

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 6, 2006

Reply to Attn of.

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Connect for a Cure Gala on Saturday, March 4, 2006

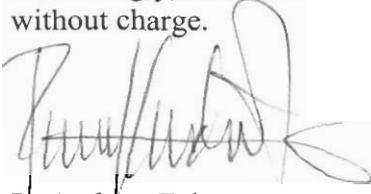
On Saturday, March 4, 2006, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), a non-profit organization, will host the Connect for a Cure Gala, the 8th Annual Technology Gala, at The Fairmont, Washington, D.C. The gala will benefit diabetes research. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The event will be widely attended by officials from other Federal agencies, representatives of small, medium and large technology-related companies, and JDRF staff. The evening will include a VIP reception beginning at 5:30 pm, followed by cocktails at 6:30 pm and dinner at 8:00 pm. Approximately 50 people—honored guests receiving an award, the Gala committee, and JDRF staff—will attend the VIP reception. Approximately 300 people will attend the cocktails and dinner. The approximate value of refreshments provided at the reception will be \$25 per person, and \$125 per person for the cocktails and dinner. A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the “Innovative Technology supporting Service to our Country” to several government and industry organizations. The reception, cocktails and dinner will afford invited NASA employees an opportunity to discuss matters of interest to the Agency with individuals from various sectors.

I find that all parts of this event meet the requirements of a “widely attended gathering” as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Therefore, I conclude that NASA’s interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Should a NASA employee be selected for recognition, acceptance by that employee of an award with an aggregate market value in excess of \$200 will be contingent upon a specific written finding by me that acceptance is authorized. In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.308, NASA employees may not participate in fundraising in an official capacity. Nor should any NASA employees use or permit the use of their official title, position, or any authority associated with their public office to further any fundraising effort.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the dinner and reception without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

R. Andrew Falcon