2012 Nutrition Risk Standing Review Panel
Status Review for:
The Risk Factor of Inadequate Nutrition

Comments to the Human Research Program, Chief Scientist

2012 Nutrition Risk Status Standing Review Panel (SRP) WebEx/teleconference Participants:

SRP Members:
Bruce Bistrian, M.D., Ph.D. – Harvard Medical School
Roger Fielding, Ph.D. – Tufts University
Marc Hellerstein, M.D., Ph.D. – University of California, Berkeley/University of California, San Francisco
Gordon Jensen, M.D., Ph.D. – Pennsylvania State University

NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC):
David Baumann
Ronita Cromwell, Ph.D.
Smith Johnston, M.D.
Jennifer Morgan, Ph.D.
Peter Norsk, M.D.
LaRona Smith, Ph.D.
Scott Smith, Ph.D.
Susan Steinberg, Ph.D.
Sara Zwart, Ph.D.

NASA Headquarters (HQ):
Bruce Hather, Ph.D.

NASA Research and Education Support Services (NRESS):
Tiffin Ross-Shepard

On October 31, 2012, the Nutrition Risk SRP, participants from JSC, HQ, and NRESS participated in a WebEx/teleconference. The purpose of the call (as stated in the Statement of Task) was to allow the SRP members to:

1. Receive an update by the Human Research Program (HRP) Science Management Office (SMO) on the status of NASA’s current and future exploration plans and the impact these will have on the HRP.
2. Receive an update on changes within HRP (for example, movement of the IRP online, gap rewriting, etc.).
3. Receive a brief update by the Element or Project Scientist on progress since the 2010 SRP, as well as discuss the response to the 2010 Chair +1 SRP meeting.
4. Participate in a discussion with SMO and the Element regarding possible topics to be addressed at the face-to-face 2012 SRP meeting.
Based on the presentations and the discussion during the WebEx/teleconference, the SRP would like to relay the following information to Dr. Kundrot, the HRP Chief Scientist (Acting).

1. The SRP found both the HRP Overview presentation and the nutrition discipline presentation to be very informative.

2. The SRP is impressed by the quality of the nutrition research being conducted by the nutrition discipline under Dr. Scott Smith.

3. The SRP would like to commend the nutrition discipline team on their accomplishments to date and their plan for future work. The SRP was specifically impressed by the progress made in addressing practical problems and producing increasingly effective countermeasures.

4. The SRP still thinks the need to comprehensively address oxidative stress and inflammatory response in protracted spaceflight beyond low Earth orbit does not appear to be receiving the ongoing priority that it may warrant. Improved methods for assessing systemic inflammation and radiation exposure remain high priority and currently unresolved issues in studies.

5. The SRP continues their enthusiastic support for the intriguing “One-Carbon Metabolism” task.