members of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) are encouraged by the revitalization of our nation's space program. We believe that a return to the Moon and a Mission to Mars will, in the long run, benefit not only our country, but the entire world. There is no doubt that we have the technological potential to accomplish these great endeavors. As aerospace medicine physicians and research scientists, we are particularly concerned about astronaut crew health and safety. Because our countermeasure research to date has focused on relatively short duration missions of several weeks to several months, there remains great uncertainty regarding the effects of microgravity upon astronauts flying long duration missions, perhaps as long as two to three years. Consequently, it is vital that an aggressive space medicine research program be incorporated into the planning process of these future missions to enable us to have reasonable certitude that our astronauts can complete the mission and return home safely. Therefore, the Aerospace Medical Association strongly urges your Administration to ensure adequate funding for life sciences research, particularly in the area of microgravity countermeasures. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Rayman, M.D.
Executive Director

RBR:jc