

Colonel (Retired) Marvin Lange, CD, MD, FRCPC
Royal Canadian Medical Service Colonel Commandant

Colonel (Retd) Marvin Lange, CD, MD, FRCPC was appointed Colonel Commandant (Col Comdt) of the Royal Canadian Medical Service (RCMS) and took up his duties on hand-over with his predecessor, Major General (Retd) Pierre Morisset on 15 May 15.

Born in July 1939, Colonel (Ret'd) Marvin (Marv) Lange became a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1958 and was posted as a navigator to an Antisubmarine Patrol Squadron in 1961. He earned an M.D. at the University of Manitoba in 1968 and in 1970, he took training in Aviation Medicine to become a Flight Surgeon and served as a Senior Medical Officer and Flight Surgeon at Canadian Forces Base Lahr in Germany until 1973. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1977. From 1987 to 1988, he was Chief of Psychiatry at the National Defence Medical Centre, then became Psychiatry Advisor to the Surgeon General of Canadian Forces from 1987-1988. On retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces, he served as Director of Education at Royal Ottawa Hospital from 1989-1990 and then Director of Clinical Services from 1990-2000. From 1973 to the present, Dr. Lange has been Psychiatry Consultant to the Aviation Medical Review Board of Transport Canada. Since 1988, he has been a Psychiatry Consultant to the CAF/RCAF and since 1998 a Consultant in Behavioral Health and Performance to the Canadian Space Agency. Also since 1998, he has been a member of the Human Behavior and Performance Working Group of the ISS.

Colonel Lange was the 2012 winner of the Raymond F. Longacre Award from the Aerospace Medical Association for his substantial contributions and enduring input to aerospace psychiatry. His operational experience as an RCAF aircrew and Flight Surgeon translated into insightful, practical psychiatric consultative services for the RCAF, Transport Canada, and the Canadian Space Agency. His forward-thinking approach led to the controlled, evidence-based approval of SSRI medications in Canadian aircrew. He also contributed significantly to the selection and operational support of Canadian astronauts for International Space Station (ISS) duties and to the ISS Human Behavior and Performance Working Group.

He is currently Assistant Professor (Emeritus) at the University of Ottawa. Overall, Colonel Lange has contributed his wealth of clinical and operational skills with compassion, and reasoned judgment to the field of aerospace psychiatry for over four decades, with positive impacts in the military, commercial aviation, and space realms.