

# UKSBA Newsletter

March 2009



## Chair's Welcome

Dear members and friends of UKSBA,

It is probably appropriate that we start the association newsletter at a point at which a new executive takes the helm of the society. The association has been in existence in one form or another for 8 years, and is now beginning to gain a distinct character of its own. This is helped in no small part by having a logo that clearly defines us as a medical organization with interests beyond the normal terrestrial sphere.

Each and everyone of us has an interest, or in many cases a passion, for space. We all have our own reasons for being excited by

being involved in such an amazing industry. Needless to say, full involvement is very difficult for us Brits due to our Government's traditional anti-human space flight stance. This of course is one of the core reasons for the association's existence.

As I write I am aware that the European Space Agency astronaut selection is coming to an end. Official, large scale selections like this occur very rarely, the last being over 15 years ago. The results of the current search have not been released but the potential exists for a UK citizen to be selected.

It is not impossible therefore that we could be

about to embark upon an era in which we have a British astronaut or where one or more stand waiting in the sidelines as backups. In either case the UK's future involvement in human space flight will be highlighted in the media and the growing movement for British participation will be strengthened. I believe therefore that the next 18 months may be a turning point for our cause if sufficient pressure of the right kind can be brought to bear on the Government. Our organization has applied such pressure in the past and will be called upon to do so again in forthcoming months.

You are all a part of a small but increasingly  
(cont. on p.2)

## Register Now with the UKSBA Research Network!

One of UKSBA's key objectives is to develop and offer facilities and services for space biomedical research and education to UK students and professionals. Part of what I am trying to do currently is collate details of what has previously been undertaken and

current opportunities. It would be very helpful if people could send me details of: any work they have done; UK researchers and collaborators; facilities; courses; and publications. I propose as this develops it be incorporated into the members area of the UKSBA

website as a source of reference information, providing ideas and contacts to aid future collaborations, education and research opportunities for Brits in general and UKSBA members in particular.  
(cont. on pp. 3, 5)

### Special points Of interest:

- CHAIR'S WELCOME
- REGISTER NOW WITH THE UKSBA RESEARCH NETWORK!

### Inside this issue:

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## Chair's Welcome

visible organisation that has the ability to make itself heard and have an impact on the direction the country takes with regards to human space flight. It is a privilege for us to be in such a position at such a time. The world stands on the brink of the second era of space. The contributions we all make individually and in support of UKSBA activities over the next 18 months are of great impor-

tance and are likely to prove of significance.

So let's look forward to an exciting period ahead. Let us all keep in mind the potential importance of the work we are doing within the association; and who knows, in the future we just might be able to look back on this time as a pivotal point where the few that made up UKSBA achieved a great deal and helped

tip the balance that lead to the United Kingdom embarking at last on it's journey in to space.

Best wishes to you all and thank you so much to everyone who has devoted their precious time and energy to the association in recent years!

**Dr Simon Evetts**  
(Co-chair, UKSBA)

## ESA Astronaut Selection Highlights

ESA Astronaut selection is close to completion. The names of the final candidates are expected to

be announced in the next few weeks. It is believed that 4 will be selected to join the ESA

astronaut Corps bringing the total number of active ESA astronauts up to 11.

## CASE Scholars Announced

CASE (Centre for Aviation, Space and Extreme Environment Medicine) has three students earmarked for electives with NASA and ESA this year. They are:

**Robert Langton**, University of Nottingham, April to May (NASA, Kennedy Space Centre [KSC])

**Emily MacDonald**, University of Cambridge, Aug

to Sep. (NASA, Kennedy Space Centre [KSC])

**Harriet Cullen**, St George's, London, Feb and now completed. (ESA MedOps [EAC])

## Former UKSBA Chair Holds Workshop at BNSC

The former UKSBA Chair, Dr Kevin Fong, has been asked to set-up a workshop for the British National Space Centre (BNSC) to examine the potential benefit to the

UK of participating in human space flight related activities whereby space biomed products and procedures can be spun-off to terrestrial medicine. SE will attend

on behalf of ESA MedOps (HSF-AM) and will also bring with him contributions from the ESA technology spin-off division (TEC-ST).

IAC 2009

HIGHLIGHT:

2009 MARKS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF IAF.

THIS YEAR, UKSBA WILL ALSO PRESENT A PAPER AT IAC, MORE NEWS TO COME

## King's College London: New Course, New Publications

The King's College London proposal for a Masters degree in Space Physiology and Health is complete and is about to undergo the University of London review process. Should all proceed it is expected that the MSc will now start in 2010.

Professor Ernsting of King's College has agreed to be lead editor for a new publication termed "CPR in Extreme Environments". The lead author of the book will be Prof Thais Russomano. The content will be centred on the work her UK/Brazilian research team has been conducting over

the years and which has involved a number of members of the association. With Ernsting as editor this publication will be taken note of. Prof Russomano will be approached by SE with the aim of requesting that the UKSBA contribution is recognized in the text.

## UKSBA Conference Announced

In its 800<sup>th</sup> year the University of Cambridge is set to host the 4<sup>th</sup> UKSBA Conference at Downing College. This magnificent setting with its 17 acres of pristine lawns and neo classical architecture dating from 1800 are will provide a fitting background to the UK's only Space Biomedical Conference. The date of the conference is likely to be in early

November 2009. More details will be published within the next few weeks. The speakers at present are still being invited but if anyone has any suggestions please be in touch. A final conference team needs to be assembled that will be key to the running of the event. A wide range of positions are available, from the marketing to public

relations that will ensure this will be day to remember. If you are interested in being part of this UKSBA team then please contact me as soon as possible at:  
conference@uksba.org  
so we can push things forward. Hope to hear from you soon.

**Dr Gihan Ganesh**

## UKSBA Research Network

I also think this is important as a means to encourage future members and to help firmly establish UKSBA as the focal point and forum for Brits working in space biomedical research and education.

Feel free to put down any information you have in an email if that is easier. Then please send the completed form to:

research@uksba.org

Many thanks for your help!  
(cont. on p. 5)

**Dr Peter Hodkinson**

**(Research Team Lead)**

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## New UKSBA Website

A new UKSBA website ([uksba.org](http://uksba.org)) has been launched to help our association achieve its goals. It will be used to serve our members and the wider space biomedicine community.

You can expect news and events pertaining to the UKSBA and space biomedicine industry to be regularly published. As the website grows, students, teachers and industry professionals will also have the opportunity to access an expanding repository

of educational and research material.

In the next few months, UKSBA members will have access to a secure area containing a variety of forums that will facilitate collaboration within the community. It is hoped that it will also enable our junior members to network with space biomedicine professionals. This will allow them to be amongst the first to be informed of potential opportunities within the industry.

The website is an important

addition to the UKSBA and will require a lot of hard work. We plan that it will go live in stages, therefore please contact me at: [jonathan.gillham@uksba.org](mailto:jonathan.gillham@uksba.org) if you are interested in helping with any part of the development.

Please note that the previous UKSBA website [www.uksba.com](http://www.uksba.com) is no longer available. To check the latest UKSBA developments visit [uksba.org](http://uksba.org).

**Jonathan Gillham**  
(Media Team Lead)

## UKSBA Executive Committee: Who's Who

The UKSBA has dedicated team leaders on the Executive Committee. They work on specific aspects of the association's activities. If you would like to get more involved in the UKSBA activities, would like more information or would like to get in contact for any other reason then please email the appropriate UKSBA Executive at one of the e-mails below:

[policy@uksba.org](mailto:policy@uksba.org)

[conference@uksba.org](mailto:conference@uksba.org)

[education@uksba.org](mailto:education@uksba.org)

[outreach@uksba.org](mailto:outreach@uksba.org)

[finance@uksba.org](mailto:finance@uksba.org)

[research@uksba.org](mailto:research@uksba.org)

[contact@uksba.org](mailto:contact@uksba.org)

YOU CAN ALWAYS  
REACH A MEMBER  
OF THE UKSBA  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE:  
CHECK UKSBA.ORG  
FOR THE LATEST  
DEVELOPMENTS.

**UKSBA Research Network**

**COURSES:**

CAN BE SHORT/  
LONG, UNDER OR  
POSTGRADUATE,  
UK OR  
OVERSEAS

LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACT INFO	WEB ADDRESS

**RESEARCH:**

- PRINCIPALLY UK BASED BUT OVERSEAS COLLABORATION INFORMATION ALSO VERY USEFUL
- INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS/CENTRES/FACILITIES
- PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR

LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACT INFO	WEB ADDRESS

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Please also include previous work done by UKSBA members even if it has not been published (include instructions on privacy of information - as to whether you are happy for this to be on e.g. UKSBA website in general/ members only/available only on request)

CITATION	DETAILS/COLLABORATORS	CONTACT	PRIVACY INSTRUCTIONS