

James Bagian, MD, PE

Dr. Bagian is currently a professor in the Departments of Industrial Engineering and Anesthesia, and Chief Patient Safety and Systems Innovation Officer at the University of Michigan. Previously, he served as the first Director of the VA National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) and the first Chief Patient Safety Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs from 1999 to 2010 where he developed numerous patient safety related tools and programs that are in use nationally and internationally. Dr. Bagian holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University and a doctorate in medicine from Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Bagian also has appointments as a Clinical Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch, a position he had held since 1997 and as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). Dr. Bagian's other appointments include positions as Chief Flight Surgeon and Medical Consultant to the Space Shuttle Columbia Accident Investigation Board and Deputy Director of the Regional and State Programs Division, Office of Mobile Sources for the Environmental Protection Agency. He earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel University (1973) and his MD from Thomas Jefferson University (1977). He has training in general surgery and anesthesiology and earned his certification as a flight surgeon (1979). In addition, he received honorary doctorate degrees from both Drexel University and Thomas Jefferson University.

Dr. Bagian is a former NASA astronaut on Space Shuttles Discovery (STS-29) and Columbia (STS-40). He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Engineering and is a Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association. Dr. Bagian has received the Jefferson Medical College Alumni Achievement Award (2005), the Outstanding Federal Healthcare Executive Award (2004), the Service to America Career Achievement Medal (2003), the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety Award for System Innovation (2002), and the U.S. Medicine's Frank Brown Berry Award for the most significant contribution to healthcare in the United States in the year 2002 by a military or federal physician (2002). He serves on numerous federal and college committees and has authored approximately 56 publications.