

SPACE LIFE SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM (A1)

Public Outreach and Education - Integral Elements of Space Life Sciences Program Development (8)

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UKSBA PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR SPACE BIOMEDICINE

Abstract

The development of the UK Space Biomedicine Association (UKSBA) has inspired and supported UK students to pursue interests, academic courses and careers in space life-science or space medicine and has thus been important in enlarging UK space activities both nationally and internationally.

The subject of this paper is to outline the main purpose and tasks of the UKSBA. Its purpose is to create educational, research and career opportunities for students and professionals in the UK who are interested in space life- and space medical-sciences; and to promote UK involvement in human spaceflight as a means of enhancing the academic, medical, industrial and economic foundations at national level as well as conferring an international benefit. In 2008, the UKSBA underwent significant restructuring in order to fulfill its aims and objectives more effectively.

Presently, the method for achieving this aim is five-fold. Firstly, the association works towards fostering and developing mutually beneficial relationships with national and international research, educational and political institutions and organizations. Secondly, it facilitates and supports space biomedicine research undertaken by its members. Thirdly, it works to develop and offer facilities and services for space biomedical research and education to UK students and professionals. Fourthly, it organizes space biomedicine conferences with the intention to expand to other events for its membership. Finally, UKSBA promotes greater UK involvement in European and other multilateral space biomedicine research programs, whilst seeking resources to enable the initiation of such programs and establishing a pro-human space flight policy. Within the UKSBA, the Public Outreach Education team is supported by the Conference Events team as well as the Media and Research Teams. This holistic approach is believed to provide an excellent foundation for achieving the association's targets and making a significant contribution to UK scientific advancement.

Since its inception the association and its members have achieved a number of notable accomplishments chief amongst which are the organization of national space medicine conferences, which have included involvement from various international space agencies.

The further enlargement of the Space Biomedical Association will help to encourage the UK Government to make the decision to become actively involved in human spaceflight for the future benefit of the nation and of the space industry in general.