



Dr. Dave Williams
President and Chief Executive Officer

Canadian Astronaut and physician, Dave Williams, is the President and CEO for Newmarket-based Southlake Regional Health Centre and Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto. Prior to joining Southlake in July 2011, Dr. Williams was the Director of the McMaster Centre for Medical Robotics at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and a Professor in the Department of Surgery of the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine (2008-2011). Dr. Williams also previously held the position of Chief Medical Officer of Quality and Safety at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (2010-2011).

During 2007, Dr. Williams served as a NASA mission specialist on STS-118, the 119th space shuttle flight, the 22nd flight to the station, and the 20th flight for Endeavour. Dr. Williams took part in three of the four spacewalks; setting a Canadian record, he spent 17 hours and 47 minutes outside.

Dr. Williams was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and graduated from McGill University, Montréal, Quebec, with a Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology (1976). He obtained a Master of Science from the Physiology Department, a Doctorate of Medicine and a Master of Surgery from the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University (1983). He was awarded Honourary degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, McGill University, the University of Wales, and Queen's University.

Dr. Williams' many affiliations and awards include: Board Member for the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (2010), Member of Sea Space (2010), Board Member for the Canadian Foundation for the International Space University (2009-2010), Board Member for the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation (2009), Science Ambassador for the Ontario Science Centre, Board Member for the Spinal Cord Injury Solutions Network (2008 - 2010), Member of the Minister's Space Advisory Panel (2008-2010), Board Member for Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum (2008), A Fellowship in The Explorer's Club (June 2008), the NASA Exceptional Service Award (June 2008), Honourary Board Member of Neuroscience Canada (May 2008), Member of the Canadian Commission for Antarctic Research, the NASA JSC Space and Life Sciences Directorate Special Professional Achievement Award for the implementation of the Automatic External Defibrillator Program that has saved several lives at the NASA Johnson Space Center (2003), the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal (2002), Patron of the International Life Saving Federation (2002), and Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (2000).

Dr. Williams is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and the College of Family Physicians of Canada. He is also a member of the College of Physicians of Ontario, the Ontario Medical Association, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society, and the Aerospace Medical Association.

In 1988, Dr. Williams became an emergency physician with the Department of Emergency Services at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, while also lecturing with the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. He served as a member of the Air Ambulance Utilization Committee with the Ministry of Health in Ontario, both as an academic emergency physician and later as a representative of community emergency physicians. In addition, he has trained basic ambulance attendants, paramedics, nurses, residents, and practicing physicians in cardiac and trauma resuscitation with both the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation and the American College of Surgeons.

From 1989 to 1990, he served as an emergency physician with the Emergency Associates of Kitchener, Waterloo and as the medical director of the Westmount Urgent Care Clinic. In 1990, he returned to Sunnybrook as medical director of the Advanced Cardiac Life Support Program and also as the coordinator of postgraduate training in emergency medicine. Subsequently, he became the director of the Department of Emergency Services at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre and assistant professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto.

In June 1992, Dr. Williams was selected by the Canadian Space Agency as one of four successful candidates from a field of 5,330 applicants to begin astronaut training. He completed basic training, and in May 1993, was appointed manager of the Missions and Space Medicine Group within the Canadian Astronaut Program. His assignments included supervising the implementation of operational space medicine activities for the Canadian Astronaut Program.

In January 1995, Dr. Williams was selected to join the international class of NASA mission specialist astronaut candidates. He reported to the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in March 1995 for a year of training and evaluation. Following his successful completion of this training in May 1996, he was assigned to the Payloads and Habitability Branch of the NASA Astronaut Office. As a representative of the Office, he participated in the JSC Institutional Review Board and Science Merit Review Committee, the Independent Advisory Team for the International Space Station Crew Health Care System (CHeCs), the JSC Radiation Constraints Panel and was involved in the development of the Human Research Facility.

In April 1998, Dave participated in STS-90 as Mission Specialist 3 aboard Space Shuttle Columbia. Columbia orbited the Earth 256 times, covered over 10 million kilometres and spent over 381 hours in space. From July 1998 until September 2002, Dave held the position of Director of the Space and Life Sciences Directorate at the JSC in Houston, Texas and a concurrent appointment as the Deputy Associate Administrator for Crew Health and Safety, Office of Spaceflight, NASA HQ, Washington, DC. With these appointments, he became the first non-American to hold a senior management position within NASA.

In October 2001, he became an aquanaut through his participation in the joint NASA-NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) NEEMO 1 mission, a training exercise held in Aquarius, the world's only underwater research laboratory. During this seven-day exercise, he became the first Canadian to have lived and worked in space and in the ocean. In addition to this, Dr. Williams took the lead of NEEMO 9 as the crew commander of this mission dedicated to assess new ways to deliver medical care to a remote location, as would be done in a long space flight.