



Dr. James Vanderploeg has over 37 years of experience in aerospace medicine with a career spanning governmental and commercial medical operational support from the beginning of the Shuttle program to serving as Chief Medical Officer for Virgin Galactic. He is recently retired from Professor of Aerospace Medicine and Director of Clinical Preventive Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. He now serves as Senior Faculty and Executive Director of Aerospace Medicine in Baylor's Center for Space Medicine. Among his responsibilities are Executive Director and principal investigator on multiple research projects of the FAA Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation; evaluation of airline pilots seeking special issuance authorization for medical certification following recovery from medical or psychological problems; and training physicians in the specialty of aerospace medicine. As Virgin Galactic's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Vanderploeg is responsible for developing and implementing the medical programs for spaceflight participants, Virgin Galactic pilots, and other employees.

Dr. Vanderploeg is a Past President of the Aerospace Medical Association and past Chair of the Fellows Group. He is an FAA Senior Aviation Medical Examiner, and is Board Certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in both Aerospace Medicine and Occupational Medicine. He has numerous publications, the most recent being the medical results from research projects using centrifuge exposure to simulate the G forces of a Virgin Galactic space flight.