

IAA Study Group Status Report

Responsible Commission:

Study Number and Title: 4.17 Space Systems for Biomedical Research

Short Study Description (repeat from Study Group Proposal):

Space environment is characterized by extraordinary conditions that can support and improve biomedical research on human diseases. The results obtained by several researches suggest that space environment exposure including microgravity and ionizing radiation can cause biological changes in cell structures, functions and in human health not always reproducible at ground. For example results of studies performed on tissue culture for organ regeneration demonstrated the advantages of growing tissues in microgravity; preliminary on-orbit tests showed that the space environment is a fundamental tool to find new treatments for cancer cure.

The high costs related to space missions and the great amounts of data needed to validate results in biomedical research are some of the factors that constrained the space biomedicine.

Another main constraint is the possibility to have access to space. Recently, only the International Space Station is giving the possibility to support biomedical research in space, but launch and room availability inside the ISS are not sufficient for the amount of experiments that the biomedical community can perform.

The goals of this study is to find new space systems to improve biomedical research in space solving several issues such as high costs, samples analysis on board, payload recovering and also ethical issues and safety issues.

A possible way to improve the biomedical research in space could be the use of cheap and autonomous space systems (e.g. CubeSats). At the same time, several technical issues to use this kind of system need to be solved (e.g. thermal environment, reentry, on board sample analysis)

The main goals of this working group are:

1. Study possible technical solutions to design ad hoc platform for biomedical research in space,
2. Study new technologies and materials to improve samples return on ground,
3. Find new solution to improve launch capability or space biomedical payloads,
4. Design specific standards for biomedical research in space

In order to achieve these goals, members of the team have been selected from biomedical and aerospace engineer areas.

Progress in past six months:

Chapter 3 Draft is under revision.

A new milestone and study plan is under discussion.

A room for annual meeting at 4th IAA Conference on University Satellites Missions has been secured.

The initial agenda will be distributed to the members via e-mail before the end of October 2017.

Website Study Information update: (please give any update regarding Study Group Membership, documents, Study Plan and Schedule):

Issues requiring resolution? (recommend approach):
None

Product Deliveries on Schedule? (If modified explain rationale):
Yes

Study Team Member Changes?

No change

Name of person providing Study Group Status (Study Group Chair or Co-Chair):

Chantal Cappelletti

Status Report Date:

06/09/2017

Study Team Membership Changes

Effectivity Date:

Discontinue:

Name

Current email address

Add:

Name

Current email address

Tel.

Fax

Mailing address