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at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 12th July 2006 in Union Hall at the University of Adelaide

by Robert L. Satcher, Jr. (PH.D. M.D.) NASA Astronaut

Dr Satcher will speak about NASA's vision for the future and what it means to us. "Things are out there to be discovered," he says. "Some of the things we dream about are now becoming more possible."

Dr Satcher is medical doctor who also holds a doctorate in chemical engineering. He is an orthopaedic surgeon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. The focus of his research has been the study of how bone cells respond to stresses. "There's some scientist in me. There's some explorer in me," says Dr. Bobby Satcher. "There's a humanitarian in me also. Space is the one venue that has the highest potential for benefiting people if we continue to be serious about exploring it."

He brings his experience to NASA at a key time, when it's working to fulfil the new vision for space exploration. The vision calls for NASA to focus its research efforts on studying the effects of long-duration space flight. "One problem when it comes to living and working in space is bone loss. I'm interested in looking at ways of preventing that," he says.

NASA EXPERIENCE: Selected by NASA in May 2004. In February 2006 he completed Astronaut Candidate Training that included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in Shuttle and International Space Station systems, physiological training, T-38 flight training, and water and wilderness survival training. Completion of this initial training qualifies him for various technical assignments within the Astronaut Office and future flight assignment as a mission specialist.

