National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Parkway
Houston, TX 77058-3696

November 3, 2026

Reply to Attn of: AL-26-065

TO: Distribution

FROM: AL/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance at the International Space Medicine Summit Welcome Networking Event preceding the Summit

On November 3, 2026, the University of Texas Health (UTHealth), Texas A&M University (TAMU) and the University of Central Florida (UCF) will sponsor a welcome networking event ("Event") at the Texas A&M University Engineering Medical School from 5:00 p. to 8:00 pm This networking event will provide attendees an opportunity to connect and foster collaboration ahead of the International Space Medicine Summit (ISMS) at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas on November 4th and 5th, 2026. The Event will feature hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Attendance at the Event is by invitation only, and a total of 180 participants are expected. NASA employees have been invited to attend the Event. Invitees also include ISMS attendees, including a broad mix of leaders from academia, health, commercial space industry, government, and International Partner Agency Representatives.

The estimated per-person value for food and refreshments at the Event is approximately $60. There are currently no planned gifts or giveaways for attendees, and no fundraising activities will take place in conjunction with the Event.

I find that the Event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in NASA participation because the Event provides an opportunity to exchange views and information relevant to NASA's programs and operations with leaders from other sectors. Accordingly, NASA employees who do not have a significant role in matters affecting the interests of UTHealth, TAMU, and UCF may accept invitations for free attendance to the Event. In those cases, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individuals may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their

official duties.

NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of any of the sponsors, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

RANDALL SURATT

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Randall T. Suratt

cc:
HQ/Ethics Team