

McMonigal receives Flight Safety Award

Fred Gregory, NASA associate administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance, presented NASA's prestigious Flight Safety Award to JSC employee Kathleen A. McMonigal, M.D., of the Space and Life Sciences Directorate. The presentation was made on May 27 at Kennedy Space Center during the Space Flight Awareness Program reception held in conjunction with the STS-96 launch.

Dr. McMonigal received the award for her outstanding contribution to crew health by identifying a potentially significant long-term health issue that could affect flight crewmembers and test subjects who were consuming iodine-treated potable water during space missions and long-duration tests. After noting abnormal thyroid function tests among members of a test group, she promptly conducted a review of published scientific literature, contacted noted authorities on the relationship between iodine ingestion and thyroid disease, and worked to monitor iodine levels in flight crews. Based on her findings, the iodine level of potable water consumed by flight crewmembers and test subjects was immediately reduced to acceptable levels, thereby protecting them from possible permanent thyroid gland injury.



JSC employee Dr. Kathleen McMonigal receives NASA's Flight Safety Award from NASA Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance Fred Gregory during the STS-96 Space Flight Awareness reception at Kennedy Space Center.

"I am extremely pleased to receive the Flight Safety Award," said McMonigal. She expressed her gratitude to management and to other members of the team who worked with her to solve the problem. Accompanying her to the launch

was her husband, Terrence Pattinson, M.D., who serves as research medical monitor at JSC.

Dr. McMonigal joined NASA two years ago as a diving medical officer for the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory. She has served as crew surgeon for the 91-day Lunar Mars Life Support Test Project and is the lead physician for Bioplex.

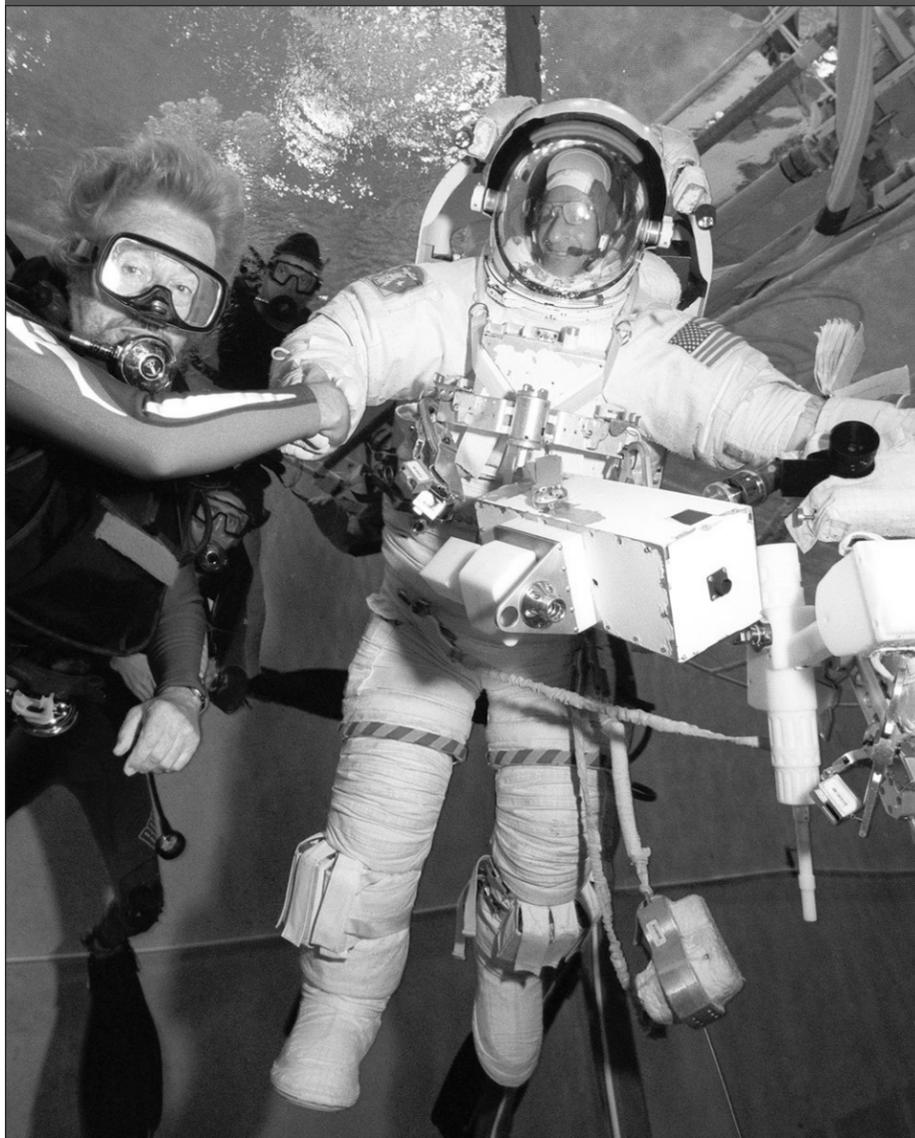
Dr. McMonigal earned her M.D. degree at the University of Minnesota where she also completed a residency in pathology and a fellowship in virology.

She practiced pathology for several years before coming to NASA.

The NASA Flight Safety Award, administered through NASA's Space Flight Awareness Program, recognizes extraordinary contributions to space flight safety that help avoid catastrophic mishaps which could threaten the spacecraft, crew

or mission. It emphasizes the importance of crew safety for all those involved with America's space flight program. ■

Cousteau: from deep sea to deep space



JSC Photo S99-05915

Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of famed underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, ventured into a new underwater environment recently when he joined divers and astronauts at the Neutral Buoyancy Lab. Shown here with suited Astronaut Claude Nicollier, Cousteau, a legendary diver in his own right, observed Hubble Space Telescope training activities at the NBL.

Space Flight Awareness honorees attend STS-96 launch

Johnson Space Center was represented by 23 civil service and contractor Space Flight Awareness honorees at Kennedy Space Center's Banana Creek VIP Viewing Area to watch the beautiful early morning launch of STS-96. They were the proud recipients of NASA's very special SFA honoree award, given to a select few in recognition of their dedication

to quality work leading to flight safety and mission success.

JSC Space Flight Awareness honorees included Brian Mitchell, Flora Lowes, Tammy Long Gafka, Laura Bollweg, Stephanie Roy, Sylvia Buchta, Kathy Earl, Marla Duhon, Louis Nguyen, Lois Walker (SFA National Panel), Lester Sackett, John Norris, Tom Allen, Mike Donnelly, Bill

Morris, Larry Spector, Mark Eaton, Jonathan Zahn, Charles Gaevert, Sylvia Stottlemeyer (SFA National Panel), Robert Lewis, Brian Bihari, Jack Cervoni, Gil Carman, and John Clack.

The honorees also received a VIP tour of KSC and were guests of honor at a reception where NASA and contractor management, as well as numerous astronauts,

applauded their outstanding work and dedication to the space program. Astronaut Mark Kelly presented each honoree with a framed certificate and lapel pin at JSC's awards luncheon held during the event.

The next Space Flight Awareness honoree event will be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-99 currently scheduled for September 16. ■

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NASA spacesuit

integration into the Hydrolab I was ecstatic," said Gibbs.

"When I was told that I would be an alternate test subject I had mixed feelings of the extreme variety; I was honored and somewhat apprehensive. After the trip in March and being involved in training the Russian divers and seeing the level of professionalism and experience that they have with manned water testing, those feelings of apprehension seemed to drown.

"When it came time for manned testing, I had been upgraded to primary test subject. I had total confidence in the entire test team, and testing went off without a hitch. At the time I was only concerned with completing my responsibilities as a member of the team and it didn't really sink in that I would be the first person to ever be in an EMU in the Hydrolab. In retrospect, being a part of something as big as the ISS in that capacity gives me a feeling of accomplishment. If nothing else, my family is proud, and that is good enough for me."

Then another manned underwater test, this time with a Russian subject, Alexi

Altunin, was performed. Altunin is a member of the GCTC training test team, which qualifies him to perform procedural development activities. Again, the team tested how the systems functioned with the suit and tested everyone's proficiency. Then a dual suit run was conducted with Gibbs and Altunin serving as the subjects. Finally, a test using two Russians subjects, with the U.S. team acting as observers, was conducted. The test was a melding of how EMU operations are conducted in the NBL and how nominal EVA training is done in the Hydrolab. All of the tests were successful.

"At that point, we felt that we had successfully proven that the EMU will work safely with the Russian system," said Witt. "We are pleased that there are now no constraints to proceeding with training crews in the EMU in the Hydrolab."

The result of the task demonstrated common goals, a willingness and a desire to succeed, and a commitment to the assembly of the ISS. ■

Test participants

American spacesuit team

Vincent Witt	Integration Team Lead/HSMS
Scott Schoenherr	Hydrolab Operations Lead/NASA
Marc Ciupitu	GSE/Facility Engineer/HSMS
Stephen Anderson	EMU Suit Engineer/ILC
Jason Poffenberger	EMU Suit Engineer/ILC
Rolland Daley	EMU Suit Technician/ILC
Joseph Settles	EMU Suit Technician/ILC
Renny Hardwick	NBL/Environment Control Technician/JE
Ronnie Howard	NBL Safety Diver/JE
Brent Ferguson	NBL Safety Diver/JE
Marquis Gibbs	Test Subject/NBL Safety Diver/JE
Dominic Del Rosso	Test Subject/Hydrolab Operations Team/NASA
Todd Gauer	Test Safety Officer/HEI
Michael Duncan	Medical/Wyle
Matthew Mickle	Hydrolab Operations Team/Alternate Test Subject/HSMS

Russian spacesuit team

Nikolai Grekov	Hydrolab Manager
Victor Ren	EVA Training Manager
Oleg Pushkar	EVA Training Team Lead/Test Subject
Evgheny Irodov	Facility Manager
Alexi Altunin	EVA Training Team/Test Subject
Oleg Kishchenko	Orlan/EMU Suit Engineer
Oleg Ivanilov	GSE/Facility Lead
Oleg Brel	Orlan/EMU Suit Engineer
Gennady Tarasenkov	Medical