

# ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
Houston, Texas 77058

October 2019



## Serena M. Aunon-Chancellor

(M.D.) NASA Astronaut

### Summary:

Dr. Serena M. Aunon was selected by NASA in 2009. Board certified in Internal and Aerospace Medicine, she recently served as Flight Engineer on the International Space Station for Expeditions 56 and 57. During her time on orbit, the crews contributed to hundreds of experiments in biology, biotechnology, physical science and Earth science aboard the International Space Station. Investigations were led into new cancer treatment methods and algae growth in space. The crew also installed a new Life Sciences Glovebox, a sealed work area for life science and technology investigations that can accommodate two astronauts. Serena's first flight, she logged in 197 days in space. She currently covers medical issues and on-orbit support in the Astronaut Office.

### Personal Data:

Born April 9, 1976 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Considers Fort Collins, CO, to be her home town. Married to Jeff Chancellor and she has a stepdaughter, Serafina Chancellor. Personal and recreational interests include mountain hiking and providing medical care to the underserved.

### Education:

Graduated from Poudre High School, Fort Collins, Colorado in 1993. Received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., in 1997 and a Doctorate of Medicine from The University of Texas - Health Science Center at Houston in 2001. Completed a three-year residency in internal medicine at The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, in 2004, and then completed an additional year as Chief Resident in the Internal Medicine Department in 2005. She also completed an aerospace medicine residency at UTMB as well as a Master of Public Health in 2007. She is board certified in Internal and Aerospace Medicine.

### Experience:

Dr. Aunon came to Johnson Space Center in August 2006, employed as a Flight Surgeon under the UTMB/Wyle Bioastronautics contract. She spent more than nine months in Russia supporting medical operations for International Space Station crew members in Star City, including water survival training in the Ukraine. Dr. Aunon served as the Deputy Crew Surgeon for STS-127. She also held the role of Deputy Lead for Orion - Medical Operations.

### NASA Experience:

Dr. Aunon was selected in July 2009 as one of 14 members of the 20th NASA astronaut class. She graduated in November 2011 from Astronaut Candidate Training that included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in space station systems, spacewalks, robotics, physiological training, T-38 flight training and water and wilderness survival training. Currently, Dr. Aunon serves in the International Space Station Operations branch to handle medical issues and the Capsule Communicator (CAPCOM) branch as a certified space station CAPCOM.

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## Serena M. Aunon

Expedition 56/57 (June 6 through December 19, 2018). The crew launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome aboard the Soyuz spacecraft. Serena, who served as Flight Engineer, was joined by EAS Astronaut Alexander Gerst, as well as Russian Cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev. The Expedition 56 and 57 crews contributed to hundreds of experiments in biology, biotechnology, physical science and Earth science aboard the International Space Station. Investigations were led into new cancer treatment methods and algae growth in space. The crew also installed a new Life Sciences Glovebox, a sealed work area for life science and technology investigations that can accommodate two astronauts. Serena's first flight, she logged in 197 days in space during Expeditions 56 and 57.

### **Awards/Honors:**

United States Air Force Flight Surgeons Julian Ward Award (2009), Outstanding UTMB Resident Award (2007), William K. Douglas Award (2006), Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society (2005), Thomas N. and Gleaves James Award for Excellent Performance by a Third-Year Resident in Internal Medicine (2004).

### **Organizations:**

American College of Physicians; American College of Preventive Medicine; Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society; Aerospace Medical Association and Tau Beta Pi, The National Engineering Honor Society

### **Pronunciation:**

SUH-ree-nuh ON-un