

David A. Wolf (BSEE, M.D.)

Dr. David Wolf was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 23, 1956 and graduated from North Central High School. He graduated “with distinction” from the honors curriculum in Electrical Engineering at Purdue University. He then received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Indiana University and received an Academic Achievement Award (combined research program). David received the Carl R. Ruddell scholarship award for research in medical ultrasonic digital signal and image processing. He completed his medical internship at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis and United States Air Force (USAF) flight surgeon training at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

As a research scientist at the Indianapolis Center For Advanced Research from 1980 to 1983, David established himself as a pioneer in the development of modern medical ultrasonic image processing techniques. He also developed novel Doppler demodulation techniques, extending the range velocity product limitations inherent to conventional pulsed Doppler systems.

David was selected as a NASA astronaut in January 1990 and became qualified for space flight in July 1991. His technical assignments included orbiter vehicle processing and testing at Kennedy Space Center (1991 to 1992) and spacecraft communications (CAPCOM, 1994 to 1995) on console for the first and third shuttle-MIR rendezvous and docking. He is a senior Extravehicular Activity (EVA—spacewalk) instructor and has qualified with the shuttle robotic manipulator system (robot arm). He completed cosmonaut training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia. He has conducted a total of seven spacewalks, using both the American and Russian spacesuits, and has logged 47 hours and 5 minutes of extravehicular activity.

He served as a USAF senior flight surgeon in the Air National Guard from 1983 to 2004, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He has logged more than 2,000 hours of flight time, including air combat training as a weapons systems officer (F4 Phantom jet), T-38 Talon, and competition sport aerobatics (Christen Eagle).

David retired from NASA in December 2012. He is an active public speaker and is called on to represent NASA in a wide variety of venues to communicate the experience and importance of human space flight. He now works as a private consultant, serves as Extraordinary Scientist in Residence for the Indianapolis Children’s Museum (the largest of its kind), and is an active public and motivational speaker.