

iGIANT® Summit on Extreme and Austere Environments  
November 9, 2018  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Schedule of Events:**

iGIANT® Discussion and Call-to-Action: North American Rescue Education and Training Center  
Lunch and Observation of Medical Interventions for Special Operations  
Tour of Nellis Air Force Base “Petting Zoo”  
Reception and Dinner: Giada

**Attendees:**

Katrina DeWitt

Abingdon Mullin

Mary McLaughlin

Kelly McLaughlin

Allison McNickle

Gary Gemnici

Eleanor Morgan

Carolyn Levering

Bradley Inverson

Dianna Klein

Paul Vecchio

Saralyn Mark

Marc O'Griofa

Erica Stockwell

Danny Juarez

Kate Jahnke

Guinevere Cisne

Laura Taylor

Chris Carberry

Anna York

Jennifer Ampke

Victoria Seaman

Gabrielle Thorp

Steve Smith

Deanna Zaccadelli

MaryKay Grahn

Donald Moore

Dominique Selby

Melissa Givens

Mark Klein

### **Discussion Highlights:**

\*During the evolution of precision medicine, data confirms the importance of gender and sex (as defined by the Institute of Medicine) for research inclusion policies and treatment algorithms. Understanding these human factors will contribute to the design of more targeted interventions. As new frontiers including space and underwater environments are explored, acknowledging and addressing gender/sex-related differences will play an important roll in optimizing team performance and mission success.

\*Examples were discussed regarding products and equipment, especially in the military, which have posed significant challenges for women. Policies and protocols may also put women at a disadvantage because of the way they may be worded. For example, it may be more advantageous to pose the following question, “Is society or the environment designed for me and my needs so that I can perform well and safely?”

\*The summit focused on innovation and novel technologies for male and female spaceflight explorers, military personnel and first responders in every environment. Design elements such as space suits, personal protective equipment, high performance clothing, tools, hardware and machine-human interfaces were discussed. North American Rescue is interested to explore and address some of the issues which were raised and has requested that participants provide their insights and suggestions especially in regard to equipment design. These comments will also be posted anonymously on the iGIANT website to raise awareness across all stakeholders from industry, government, advocacy and academia.

\*Progress requires men and women to feel incentivized and included in the discussion. Individuals need to see how they can benefit from these interventions. It is more efficient to begin the discussion when plans are being developed rather than when

concept designs are completed.

\*Personal narratives or stories have significant impact and can stimulate actions to redress inequities. Environments need to be created to support this type of interaction without the fear of retribution. It is essential to encourage men to understand the value of this approach which will benefit everyone and improve team performance.

\*Through greater diversity and inclusion, there is a greater awareness of gender/sex-based aspects in technology and innovation which can lead to improved work performance. As more women enter particular work environments, they often drive discussions about the need for sex/gender appropriate equipment. The downstream impact of gender equity is improved technology which contributes to improved safety and performance for all team members.

**\*The Summit was hosted by iGIANT®, North American Rescue and the American Medical Women's Association with an unrestricted educational grant from North American Rescue.**