

IAF/IAA SPACE LIFE SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM (A1)  
Interactive Presentations - IAF/IAA SPACE LIFE SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM (IP)

Author: Dr. Shawna Pandya  
Canada, shawnapandya@gmail.com

Ms. Starr Schroeder  
United States, starr.schroeder76@gmail.com

Ms. JESSICA CLARK  
United States, c.jess.clark@gmail.com

MEDICAL GUIDELINES FOR COMMERCIAL ORBITAL SPACEFLIGHT: WHO GETS TO GO?

**Abstract**

Orbital human spaceflight to date has largely been restricted to space agency-selected astronauts, who have undergone meticulous screening with stringent medical ‘select-in’ and ‘select-out’ criteria. At the same time, a handful of spaceflight participants have completed successful orbital sojourns to the International Space Station (ISS), despite having pre-existing conditions that might be considered disqualifying for governmental space agency selected astronauts. Now, with the rise of the commercial space sector and proposed space tourist access to orbital and even cis-lunar missions, there is a current push to make commercial orbital spaceflight more inclusive, with a dedicated effort to recruit astronauts of all abilities and medical backgrounds. The recent Inspiration4-SpaceX all-civilian mission to the ISS proposes to send the first astronaut with a prosthesis to space. The current ESA astronaut selection emphasizes a call for astronauts with disabilities. This paper is a follow-up to the Association of Spaceflight Professional’s Life Sciences Team’s review and recommendations on Medical Guidelines for Commercial Suborbital Spaceflight, and focuses on historical and present medical guidelines for commercial orbital and cis-lunar human spaceflight, culminating with recommendations for next steps.