

Astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar World's First Neurologist in Space

As the world's first neurologist in space, Dr. Roberta Bondar is globally recognized for her pioneering contribution to space medicine research. Aboard the Discovery mission STS-42 in 1992, she conducted experiments in the shuttle's first international microgravity laboratory.

For more than a decade at NASA Dr. Bondar headed an international research team, continuing to find new connections between astronauts recovering from the microgravity of space and neurological illnesses here on Earth such as stroke and Parkinson's disease. Her techniques have been used in clinical studies at the B. I. Deaconess Medical Center, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School and at the University of New Mexico.

A true renaissance woman, Dr. Bondar is an acclaimed photographer of the natural wonders of our planet. She is the author of four best-selling photo essay books featuring her stunning photography of the Earth. They are: *Passionate Vision ~ Discovering Canada's National Parks*, *Canada ~ Landscape of Dreams*, *The Arid Edge of Earth* which features deserts of the world and the Canadian Arctic desert and *Touching the Earth* the story of her astronaut experiences. Her photographic works may be found in private, corporate and institutional collections in Canada, the U.S. and England.

UNESCO has designated 2008 through 2010 as the International Year of Planet Earth and Dr. Roberta Bondar is the Honorary Patron for Canada.

As an author, environmental educator and celebrated landscape photographer, Dr. Bondar has also earned a reputation as a leading speaker and consultant within the medical and scientific communities, and in the field of corporate social responsibility and care for the Earth's environment.

The Roberta Bondar Foundation has been formed to educate and improve knowledge of the environment in a way that stimulates interest, excitement, creativity, responsibility, and for some, the desire for focused study in this area of science. It aims to help people to see their environment in a positive light, to become more attuned to its characteristics and factors that influence change. (<http://www.therobertabondarfoundation.org>)

In 2007 the Ontario Government appointed Dr. Bondar to chair the Working Committee on Environmental Education, to strengthen environmental education in the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools. The Committee presented the report and the government has moved forward on all 32 of the recommendations.

Dr. Bondar has been recognized with the NASA Space Medal, inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and into the International Women's Forum Hall of Fame for her pioneering research in space medicine. She is a recipient of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. In addition, she has received 24 honorary doctorates from Canadian and American universities. In 2003 TIME magazine named her among North America's best explorers.

Dr. Bondar served two terms as Chancellor of Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario staying as an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Environmental & Life Sciences Graduate Program. She continues to photograph the extremes of our planet.

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For more information about Dr. Roberta Bondar or to contact her office:
www.robtabondar.com