

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
Houston, Texas  
77058

Reply to Attn of: CB

TO: AA/Director  
FROM: CB/William E. Thornton, M.D., NASA Astronaut  
SUBJECT: Request for Approval of Outside Activity

This is a request to engage in two separate, but related, outside activities as follows:

1. Acceptance of an unpaid appointment (Clinical Instructor) in the Department of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Galveston, Texas.
2. Coauthor and present a medical pamphlet and scientific exhibit.

Last week I discussed proposed publication of medical research with Mr. Henry W. Flagg of the JSC Legal Office. In detailing the background of the work, Mr. Flagg pointed out that I may have unwittingly violated NASA regulations by not having approval for outside activities as follows. In 1975, after a 10-year absence from clinical medicine and while assigned to JSC Life Sciences, I requested and received permission to regain some of my medical proficiency by full-time assignment to UTMB to work as a house officer in the department of medicine. This required acceptance of a clinical appointment (instructor) in the department of medicine. All aspects of that year's work were thoroughly coordinated with and approved by my then supervisors, Mr. Richard S. Johnston and Dr. Joseph P. Kerwin, and with Mr. Stanley H. Goldstein of the Employee Development Branch. I received no money nor any form of payment for any work done at that time or since from UTMB under this appointment, nor do I have any control of or contact with any NASA contracts or contractors at UTMB.

Since completing that year of clinical work, I have worked with Dr. John Wallace, head of the hypertension service, in hypertension research at UTMB. This work is currently the most extensive investigation known to me of 24-hour indirect ambulatory blood pressure with several hundred subjects and provides a new dimension for clinical and research studies.

The appointment has been renewed annually by UTMB and it never occurred to me that additional NASA clearance was required since I was instructed by the Director of Flight Operations to maintain my medical research capabilities outside of NASA; my supervisors were aware of my continued work at UTMB; and since this appointment had been at least tacitly approved during my year of full-time work at UTMB.



Other than small amounts of university resources (lab work, etc.) and loans/gifts of equipment there has been no other support for this major effort which in fact has been heavily subsidized by myself and Dr. Wallace. Dr. Wallace has put over \$4,000 of his own into the project. I have contributed from my personal bank several times that (at least \$12,000) into the project. The sources for my contributions have been my NASA salary and consulting fees received from Del Mar Avionics. That consulting arrangement is conducted with NASA approval for outside activity, a copy of which is enclosed and reported as required. Additionally, the research work has been on my own time on weekends, nights, and while on leave.

This work is badly needed in hypertension and has produced major advances in technique, methodology, and knowledge of blood pressure and its disorders.

At this time, I am requesting that I be allowed to accept this appointment and to maintain this work since it provides virtually my only active contact with medical research. No payment to me of any form is received from UTMB nor is the service in which I work involved in any way with NASA or, to the best of my knowledge, any other government agency. The work is done on my off-duty time without any interference with my NASA schedule.

My second request is that I be allowed to participate in presentation of our results to the medical profession in accepted channels of scientific exhibit and publication and to be identified with this work. This identification need not include my NASA affiliation if that is not desirable.

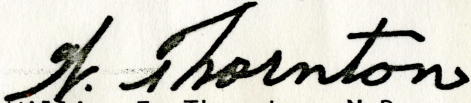
This exhibit is purely scientific and describes the results of our work with normals and hypertensives and is not in any way a commercial exhibit, the latter being at separate locations at medical conventions. Further, scientific exhibits are screened by a committee of the medical organization sponsoring the conventions to insure that commercial content is not present. Dr. Wallace and I will write every word and prepare all other content in it.

Del Mar Avionics, the firm for which I have performed consulting services, had indicated a willingness to bear the expenses associated with constructing and transporting the exhibit and printing the related narrative material. Del Mar Avionics has supported the research project in the form of loaning us blood pressure recorders and associated equipment, and a gift of a Radio Shack microcomputer to UTMB. The company's recorder is to be described only scientifically and to the extent required to understand its use in the larger work described and is not identified as to manufacturer nor is the company otherwise identified by the exhibit.

No real or apparent NASA endorsement of either the research project or any company or product will be made. This seems to be within the letter and intent of NASA and government guidelines in NMI 1900.5 and Standards of



Conduct. Several times I have reviewed the above aspects with leaders in the medical profession to insure that it was also consistent with medical ethics and propriety and have been assured that it was and is.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. E. Thornton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Thornton" clearly distinguishable.

William E. Thornton, M.D.  
NASA Astronaut

Enclosure