



Deborah Hospital Foundation Receives "Out Of this World" donation from Greg Olsen, PhD -entrepreneur / Astronaut

BROWNS MILLS, NJ — As one of only seven private individuals to orbit the Earth on the International Space Station, scientist and entrepreneur Gregory Olsen belongs to a pretty exclusive club. On Tuesday, October 1, 2013, Olsen personally thanked the Deborah Heart and Lung Center for getting him there – even after it appeared that a medical condition would keep him grounded.

Olsen helped dedicate the Pulmonary Rehab Department at Deborah, to be named ***The Dr. David Murphy and Greg Olsen PhD Pulmonary Rehabilitation Department.***

Olsen donated \$250,000 to the Deborah Hospital Foundation because Murphy, the Pulmonary Chair Emeritus, personally supervised the training that enabled Olsen to qualify for the October 2005 space station trip. Tuesday was the eighth anniversary of the launch that started Olsen's 10 day space adventure.

"My family has a history of lung collapses – spontaneous lung collapses," said Olsen, who also had been a heavy smoker. "When my training began in Russia in 2004, they x-rayed me and found a black spot on one of my lungs, and that freaked them out." Although the space station trip was sponsored by Space Adventures, a private firm based in Virginia, the medical experts in Russia had the final say over who would board the spacecraft. After eight attempts to convince the sponsors he could make the trip, Olsen flew Murphy to Moscow in 2005 for a face-to-face conference.

Once he was cleared, Olsen underwent six months of intensive training in Star City outside Moscow, where Soviet and Russian cosmonauts have been trained since the 1960s. At age 60, Olsen endured grueling physical conditioning, including long sessions in a centrifuge to approximate the physical impact of a rock launch.

"They have this big room about the size of a basketball arena where they spin you around at different rates to match the launch and the landing," he said. "Fortunately, I've never been subject to motion

sickness, “Olsen’s flight was launched October 1st from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. He was the third private individual to take the journey. So far, seven private citizens are among the approximately 500 men and women who have orbited the Earth. “It’s a nice fraternity to belong to, “Olsen said. “We get together once a year to talk about experiences. My space capsule is now in the Intrepid museum in New York City, so we once had a get-together there.”

Along with the dedication came a piece of ultra-modern pulmonary diagnostic equipment, an endobronchial ultra-sound, valued at \$250,000. The EBUS combines ultrasound with a bronchoscope, which lets doctors visualize airway walls and adjacent areas, allowing for earlier and more complete diagnoses. In serious illnesses, the EBUS can literally be a lifesaver. It will reduce the need for surgery and CAT scans, and it’s considered a huge step forward from needle biopsies. It can also be used to diagnose lung cancer. The dedication of the rehab center memorializes the gift.

Olsen runs GHO Ventures in Princeton, where he serves as an “angel investor” backing high-risk startups. He holds 12 patents and frequently goes on speaking tours to encourage young people to pursue careers in science.

View YouTube interview with Dr. Olsen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4703skDfP3w&feature=c4-overview&list=UUIN-42HuL9yeeHj5Qu7NW0w>