Melissa M. Mallis, Ph.D.

Biography

Dr. Melissa M. Mallis is Chief Scientist for Operational and Fatigue Research at the Institutes for Behavior Resources (IBR). She is internationally recognized for her contributions to the development of innovative, practical, and effective strategies to enhance safety, performance, and alertness in many different 24/7 operational environments. Dr. Mallis' work has been recognized through numerous honors and awards including the Arnold D. Tuttle Award for "Original Research that has Made the Most Significant Contribution Toward the Solution of a Challenging Problem in Aerospace Medicine," William E. Collins Awards for "Outstanding Human Factors Publications of the Year (2003, 2007)," NASA Space Act Awards for Education and Training in General Aviation (2004, 2005) and multiple awards for her work with the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission.
Prior to her position with IBR, Dr. Mallis was the Director of Scientific Affairs at Alertness Solutions. Her work included schedule analysis for strengths and vulnerabilities and the implementation of comprehensive fatigue management programs in both aviation and trucking industries. From 1999 to 2005, Dr. Mallis led the NASA Fatigue Countermeasures Group at Ames Research Center - where she made significant contributions to safety, research, and education in the aviation and space environments. Dr. Mallis conducted flight simulation research examining different in-flight fatigue countermeasures, drowsiness detection technologies and challenges associated with ultra-long range flights. She also supported the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) missions through schedule development and providing alertness management education to MER scientists and engineers.

Her academic credentials include a B.S. degree in Physics with Honors from Villanova University, a pre-doctoral fellowship with Dr. David Dinges at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from Drexel University. She is a member of numerous scientific societies including the Aerospace Medical Association, the Aerospace Human Factors Association, and the Sleep Research Society, serves on various scientific advisory boards and participates in many editorial activities within the sleep and circadian field. Dr. Mallis' publications (in scientific journals, book chapters government technical reports and industry articles) and presentations continue to contribute to real-world environments through her research on the effectiveness of preventive interventions and countermeasures that enhance human capability and increase safety.