WHO WE ARE:

• A private, non-profit organization

• Established in 1970, under 1863 Congressional charter of NAS

• A component of the National Academy of Sciences

• We advise the nation issues of health and medical policy

• Majority of studies are requested and funded by the federal government

• Study committees are composed of experts serving pro-bono
A TYPICAL YEAR

- IOM’s research program is about $25 million per year
- At any given time, IOM has about 70 to 80 activities underway
- IOM publishes about 40 reports annually through the National Academy Press
POLICY

A definite course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions.

- Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary
IOM STUDIES ISSUES SUCH AS:

• Are pesticide residues in food harmful to children?

• What nutrients does the body need to prevent deficiency and protect us from disease? And at what level?

• Are silicone breast implants safe?

• What proportion of disease and deaths are due to lifestyle?

• What’s the best system for investing scarce resources in vaccine development?
MORE STUDIES...

• The Future of Public Health
• The Human Genome Project
• Allocation of organs for transplantation
• Medical errors
Background

- Origin: NASA request
- Sponsor: NASA
- Funding: $1.4 million/24 months
- Staff: Charlie Evans, Mel Worth, Judy Rensberger, Tanya Lee

Committee Information

- Chair: John Ball, M.D., J.D.
- 14 member committee
- Academy Membership: 3 IOM Members
- Board Liaison: Gloria Sarto

Purpose

To conduct an assessment of the current status of scientific knowledge; evaluate the most promising directions for the future of space medicine scientific progress, recommend a national and international strategy for space medical care during long term space flight, and suggest the most effective ways for NASA to address priority areas in achieving this strategy.

Creating a Vision for Space Medicine During Travel Beyond Earth Orbit

Status

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The IOM, through activities including studies and workshops undertaken at the National Academies under the auspices of its standing Committee on Aerospace Medicine and the Medicine of Extreme Environments (CAMMEE), shall provide to NASA independent technical advice relevant to aerospace medicine. More specifically, the CAMMEE shall coordinate with Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer, Code AM, three times a year, to become informed of existing conditions and emerging issues related to medical care in space, to define prospective activities (such as studies or analysis of medical needs and/or approaches to addressing those needs) to be conducted at the National Academies and funded by NASA, and, through such activities, to provide advice on current NASA programs in aerospace medicine.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation 1. NASA should give increased priority to understanding, mitigating, and communicating to the public the health risks of long-duration missions beyond Earth orbit.

- Recommendation 2. NASA should develop a comprehensive health care system for astronauts for the purpose of collecting and analyzing data while providing the full continuum of health care to ensure astronaut health.
RECOMMENDATIONS (Cont.)

• Recommendation 3. NASA should develop a strategic health care research plan designed to increase the knowledge base about the risks to astronaut health.

• Recommendation 4. NASA should give priority to increasing the knowledge base of the effects of living conditions and behavioral interactions on the health and performance of astronauts on long-duration space missions.

• Recommendation 5. NASA should develop and use an occupational health model for the collection and analysis of astronaut health data, giving priority to the creation and maintenance of a safe work environment.
• Recommendation 6. NASA should accelerate integration of its engineering and health sciences cultures.

• Recommendation 7. NASA should establish an organizational component headed by an official who has authority over and accountability for all aspects of astronaut health, including appropriate policy-making, operational, and budgetary authority.