

Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space: Human Behavior and Mental Health Panel

Committee

Thomas J. Balkin

Chair

THOMAS J. BALKIN is the chief of the Department of Behavioral Biology at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Dr. Balkin has been at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research since September 1985, serving first as a research psychologist in the human psychopharmacology branch of the department of behavioral biology, and since April 1995, as Chief of the Department of Behavioral Biology. He is also a co-director of the Sleep Disorders Center at Howard County (MD) General Hospital. He is the author of numerous articles and studies on sleep issues, including those involving alertness, fatigue and performance. He has been affiliated with several sleep disorders centers and sleep centers since 1981, and has served on NATO, NIH, and other government boards and committees focused on issues of sleep and performance. Dr. Balkin received a B.S. from Syracuse University, an M.S. in experimental psychology from the State University of New York, College at Cortland, and his Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Bowling Green State University.

Joel E. Dimsdale

Member

JOEL E. DIMSDALE is a professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and the co-leader of the Cancer Symptom Control Research Program at UCSD's Moores Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to moving to UCSD in 1985, Dr. Dimsdale was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Dimsdale's major research interests include sympathetic nervous system physiology as it relates to stress, blood pressure, and sleep; cultural factors in illness; and quality of life. He is an active investigator, a former career awardee of the American Heart Association, and is past-president of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, the American Psychosomatic Society, and the Society of Behavioral Medicine. He is on numerous editorial boards, is editor-in-chief emeritus of Psychosomatic Medicine, and is a previous guest editor of Circulation. He is the former chair of the Sleep Research Society's Committee on Research. He has been a consultant to the President's Commission on Mental Health, the Institute of Medicine, and is a long-time reviewer for the NIH. He is also the former Chair of the UCSD Academic Senate. He is the author of over 500 publications as well as the editor of four books. Dr. Dimsdale obtained a B.A. in biology from Carleton College before receiving both a M.A. in sociology and an M.D. from Stanford University. He obtained his psychiatric training at Massachusetts General Hospital and then completed a fellowship in psychobiology at the New England Regional Primate Center. Dr. Dimsdale is currently a member of the Microgravity Decadal Survey Steering Committee, and he is being nominated to serve as both a panel member and as a liaison to the Steering Committee

Nick Kanas

Member

NICK KANAS is a professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Kanas' research interests include the psychological interactions of people under stress and ways they can cope better with stressors in their environment. For over 16 years, he has studied astronauts living and working in space. He has been the principal investigator of two large NASA-funded international studies involving the Mir and International Space Stations, and he is currently the principal investigator of a NASA-funded study aimed at examining the effects of increased crew anatomy in space. In 1999, Dr. Kanas received the Aerospace Medical Association Raymond F. Longacre Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in the Psychological and Psychiatric Aspects of Aerospace Medicine and in 2008 he received the International Academy of Astronautics Life Sciences Award. In 2003 he received the J. Elliott Royer Award for excellence in Academic Psychiatry. Dr. Kanas is the co-author of a book entitled Space Psychology and Psychiatry, which was the recipient of the 2004 International Academy of Astronautics Life Sciences Book Award. Dr. Kanas has previously served as a member of the NRC Committee on Space Biology and Medicine Panel on Human Behavior.

Gloria Leon

Member

GLORIA LEON is professor emerita of psychology at the University of Minnesota as of June 2006. She participated in both the clinical and personality doctoral training areas of the department, and was an adjunct professor at the Institute of Child Development. Her first academic appointment was in the department of psychology at Rutgers University, after which she was appointed assistant professor in the department of psychology at the University of Minnesota in 1974. In addition to her teaching and research activities, she served as director of the Clinical Psychology graduate program. She has conducted extensive research on the assessment of personality and behavioral functioning after traumatic situations including Vietnam combat, disasters, living in the Chernobyl area, and polar expeditions with teams composed of single gender, mixed gender, and cross-national members. Dr. Leon is also co-principal investigator on a fourth NASA-funded study assessing human performance in extreme temperature conditions, with implications for better monitoring the status of astronauts during extended extravehicular activities. She is a member of several additional NASA committees, the External Advisory Council of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute, and the International Astronautics Association psychosocial committee. She received her Ph.D. in mental health psychology from the University of Maryland. Dr. Leon has previously served as a member of the NRC Committee on NASA's Research on Human Health Risks and currently serves as a member of the NRC Planning Committee for the Workshop on Analog Environments for Research on Health Impacts of Space Travel and the Committee on Aerospace Medicine and Medicine of Extreme Environments.

Lawrence A. Palinkas

Member

LAWRENCE A. PALINKAS is the Albert G. and Frances Lomas Feldman professor of social policy and health at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, and an adjunct professor of family and preventive medicine at the University of California, San Diego. He joined the USC School of Social Work faculty in 2005 after serving as a professor of Family and Preventive Medicine and Director of Immigrant/Refugee Health Studies in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego. A medical anthropologist, his primary areas of expertise lie within preventive medicine, cross-cultural medicine and health services research. Among his scholarly achievements are receiving the Antarctic Service Medal awarded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Navy in 1989, serving as the deputy chief officer of the Life Sciences Standing Committee on Antarctic Research in 2002 and serving as the chair of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute's External Advisory Council in 2003. He is an elected fellow of the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology and the author of more than 200 publications. Dr. Palinkas received a B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1974 and both his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego in 1975 and 1981, respectively. Dr. Palinkas previously served as a member of the NRC Committee on Space Biology and Medicine as Chair of the Panel on Human Behavior and as a member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research and the Committee on NASA's Bioastronautics Critical Path Roadmap.