

Artificial Gravity as a Tool in Biology and Medicine Study Group 2.2 Status Report

A new Study Group on the subject of Artificial Gravity was organized under the chairmanship of Prof. Laurence Young and Prof. Kazuyoshi Kazimi, with Dr. William Paloski as executive secretary. Increased attention has been called to AG following the recent US announcement of a Space Exploration Vision involving long duration flights.

Our international membership has been contacted and the first meeting of the Study Group 2.2 is scheduled for Vancouver on Tuesday, October 5, 2004 from 1300-1500 in the Gov. General Room B. All interested members of the Academy or attendees at the IAC are welcome to attend.

The scope of the Study Group activity and report will cover the key questions which need to be answered to make AG practical as a countermeasure, the facilities and flight opportunities required to answer these questions, and a timeline or schedule to accomplish the research project. Both human and animal experiments, on earth and in space, are to be considered. Both short radius intermittent centrifugation and long radius continuous rotation will be considered.

The starting point for the study will be the questions and recommendations reported at the 1999 Artificial Gravity Workshop held in League City Texas. Current programs for a Pilot Study and a subsequent international program combining AG with bed rest will be presented at the initial meeting to stimulate discussion. Current plans for AG research will be presented.

A schedule of future meetings, including Graz in 2005, will be determined at the October 2004 Study Group session.