

Introduction to 6th NASA Symposium on The Role of the Vestibular Organs in the Exploration of Space

**Portland, OR
September 30–October 3, 2002**

The Sixth Symposium on the Role of the Vestibular Organs in the Exploration of Space will be held on 1-3 October 2002 in Portland, Oregon, USA, following the XXII Extra-Ordinary Bárány Society Meeting, 27-29 September 2002 in Seattle, Washington. The goal of the Sixth Symposium is to reestablish the original symposia series convened between 1965 and 1970 at the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratories (NAMRL), in Pensacola Florida and NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, CA. These five, highly successful, symposia addressed the perplexing problem of how to understand and ameliorate the adverse physiological effects on humans from the reduction of gravitational stimulation of the vestibular receptors in space. The Sixth Symposium will follow suit, reviewing what has been learned in the intervening 32 years and addressing the problems remaining to be solved.

The three day meeting will include the following topics: historical perspectives and findings, vestibular neurobiology, neuroanatomy, and neurotransmitter systems, theoretical considerations, vestibular neurophysiology, clinical issues, spatial orientation and psychophysics, motor integration and adaptation, autonomic function and space motion sickness, and countermeasures and rehabilitation. The Sixth Symposium will focus on microgravity environments as an essential laboratory environment for the study of fundamental vestibular functions. The target participants are students, postdoctoral fellows, young scientists, and established scientists interested in or actively participating in space-related vestibular research. This will include flight surgeons who deal directly with clinical and operational problems posed by microgravity environments. Students who are US citizens have been invited to submit their work for presentation in a student poster session and competition organized by Professors Laurence Young and Conrad Wall.

The Sixth Symposium also provides the opportunity for the space vestibular community to hold a Festschrift on September 30, 2002 honoring Laurence R. Young, Apollo Professor of Astronautics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Symposium planning committee consists of F. Owen Black, Senior Scientist, Legacy Clinical Research and Technology Center, Portland, Oregon; Richard Boyle, Director, Neuroscience Laboratory, NASA Ames; Charles M. Oman, Director of the Man-Vehicle Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; William H. Paloski, Chief, Human Adaptation and Countermeasures Office, NASA Johnson Space Center; and Angus Rupert, Director, Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Pensacola, Florida.

Support for this Symposium comes from The National Institute of Deafness and Other Communicative Disorders (NIDCD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI).

F. Owen Black
Organizing Committee Chair