

Extremophiles and Human Space Exploration

Dr. Ivan Paulino-Lima, Visiting Scientist



Universities Space Research Association
Established in 1969



Who we are

- Internationally recognized scientific investigators
- Advancing space & aeronautics
- Partnering with academia, government and industry
- Providing customers with intellectual and scientific leadership
- Serving the public good
- Advocates for space-related public policy
- Representing scientific excellence verified by independent science councils
- Advancing STEM by leveraging space S&T
- Developing pipeline of science talent from early career to senior scientists



USRA is awarded
\$193 Million for
operation of the
NASA Academic
Mission Services.

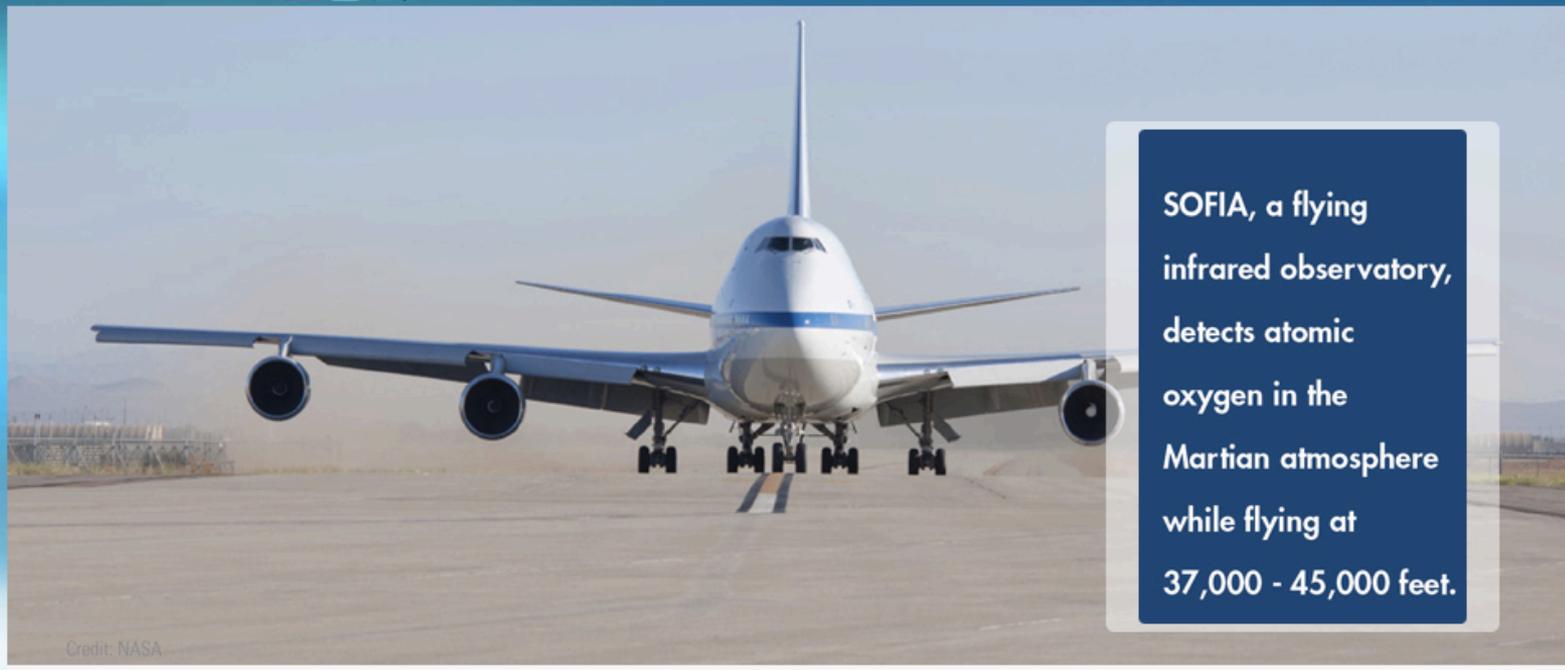


NASA Postdoctoral Program

USRA accepts applications for NASA Postdoctoral Fellows to work on 1 to 3 year assignments at NASA centers.



USRA established the STEM Education Center in Columbia, Maryland, providing a place for students to study and work on robotics.



SOFIA, a flying infrared observatory, detects atomic oxygen in the Martian atmosphere while flying at 37,000 - 45,000 feet.

Credit: NASA



NASA, Google and USRA have entered into a collaboration in quantum computing in which USRA provides 20% of computing time to university and industry research communities.

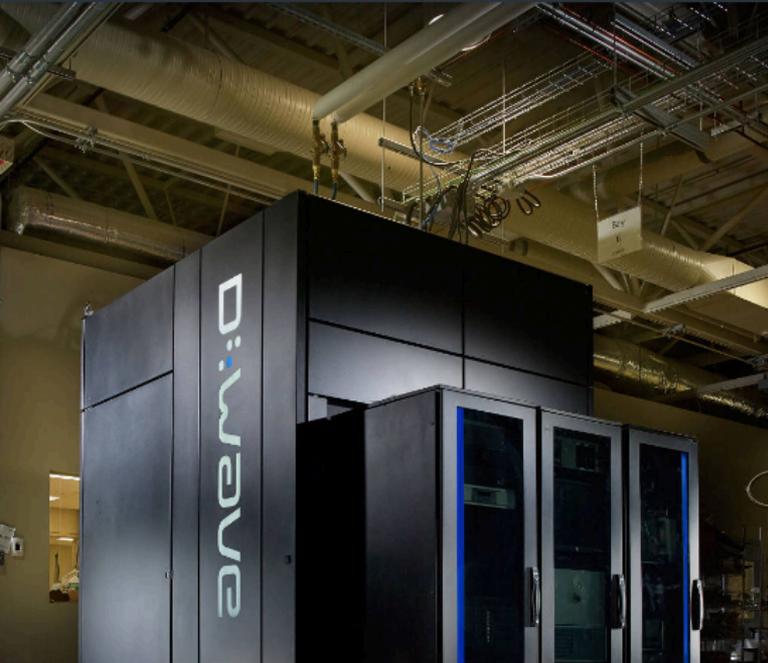
Credit: NASA

RIACS

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED COMPUTER SCIENCE
AN INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITIES SPACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

LEARN MORE





QUANTUM COMPUTING

USRA, NASA, and Google have established a joint Quantum Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (QuAIL), with 20% of Computing Time available to the University and Industry Research Communities.

USRA manages the QuAIL Science Operations to engage the broader research community, and manages the technical operations of a D-Wave 2X™ system located at NASA's Ames Research Center.

Research includes fundamental research in quantum physics and computer science, as well as applied research exploring application of quantum computing to various domains including planning and scheduling and fault management for various space and aeronautics applications.

CLOUD COMPUTING

USRA has partnered with the NASA Headquarters Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to support various data needs in NASA through the research and development of a novel Model-Based Cloud Computing Service.

The service enables rapid provisioning of model-based applications including support for data integration and data analytics, and is being used by various NASA programs including the International Space Station (ISS) Extravehicular Activity (EVA) Office.

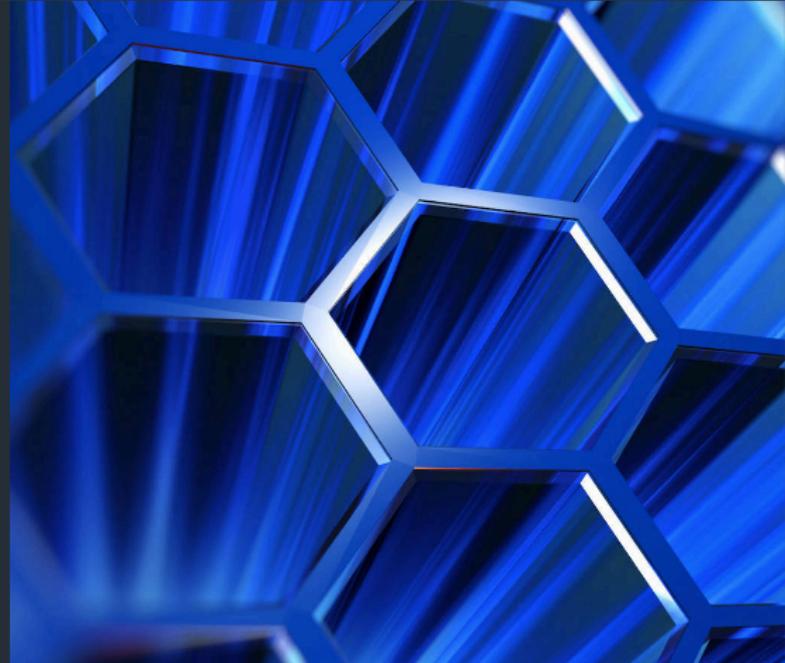




Photo credit: NASA

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS

USRA has partnered with the Intelligent Systems Division at NASA's Ames Research Center to conduct collaborative research on AI and Robotics.

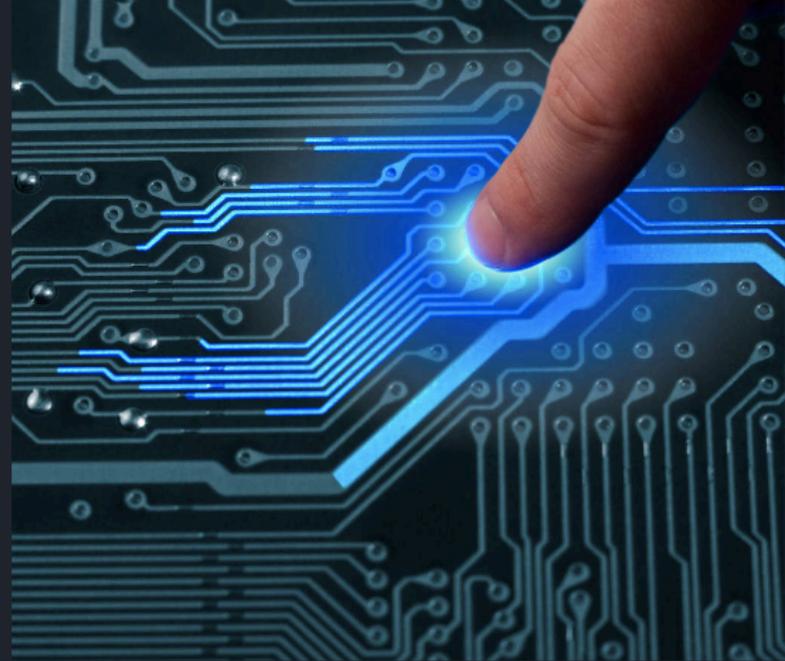
Current projects include research on planning and scheduling, as well as application of technologies from the mobile phone industry for intelligent systems. For example, this includes collaboration on the SPHERES Smartphone Project, which is part of the NASA Human Exploration Telerobotics Mission.

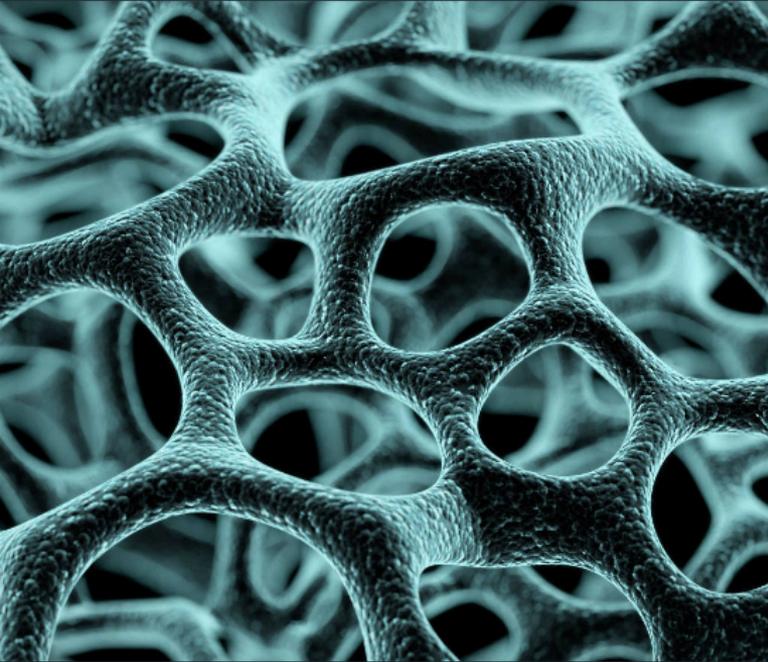


NANOTECHNOLOGY

USRA has partnered with the Center for Nanotechnology at NASA's Ames Research Center, to develop state-of-the-art technologies on the atomic scale including sensors and electronics that utilize nano-scale components.

USRA scientists lead development of a novel additive manufacturing approach for creating electronic circuitry and sensors using nano-particles, and a novel approach for creating nano-scale vacuum channel transistors and other nano-scale electronics.





SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

USRA has partnered with the Synthetic Biology Lab at NASA's Ames Research Center, to conduct collaborative research in synthetic biology focusing on application for human space exploration and astrobiology. The goal is to harness engineered biological systems to further space exploration and science, to search for life beyond Earth, and to improve life on Earth.

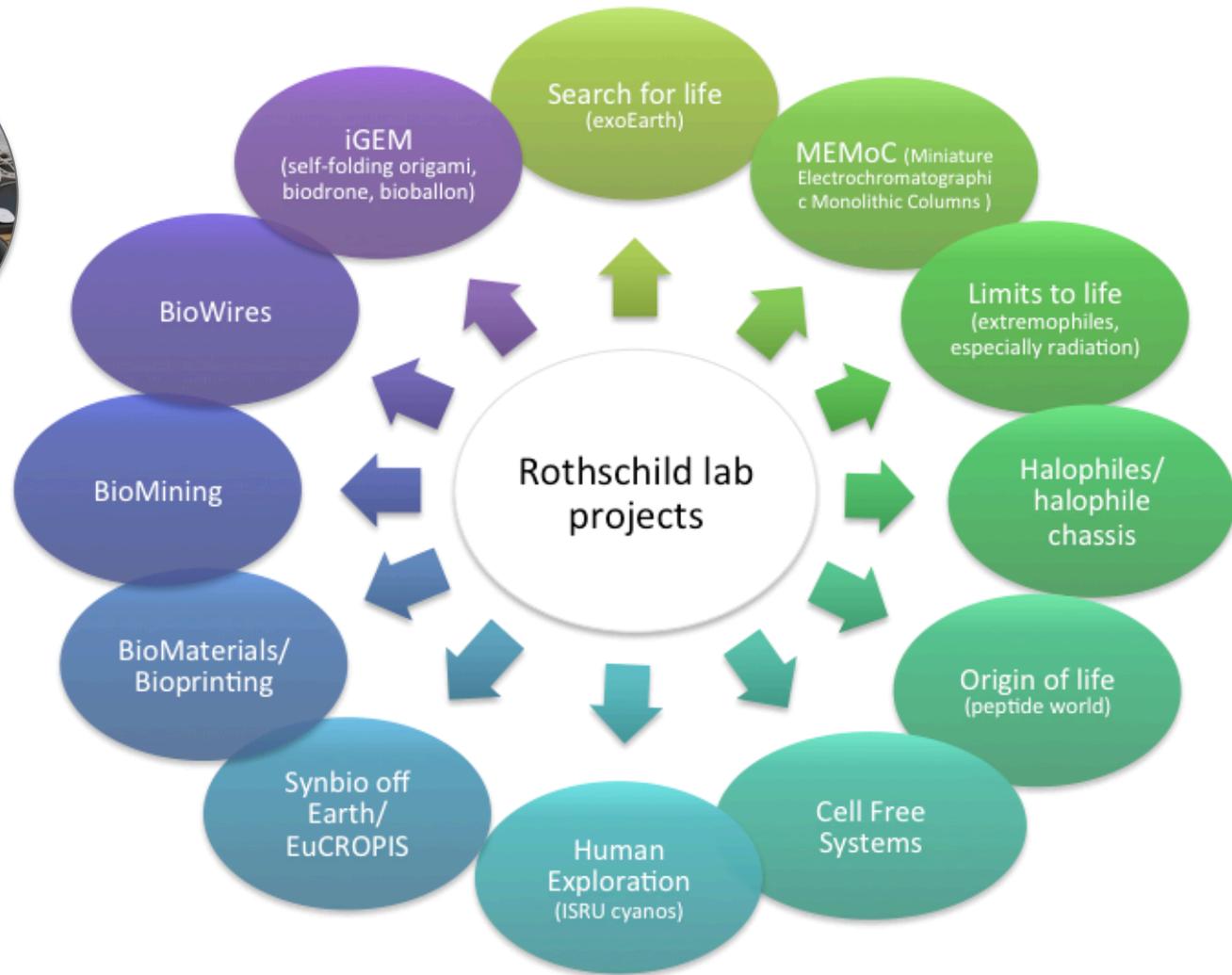
Research is accomplished through lab and field work including instrument development, as well as missions such as the Eu:CROPIS mission which is planned to demonstrate synthetic biology technology in space.





Dr. Ivan Paulino-Lima

- Development, delivery and ground controls for the PowerCell payload on the DLR Eu:CROPIS mission
- Continuation of my NPP work



PowerCells on Eu:CROPIS: A demonstration of synthetic biology technology and biology in space



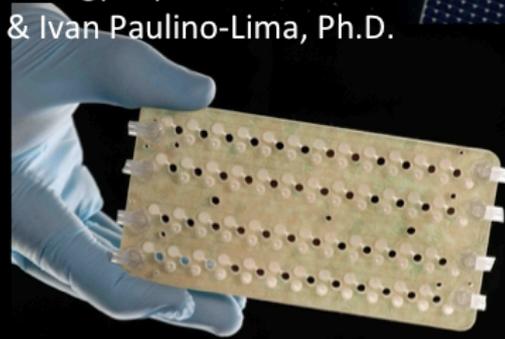
Eu:CROPIS: A DLR satellite mission
scheduled to launch in March
2017

PI: Lynn J. Rothschild, Ph.D.

Biology: Ryan Kent, Griffin McCutcheon, Evie Pless
& Ivan Paulino-Lima, Ph.D.



Euglena
Combined
Regenerative
Organic Food
Production
In
Space



How does variable gravity
impact synthetic biology?
PowerCell:

- Genetic competency
- Transformation
- Protein production



EXTREMOPHILES

The Limits of the Biosphere





ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY



TABLE 3-1. Extremophile and tolerance tables.

The Limits of Known Life on Earth*			
Factor		Environment/Source	Limits
High Temperature		Submarine Hydrothermal Vents	110 to 121°C
Low Temperature		Ice	-17 to -20°C
Alkaline Systems		Soda Lakes	pH > 11
Acidic Systems		Volcanic Springs, Acid Mine Drainage	pH -0.06 to 1.0
Ionizing Radiation		Cosmic Rays, X-rays, Radioactive Decay	1,500 to 6,000 Gy
UV Radiation		Sunlight	5,000 J/m ²
High Pressure		Mariana Trench	1,100 bars
Salinity		Low Temperature Systems	α H ₂ O ~ 0.6
Desiccation		Atacama Desert (Chile), McMurdo Dry Valleys (Antarctica)	~60% relative humidity

Extremophiles**			
Factor	Class	Defining Growth Condition	Example Organisms
High Temperature	Hyperthermophile Thermophile	> 80°C 60 to 80°C	<i>Pyrolobus fumarii</i>
Low Temperature	Psychrophile	< 15°C	<i>Synechococcus lividis</i>
High pH	Alkaliphile	pH > 9	<i>Psychrobacter, Vibrio, Anthrobacter</i>
Low pH	Acidophile	pH < 5 (typically much less)	<i>Natronobacterium, Bacillus, Clostridium paradoxum</i>
Radiation	–	High ionizing and UV radiation	<i>Deinococcus radiodurans, Rubrobacter, Pyrococcus furiosus</i>
High Pressure	Barophile Piezophile	High weight High pressure	Unknown <i>Pyrococcus</i> sp.
Salinity	Halophile	2 to 5 M NaCl	<i>Halobacteriaceae, Dunaliella salina</i>
Low Nutrients	Oligotroph	e.g., <1 mg L ⁻¹ dissolved organic carbon	<i>Sphingomonas alaskensis, Caulobacter</i> spp.
Oxygen Tension	Anaerobe Microaerophile	Cannot tolerate O ₂ Tolerates some O ₂	<i>Methanococcus jannaschii</i> <i>Clostridium</i>
Chemical Extremes	–	Tolerates high concentrations of metal (e.g., Cu, As, Cd, Zn)	<i>Ferroplasma acidarmanus</i> <i>Falstonia</i> sp. CH34

* Table adapted from Marion et al. 2003. Reprinted with permission from Elsevier.

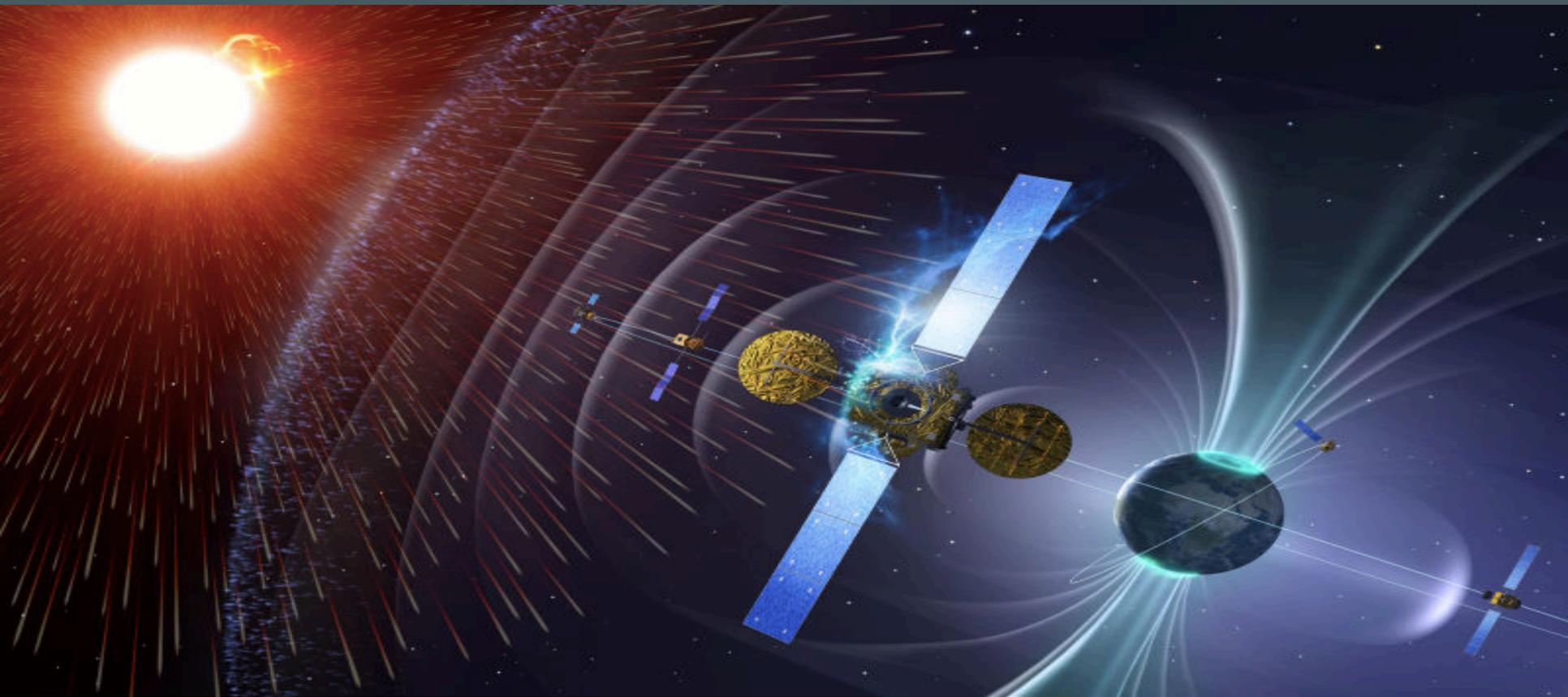
** Table adapted from Mancinelli and Rothschild 2001. Reprinted with permission from Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

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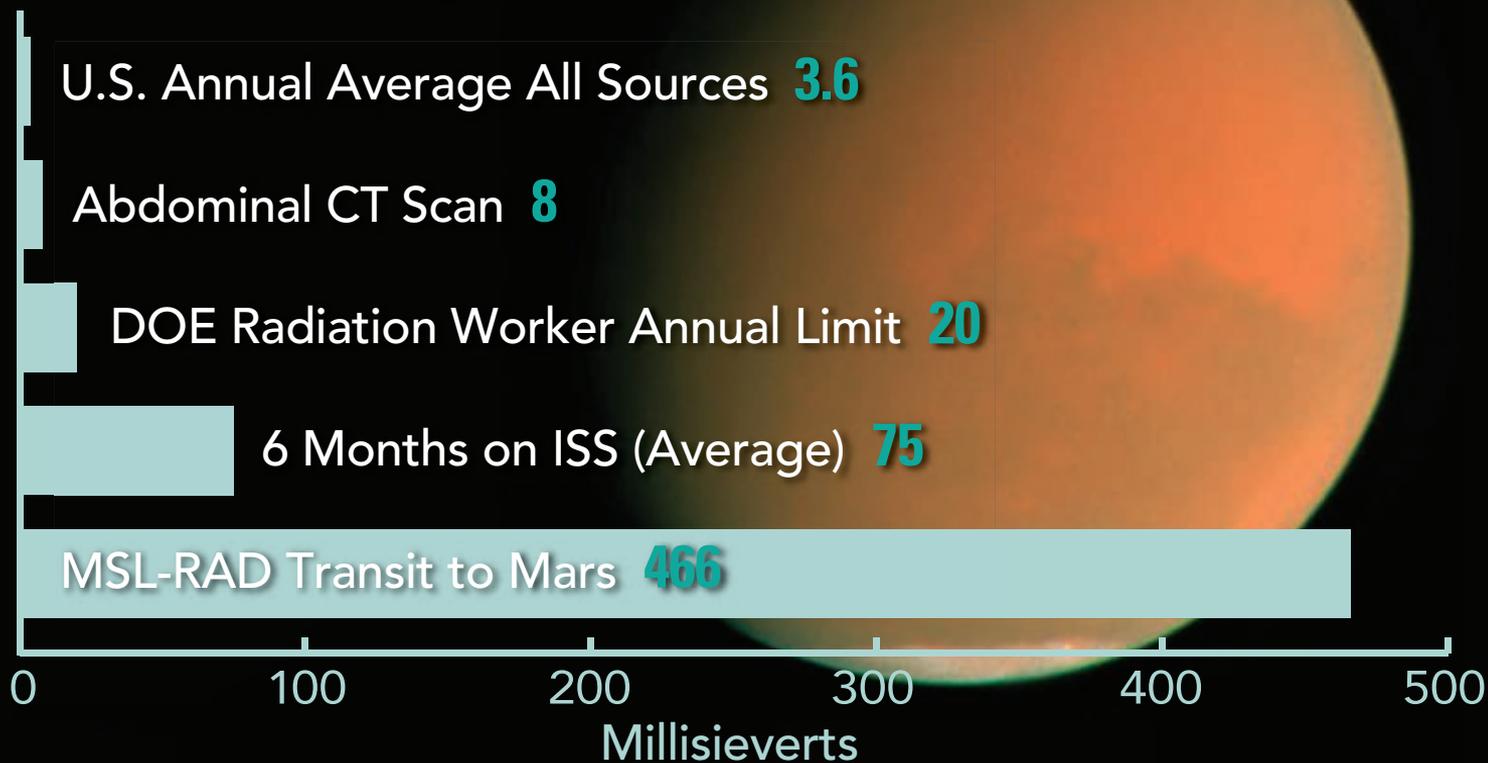
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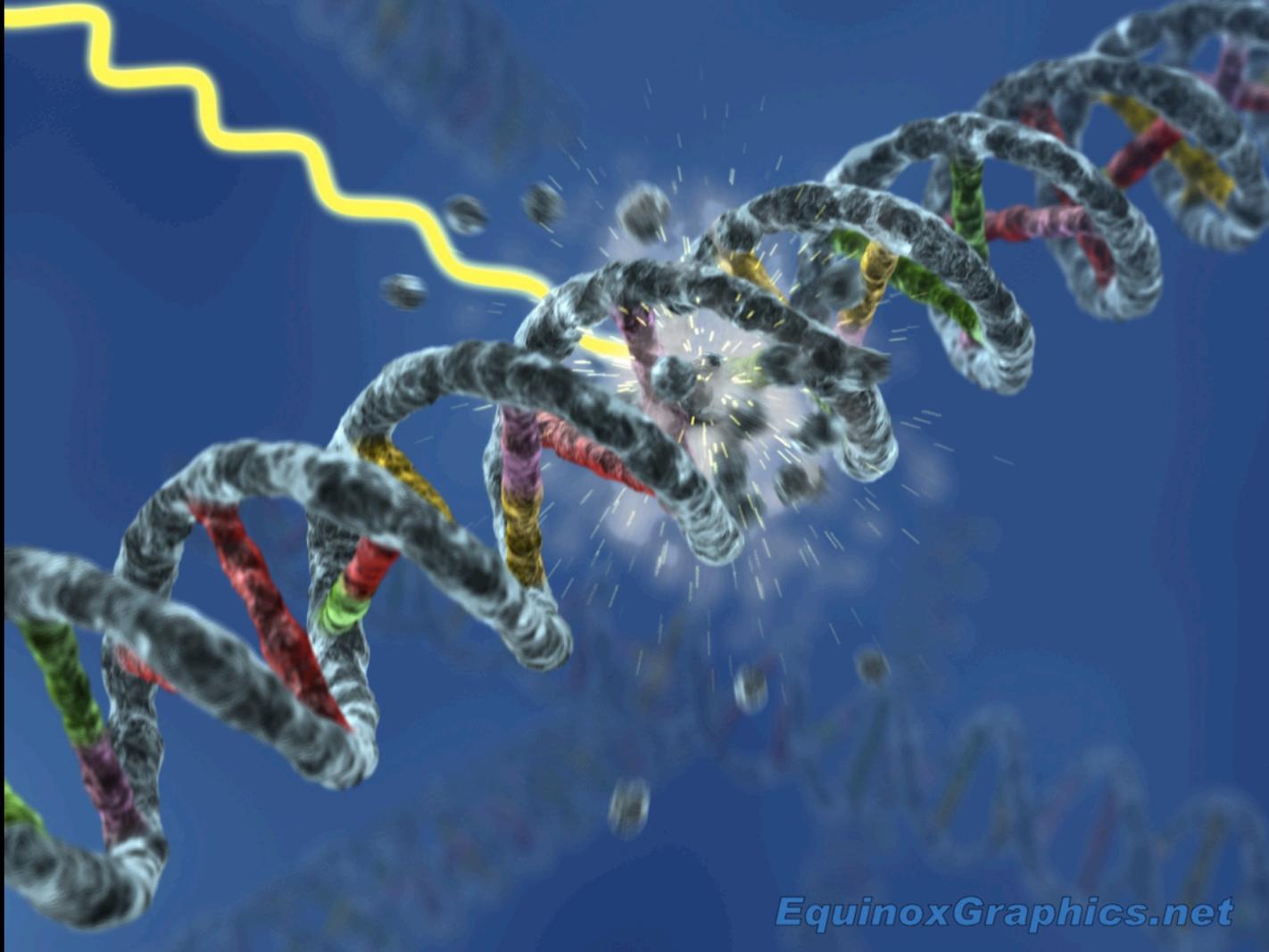
** Table adapted from Mancinelli and Rothschild 2001. Reprinted with permission from Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

Why the study of radiation and its effects in materials and biology is important?



Comparative Radiation Exposures





EquinoxGraphics.net



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015
Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich, Aziz Sancar

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The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015



Photo: Cancer Research UK

Tomas Lindahl

Prize share: 1/3

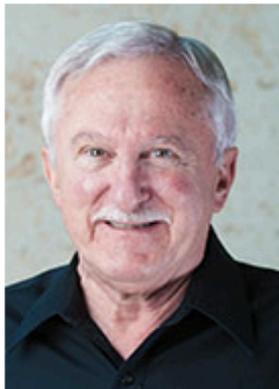


Photo: K. Wolf/AP Images for HHMI

Paul Modrich

Prize share: 1/3



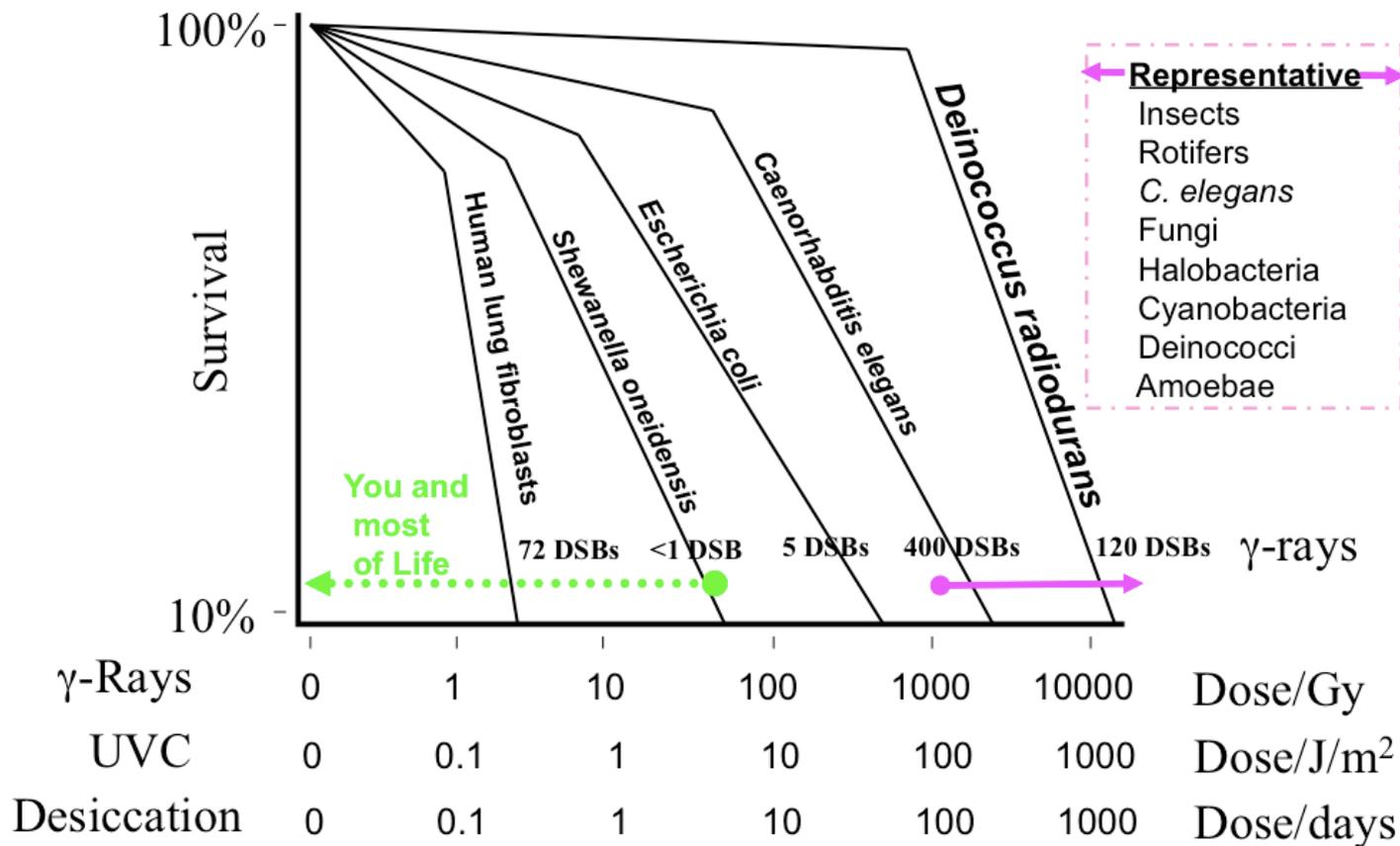
Photo: M. Englund, UNC-School of Medicine

Aziz Sancar

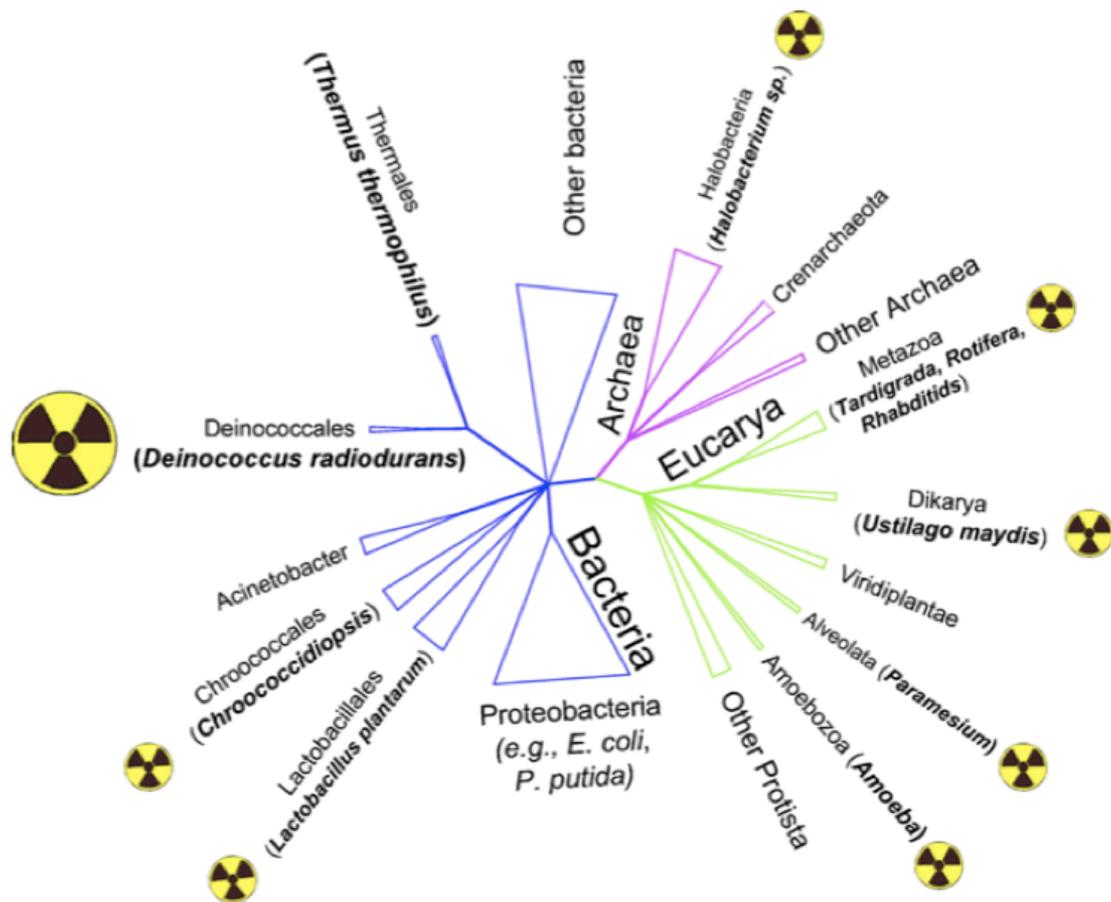
Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015 was awarded jointly to Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar *"for mechanistic studies of DNA repair"*.

Survival Curves and DSBs



Radiation-resistant representatives



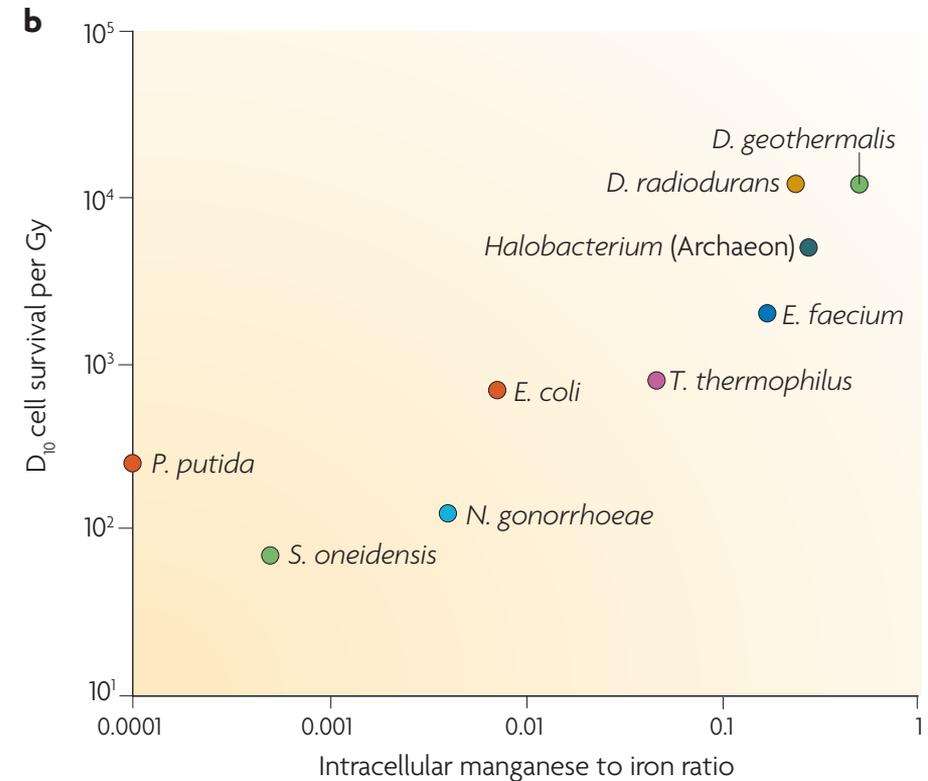
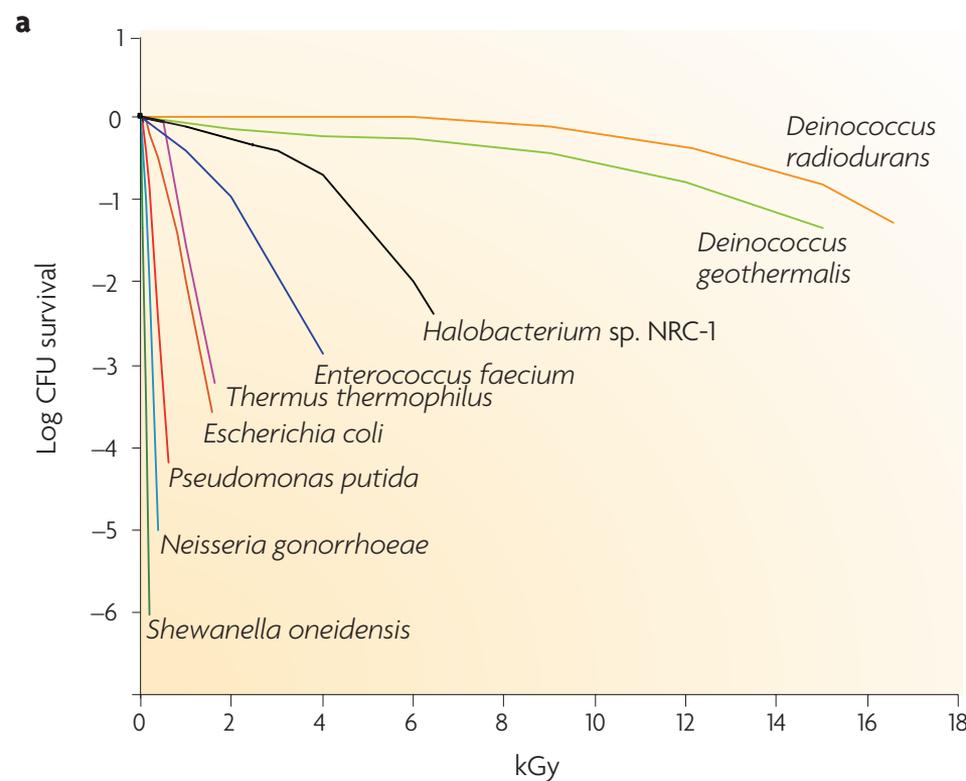


Figure 1 | **Relationship between survival following exposure to ionizing radiation and intracellular manganese and iron contents. a** | Ionizing

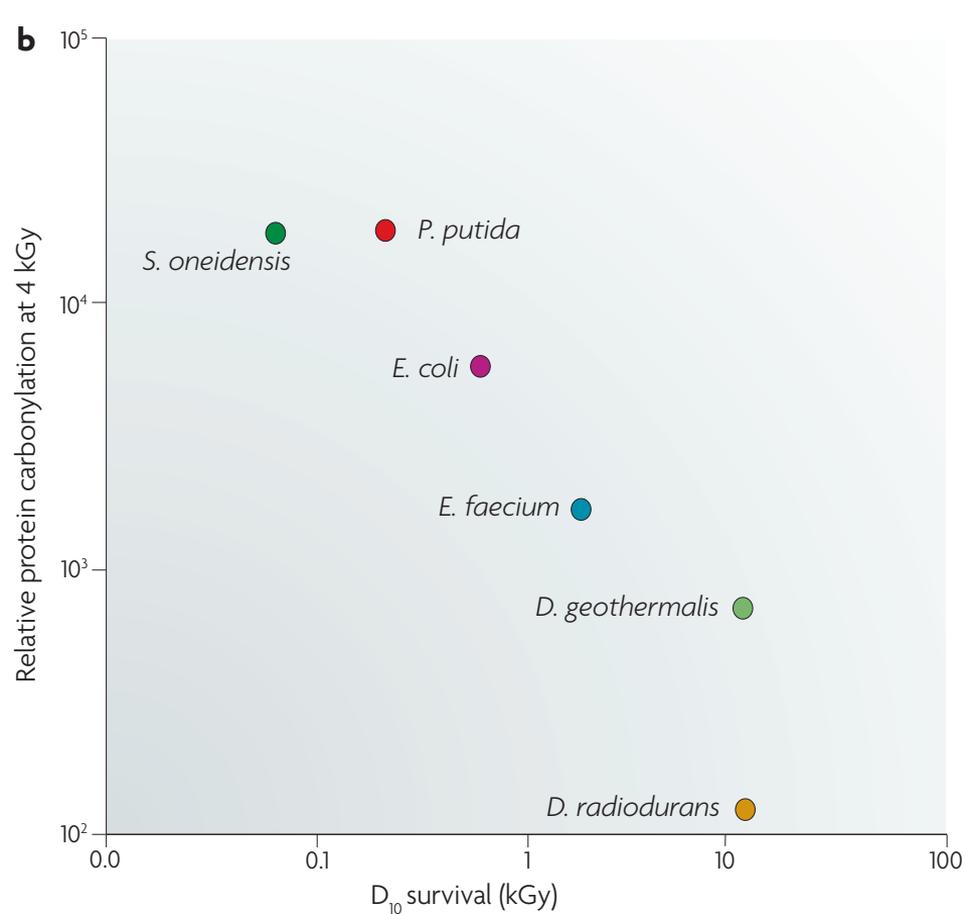
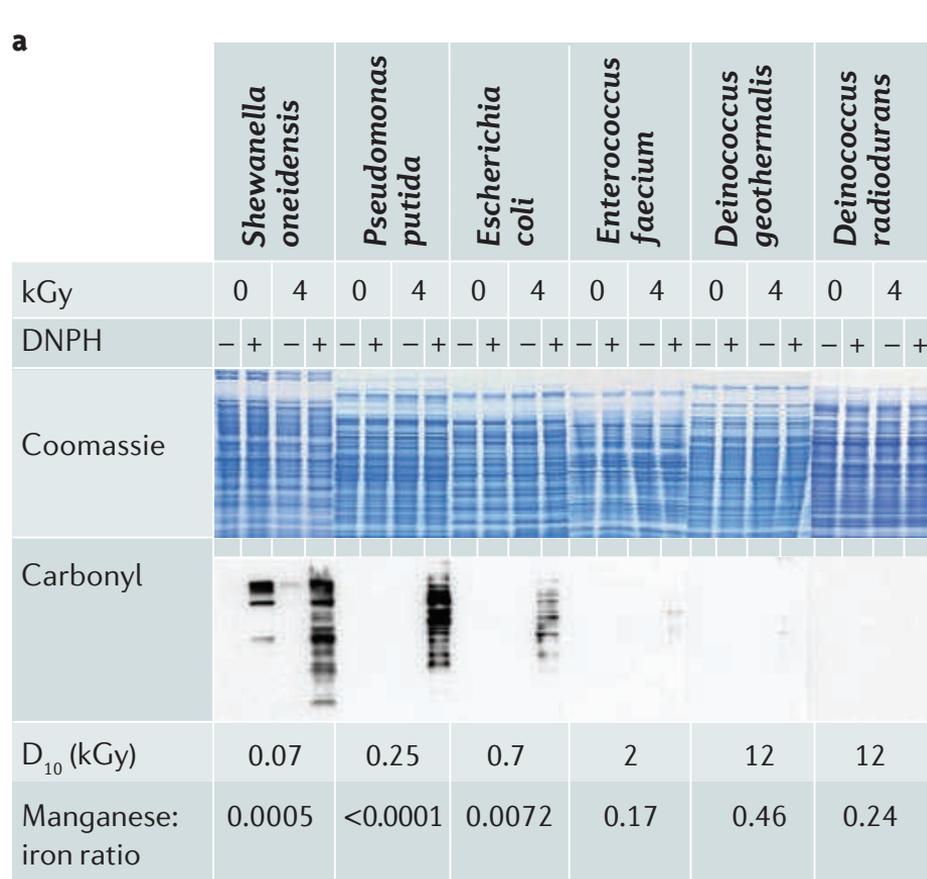
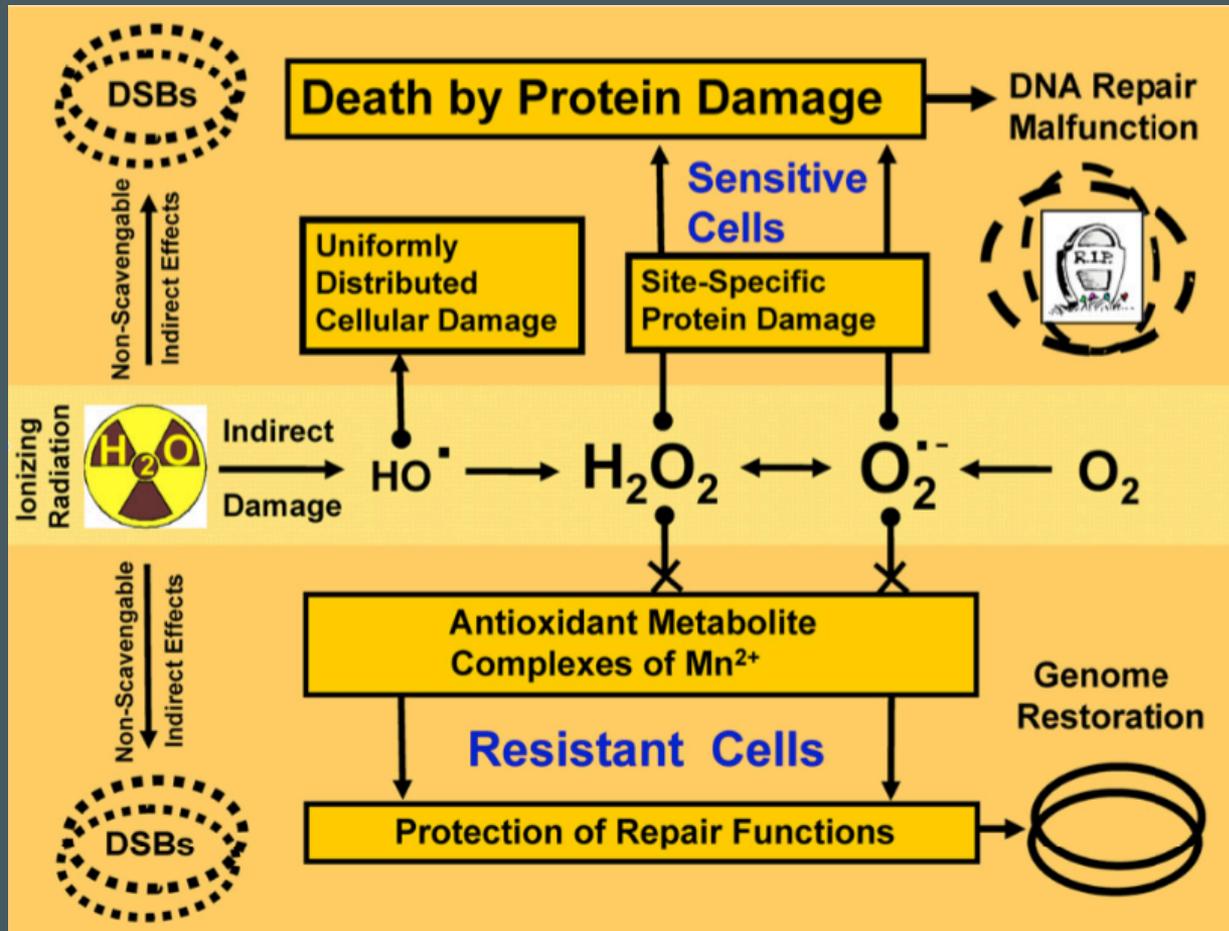


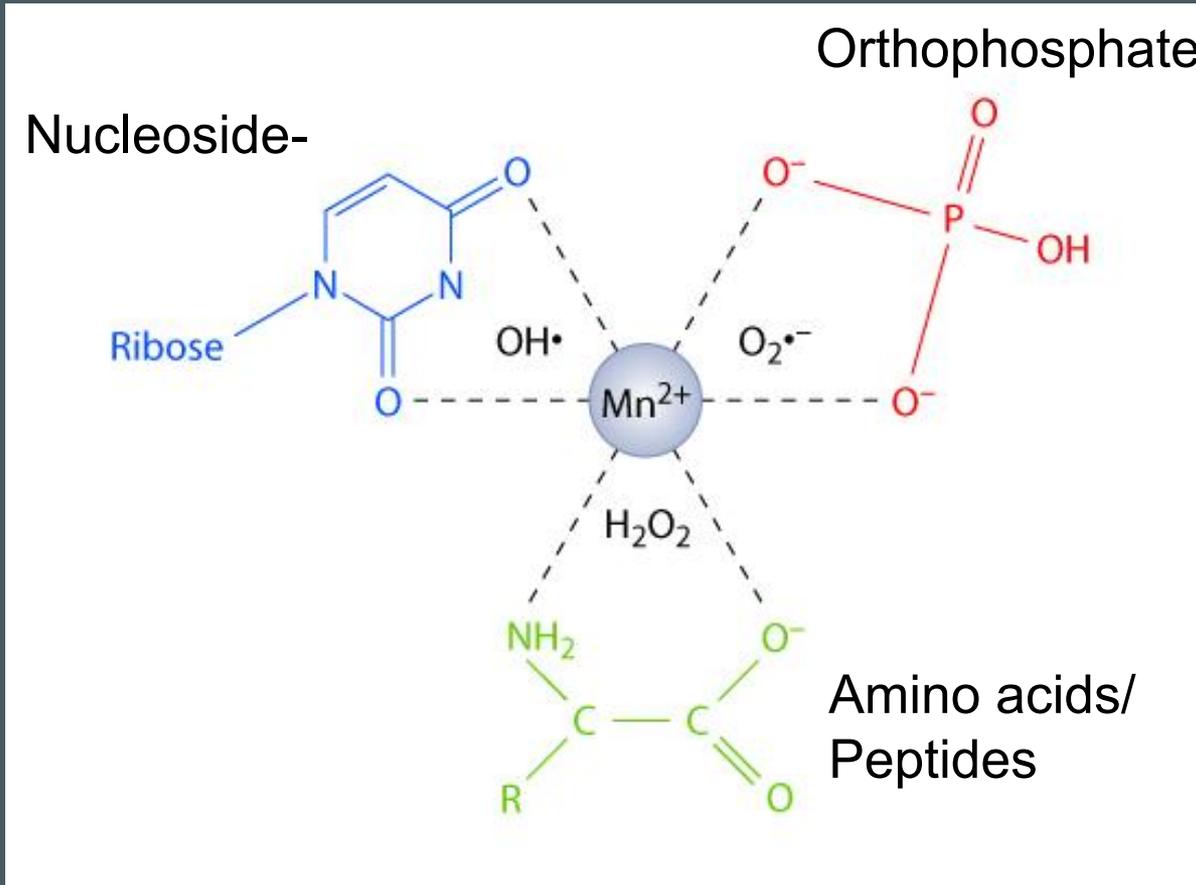
Figure 2 | ***In vivo* ionizing radiation-induced oxidative protein damage.**

Cell death by protein damage after gamma irradiation

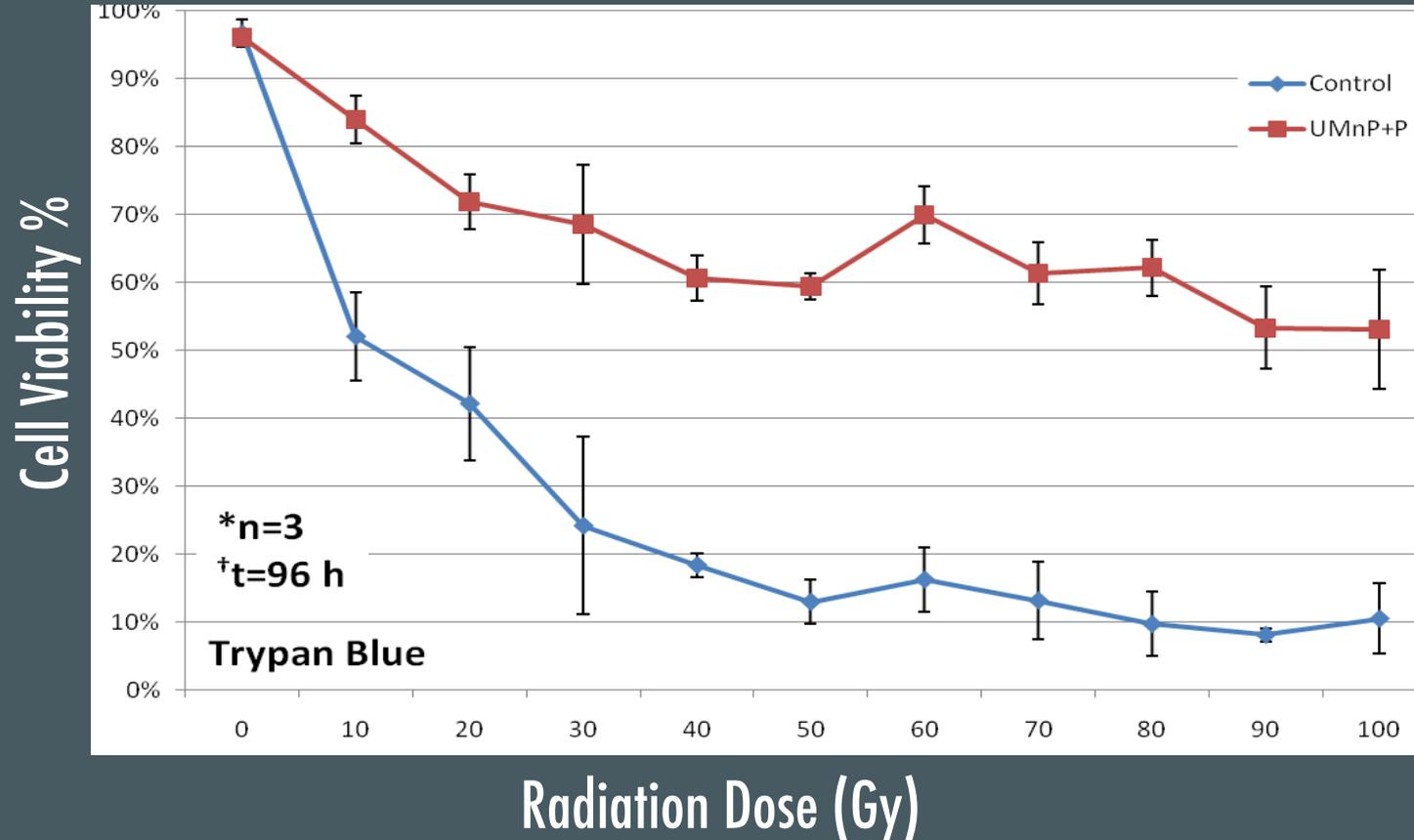


(Daly, M. DNA Repair, 11, 12-21, 2012)

Putative *D. radiodurans* Mn²⁺ Complexes



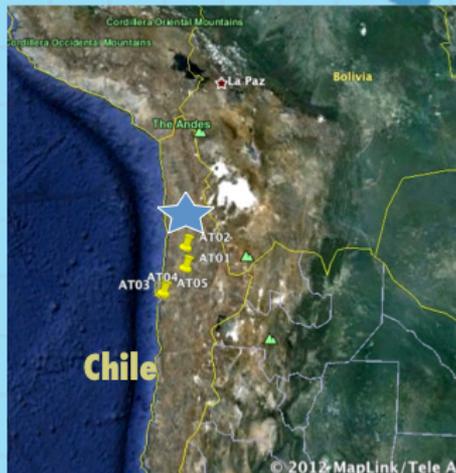
Ex Vivo Radioprotective Effects of Reconstituted *D. radiodurans* Mn-Peptide Complexes on Human Cells



Is *D. radiodurans* the last frontier of radiation resistance?

Other organisms:

- Accumulate higher levels of Mn;
- May have a more efficient DNA repair tool set;
- May produce antioxidant secondary metabolites;



Field sites



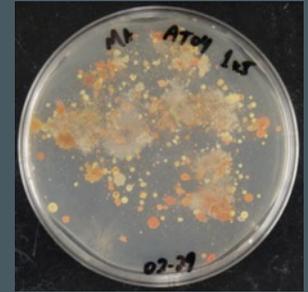
METHODS

- Selection and identification of (106) morphotypes from 25 soil samples

Sonoran Desert



UV-C lamp

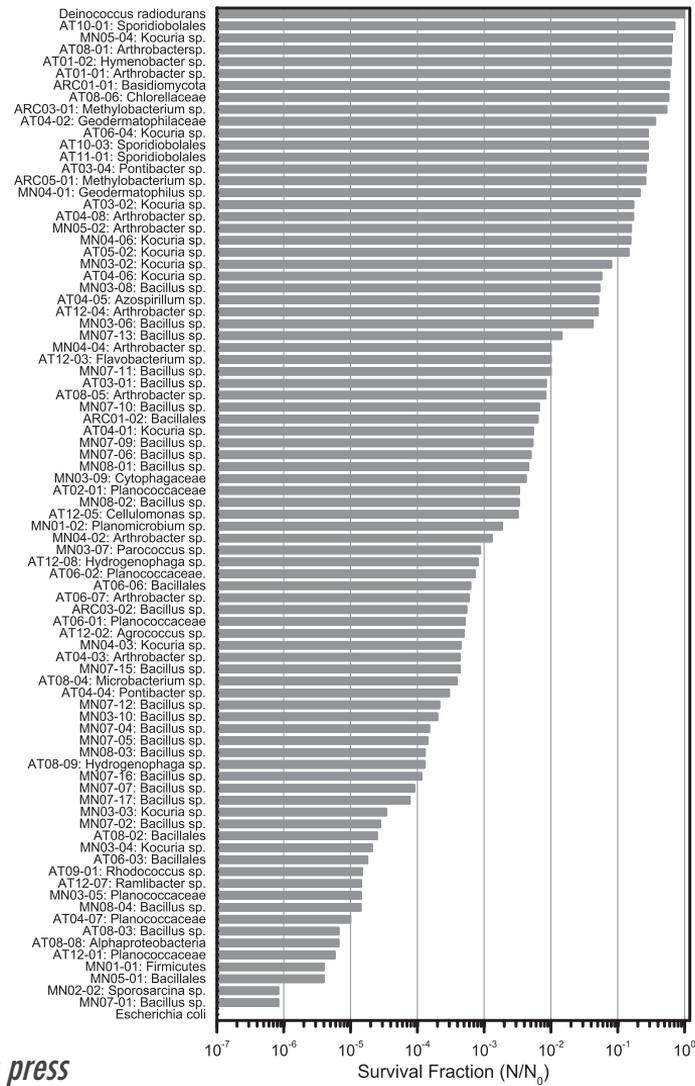
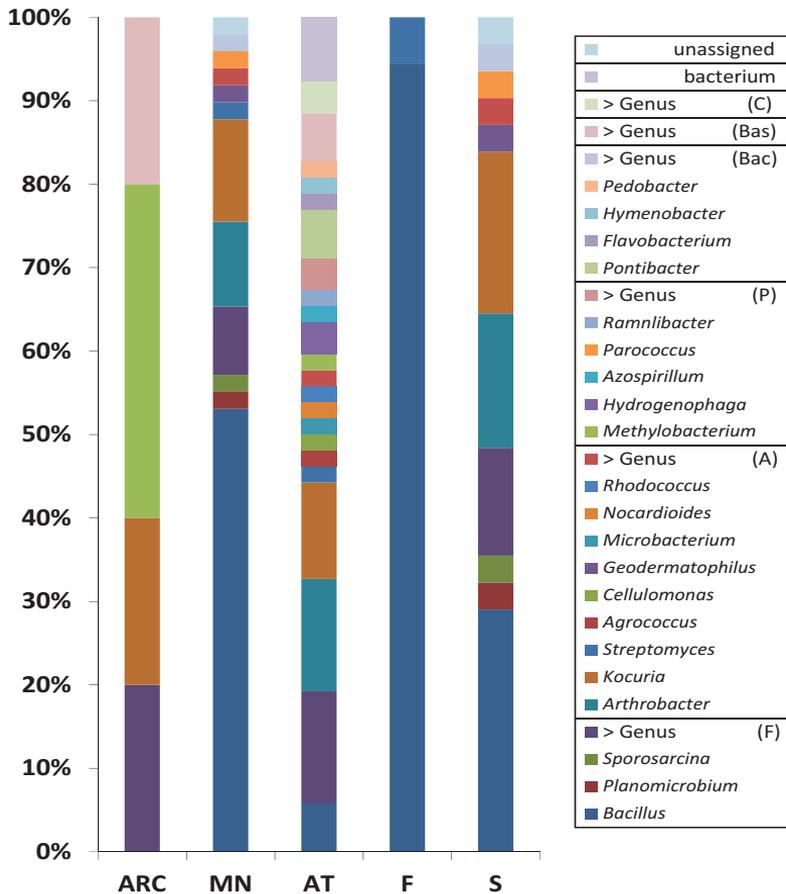


Atacama Desert

- Survival curves to UV-C irradiation using germicidal lamp
- Extracellular and Intracellular Mn/Fe ratio through ICP-MS
- Optical and Electron Microscopy

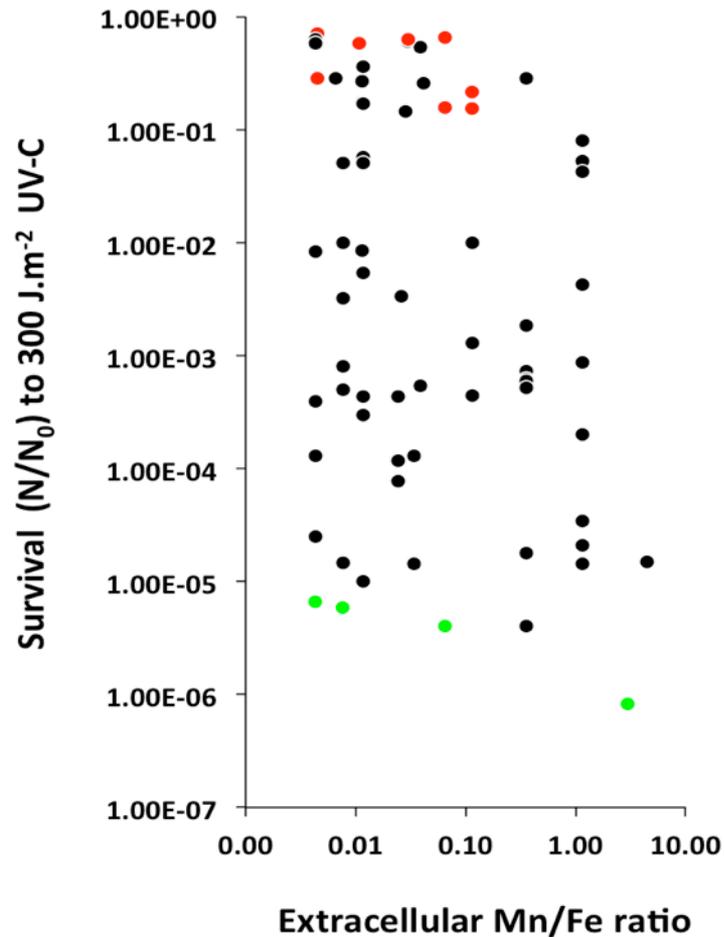
RESULTS

High diversity of radiation resistant isolates

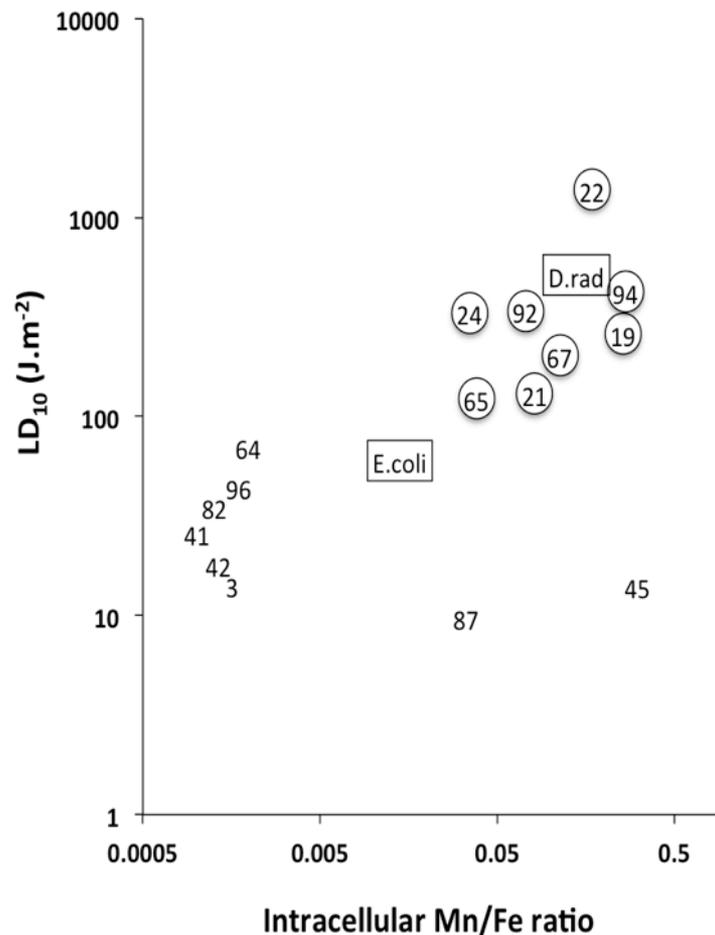


Paulino-Lima et al. (2016) *in press*

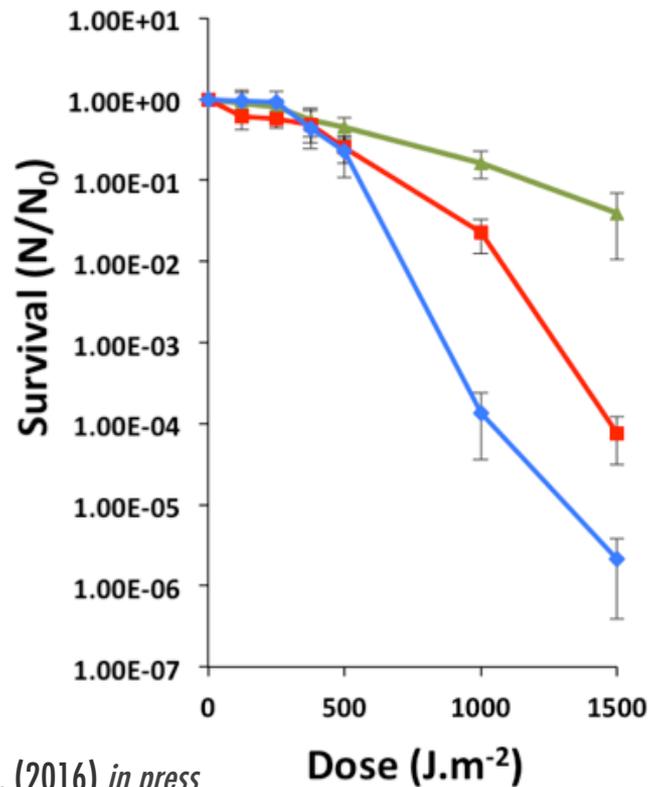
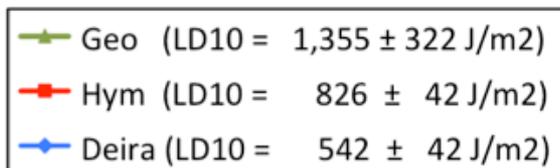
EXTRACELLULAR Mn/Fe RATIO VERSUS SURVIVAL



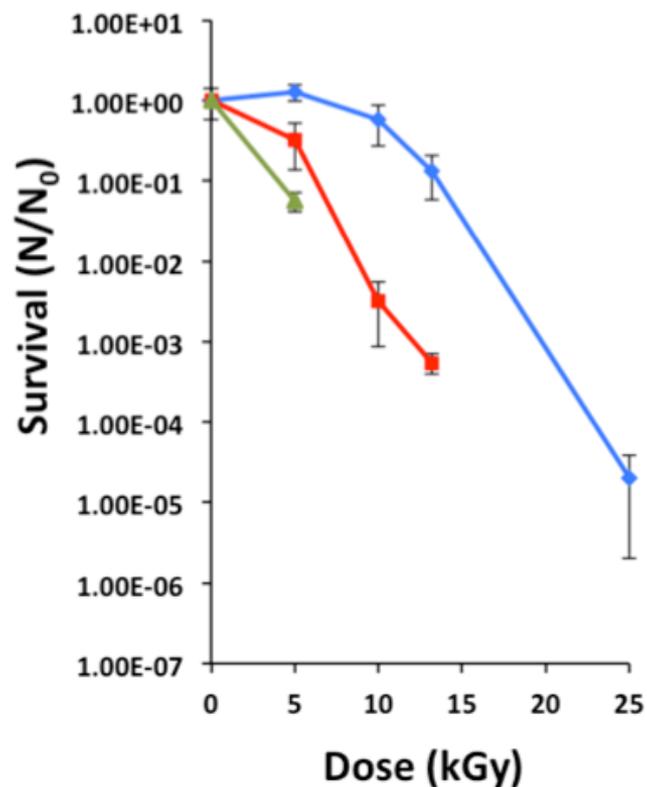
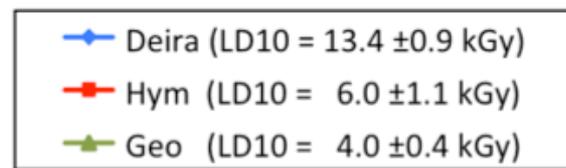
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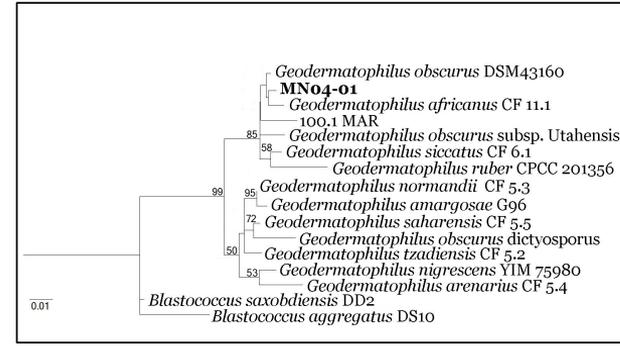
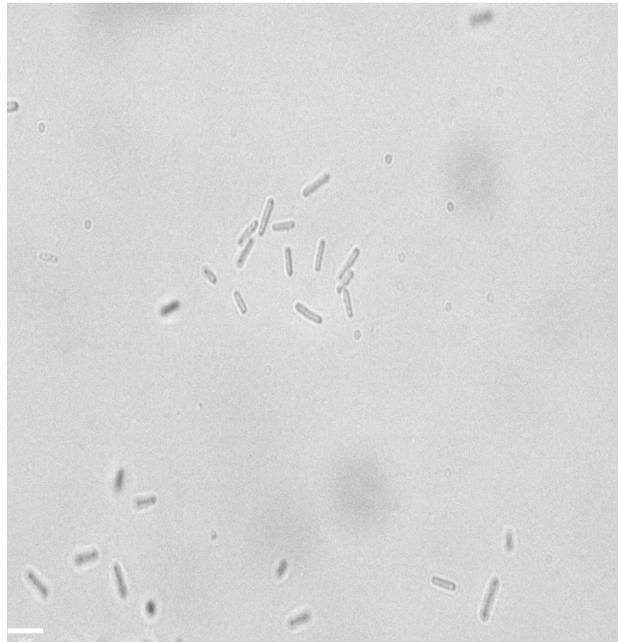
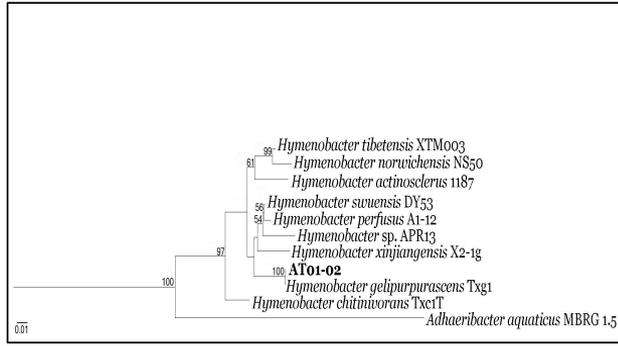


UV-C irradiation

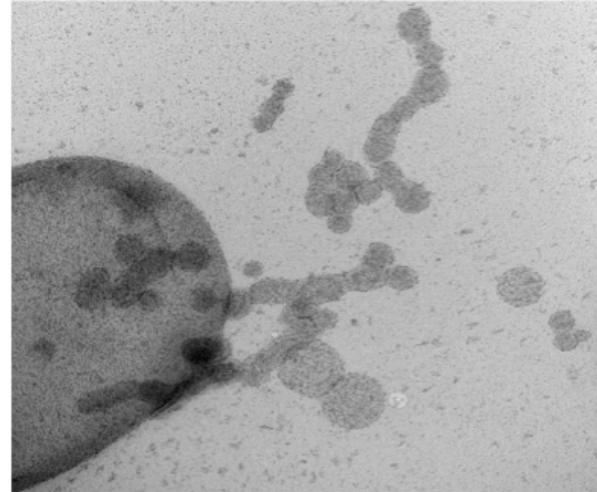


⁶⁰Co Irradiation





Hymenobacter sp. strain AT01-02



05-11-12AmesPinkColony24.009.tif
NASA Ames
pink colony, clear center, UVC 24
Print Mag: 88400x @ 7.0 in
10:47 05/11/12
Microscopist: K. Moulton
2 UA box Duboise phage and bac III gA8

500 nm
HV=100.0kV
Direct Mag: 49000x
X=-512.0505 Y: -459.5349
USM - Duboise Lab

- ★ Isolated from the hyperarid core of the Atacama Desert
- ★ Presence of virus-like particles
- ★ Red pigmented
- ★ Highly resistant to UV-C light

Draft Genome Sequence of *Hymenobacter* sp. Strain AT01-02, Isolated from a Surface Soil Sample in the Atacama Desert, Chile

Anders Cai Holm Hansen,^a Ivan Glaucio Paulino-Lima,^b Kosuke Fujishima,^c Lynn Justine Rothschild,^d Peter Ruhdal Jensen^a

Microbial Biotechnology & Biorefining, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark^a; NASA Postdoctoral Program Fellow, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California, USA^b; University Affiliated Research Center, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California, USA^c; NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California, USA^d

Here, we report the 5.09-Mb draft genome sequence of *Hymenobacter* sp. strain AT01-02, which was isolated from a surface soil sample in the Atacama Desert, Chile. The isolate is extremely resistant to UV-C radiation and is able to accumulate high intracellular levels of Mn/Fe.

Received 11 December 2015 Accepted 21 December 2015 Published 11 February 2016

Citation Holm Hansen AC, Paulino-Lima IG, Fujishima K, Rothschild LJ, Jensen PR. 2016. Draft genome sequence of *Hymenobacter* sp. strain AT01-02, isolated from a surface soil sample in the Atacama Desert, Chile. *Genome Announc* 4(1):e01701-15. doi:10.1128/genomeA.01701-15.

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Address correspondence to Anders Cai Holm Hansen, achh@food.dtu.dk.

Hymenobacter sp. strain AT01-02, isolated from the Atacama Desert, Chile, is a Gram-negative pink-pigmented bacterium that thrives in an extremely dry environment, where it is exposed to large temperature variations and high levels of solar UV radiation (1, 2). Several *Hymenobacter* spp. were reported to be radiation resistant (3–6), and isolate AT01-02 is more resistant than *Deinococcus radiodurans* to UV-C irradiation, being able to accumulate high intracellular levels of Mn/Fe (our unpublished data).

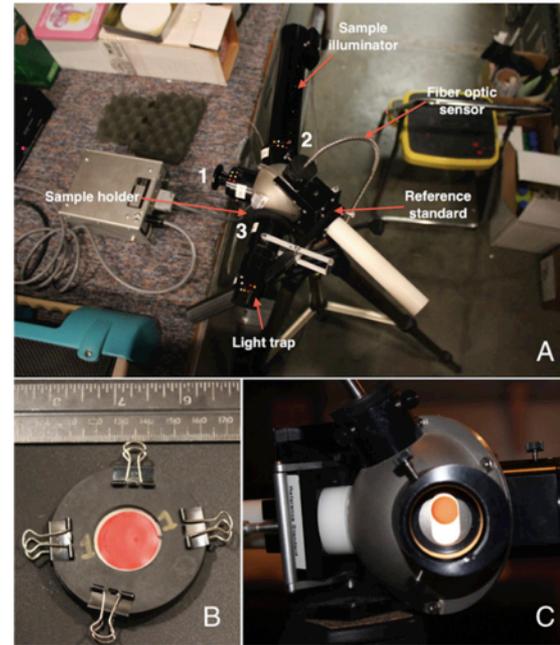
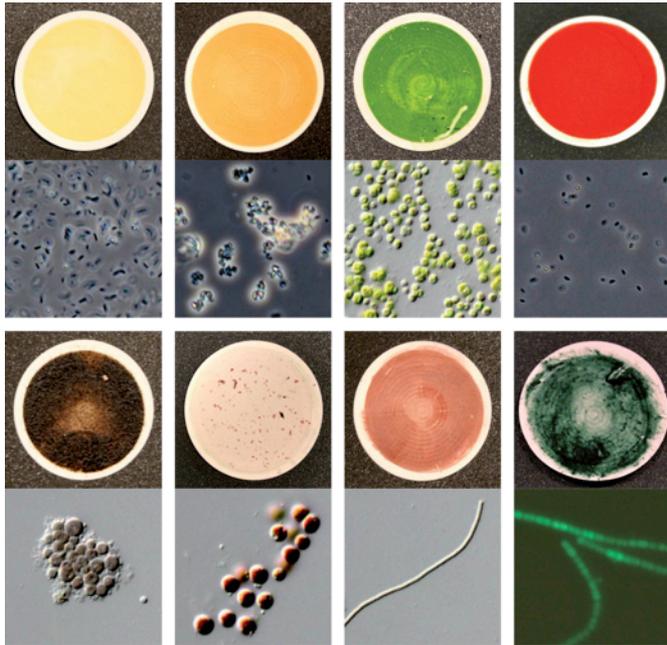
xenobiotic biodegradation and metabolism, 43 genes related to DNA replication and repair (UvrABC system, *recA*, and *MutS*), and 29 genes related to membrane transport (including 16 ABC transporters, 11 secretory systems, and 2 manganese transporters of the natural resistance-associated macrophage protein [NRAMP] family). Similar to what was reported recently for a different *Hymenobacter* isolate (7), we found 4 teichoic and 3 lipoteichoic biosynthesis genes, which are characteristically present

Surface biosignatures of exo-Earths: Remote detection of extraterrestrial life

Siddharth Hegde^{a,1}, Ivan G. Paulino-Lima^b, Ryan Kent^c, Lisa Kaltenecker^{a,d}, and Lynn Rothschild^e

^aMax Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg 69117, Germany; ^bNational Aeronautics and Space Administration Postdoctoral Program Fellow, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035; ^cUniversity of California, Santa Cruz University Affiliated Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035; ^dInstitute for Pale Blue Dots, Department of Astronomy, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; and ^eNational Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035

Edited by Neta A. Bahcall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, and approved February 2, 2015 (received for review November 5, 2014)



***Geodermatophilus* sp._KM349882**

Sample name: *Geodermatophilus* sp.

Accession number for 16S rRNA partial gene sequence: KM349882

Classification: Bacteria; Actinobacteria; Actinobacteridae; Actinomycetales;
Frankineae; Geodermatophilaceae; Geodermatophilus

Metabolism: Heterotrophic

Origin: Sonoran desert, AZ, USA

Isolation: Ivan P. Lima (NPP at NASA Ames, CA, USA)

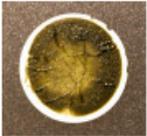
Sample concentration: 6.02×10^6 cells/ml

Sample count on filter substrate: $1.80 \pm 0.12 \times 10^7$ cells

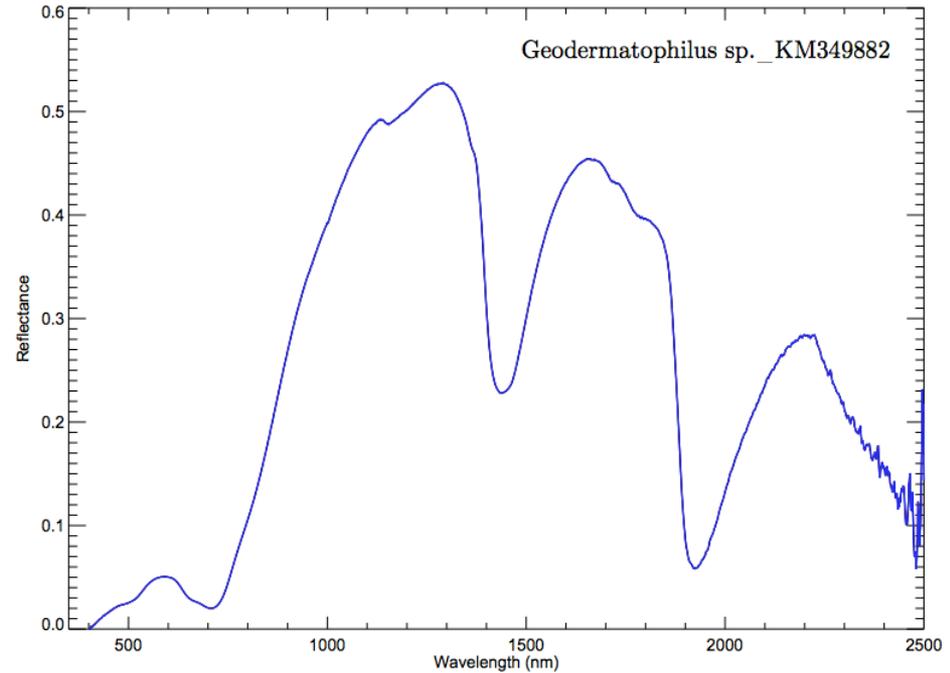
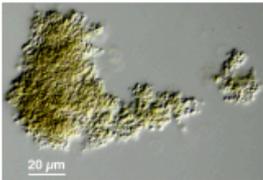
Laboratory growth conditions: 30 °C, 180 rpm, 1 week

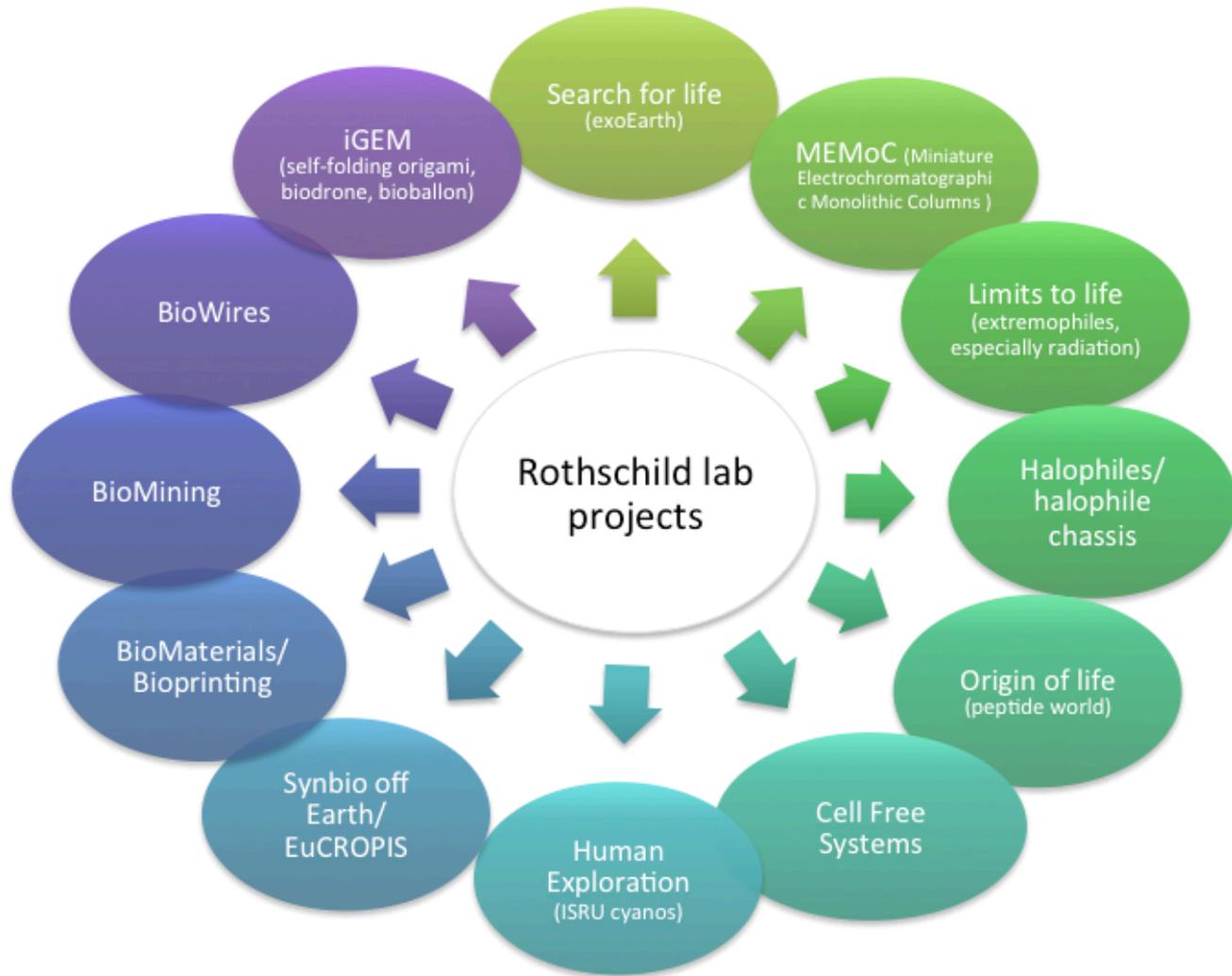
Culture medium: Reasoner's 2A (R2A)

Sample photograph:



Sample micrograph:





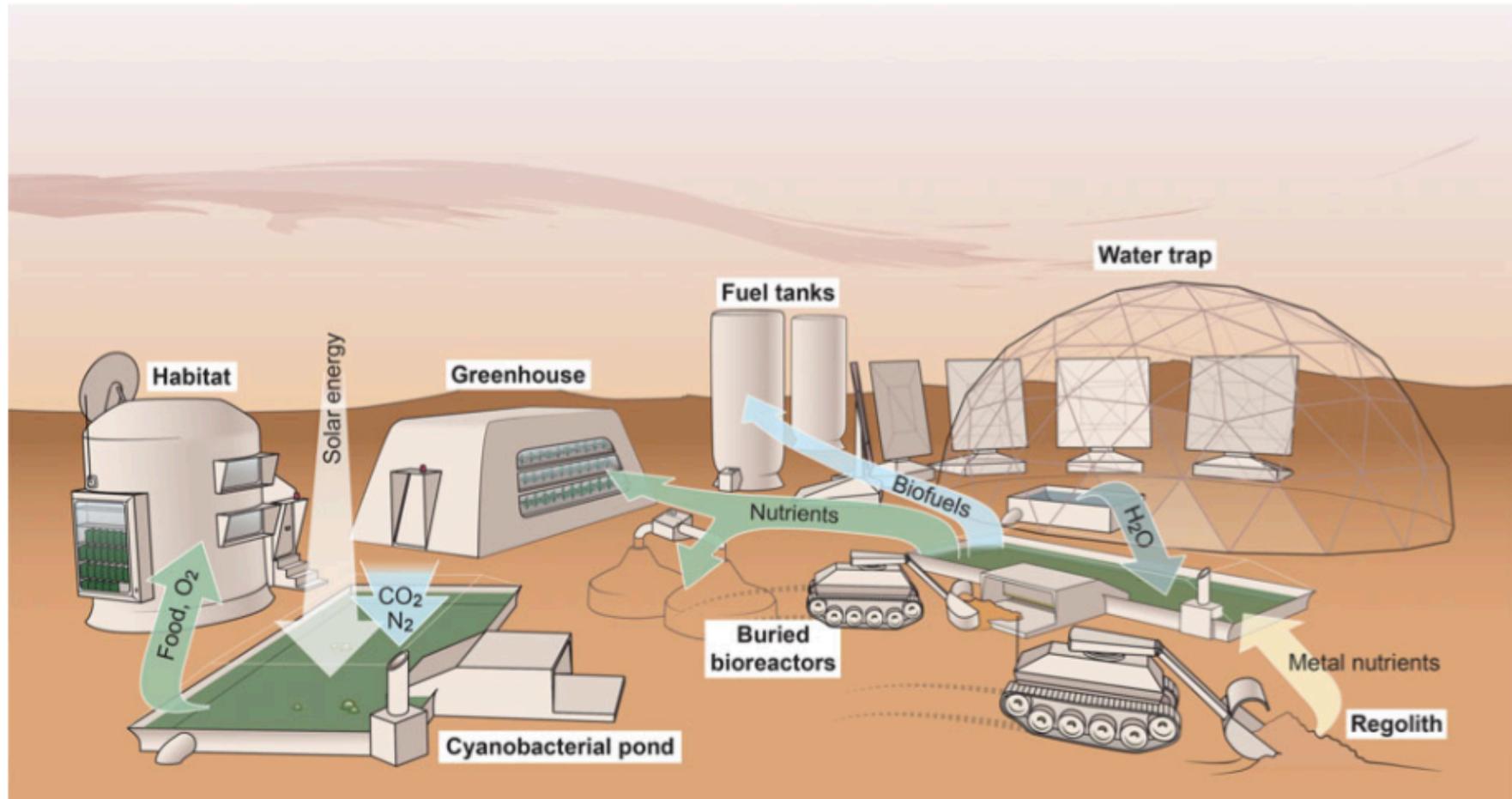
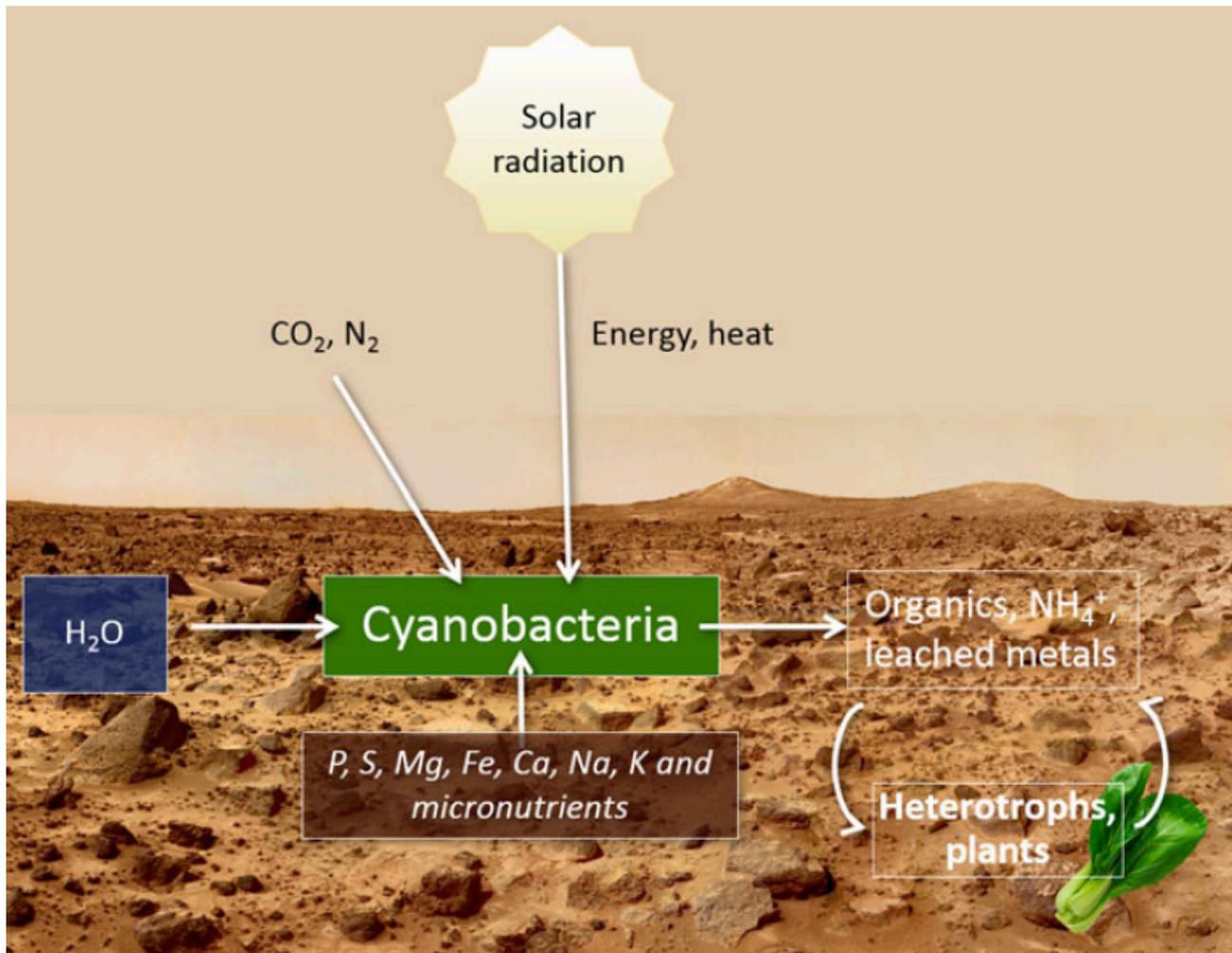


Fig. 1. Artist's rendering of a cyanobacterium-based biological life-support system on Mars. Figure design: Cyprien Verseux and Sean McMahon (Yale University). Layout: Sean McMahon.
Cyprien et al. *Int. J. Astrobiology* (2016)



Cyprien et al. *Int. J. Astrobiology* (2016)



#JOURNEYTOMARS

<http://www.nasa.gov/social/journeytomars-social/>

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Ryan Kent, USRA

Griffin McCutcheon, EAP ARC

Toshitaka Matsubara, Tokio Tech

Cyprien Verseux, University of Rome, Italy

Douglas Galante, Brazilian Synchrotron Laboratory

Fabio Rodrigues, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Gabriel Guarany, University of São Paulo, Brazil



An astronaut in a white spacesuit with a gold visor is kneeling on the reddish-brown, rocky terrain of Mars. The astronaut's hands are resting on the ground. The background shows a hazy, orange-tinted sky. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

Thank you !