

SUBJECT: IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITED TRAINING AND BOARD
CERTIFICATION IN AEROSPACE MEDICINE FOR THE GROWING
COMMERCIAL SPACE INDUSTRY

SUBMITTED BY: American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive
Medicine

REFERRED TO: Committee on Educational Affairs

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2 WHEREAS, the commercial space industry continues to grow and push the
3 envelope of human spaceflight, with more private citizens, new vehicles, new
4 mission objectives, and operationally untested flights every year;
5

6 WHEREAS, The Aerospace Medical Association passed a similar resolution on 13
7 January, 2024 (2022-01) and seeks AOA support of same.
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9 WHEREAS, crew and passenger safety, health, and mission success remain the
10 highest priorities in our practice as Aerospace Medicine (AM) physicians;
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12 WHEREAS, no current requirements or standards exist for medical providers
13 working at commercial space companies, driving the creation of unregulated
14 and unaccredited medical training pathways and the hiring of providers
15 untrained in Aerospace Medicine;
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17 WHEREAS, externally validated, national standards and core competencies have
18 existed through the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education
19 (ACGME) and international equivalent-accredited Aerospace Medicine
20 residency/fellowship programs and Specialty Boards since 1953, and are the
21 established and recognized industry standards;
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23 WHEREAS, precedent exists per AsMA Resolution 2020-01 and AOA Policy [H201-](#)
24 [A/2021 Vital Nature of Board-Certified Physicians in Aerospace Medicine](#)
25 (dated June 8 and July 17, 2021, respectively) affirming the “unique
26 leadership roles, contributions, and advanced qualification of Aerospace
27 Medicine professionals, and opposes all efforts to remove, reduce or replace
28 Aerospace Medicine physician leadership in civilian, corporate or
29 government Aerospace Medicine programs and aircrew healthcare support
30 teams”;
31

32 WHEREAS, board-certified AM specialists provide:

- 33 1) Operational experience and specific training in spacecraft systems and the
34 health effects of microgravity
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- 36 2) Technical authority and medical subject matter expertise on human-in-the-
37 loop risk assessments, elimination of hazards, and trained responses to
38 mishaps (i.e., the full spectrum from prevention to contingency response)
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40 3) Medical screening of individuals, whose medical issues may compromise
41 mission safety, via the specialist's education in population health
42
43 4) Clinical expertise by interfacing with crew and passengers in matters to
44 which engineers and managers in their traditional roles are not privy, to
45 understand and mitigate health conditions that might impact spaceflight
46 crew performance; now, therefore be it
47

48 RESOLVED, that the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) affirms the
49 importance of ACGME and international equivalent-accredited, standardized
50 training and board certification in Aerospace Medicine as the highest
51 standard of comprehensive physician training for human health,
52 performance, and safety in human spaceflight and commercial aviation; and
53 be it further
54

55 RESOLVED, that AOA recommends corporate and government aerospace
56 communities have board-certified Aerospace Medicine (AM) physicians in
57 leadership and operational roles within their integrated Aerospace Medicine
58 (AM) and healthcare management teams; and be it further
59

60 RESOLVED, that AOA encourages current AM specialists to guide and mentor new
61 programs and trainees toward a path of obtaining internationally recognized
62 credentials, including but not limited to ~~Royal College of Physicians (UK);~~
63 ~~American Board of Preventive Medicine, and~~ American Osteopathic Board of
64 Preventive Medicine board certification in order to maintain the
65 aforementioned standards as the commercial space industry expands.

Background Information: Provided by AOA Staff

Current AOA Policy:

[H201-A/2021 Vital Nature of Board-Certified Physicians in Aerospace Medicine](#)

Prior HOD action on similar or same topic: As noted above.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$0

ACTION TAKEN Adopted as Amended

DATE July 20, 2024