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Dr. Hilmers is an associate professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics and in the Center for Space Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. In addition to teaching, his clinical pursuits have included international HIV, pediatrics special needs, emergency medicine, tropical medicine, nutrition, and inpatient internal medicine. His research interests in nutrition include micronutrient deficiencies, food fortification programs, the influence of malnutrition on infectious diseases such as HIV and malaria, rickets, and metabolic syndrome. He has done international volunteer service and disaster relief work in many countries. Prior to going to medical school he was a Marine Corps Colonel, aviator and electrical engineer and served as a NASA astronaut on four space shuttle missions, including the first after the Challenger accident.