

The background of the slide is a composite image of space. At the bottom, a curved horizon of Earth is visible, showing blue oceans and white clouds. Above the horizon, the dark expanse of space is filled with numerous stars of varying colors and sizes. In the upper right quadrant, the large, cratered surface of the Moon is prominently displayed. To the right of the Moon, a smaller, reddish-orange sphere representing Mars is visible. The overall scene is set against a dark, starry background.

# **Rural Doctor for Mars: Medicine in the Final Frontier**

**October 12, 2019**

**Erik Antonsen MD, PhD, FAAEM, FACEP  
Assistant Director, Human Health and Performance  
Human System Risk Management  
NASA Johnson Space Center**

**Wonca World Rural Health Conference**

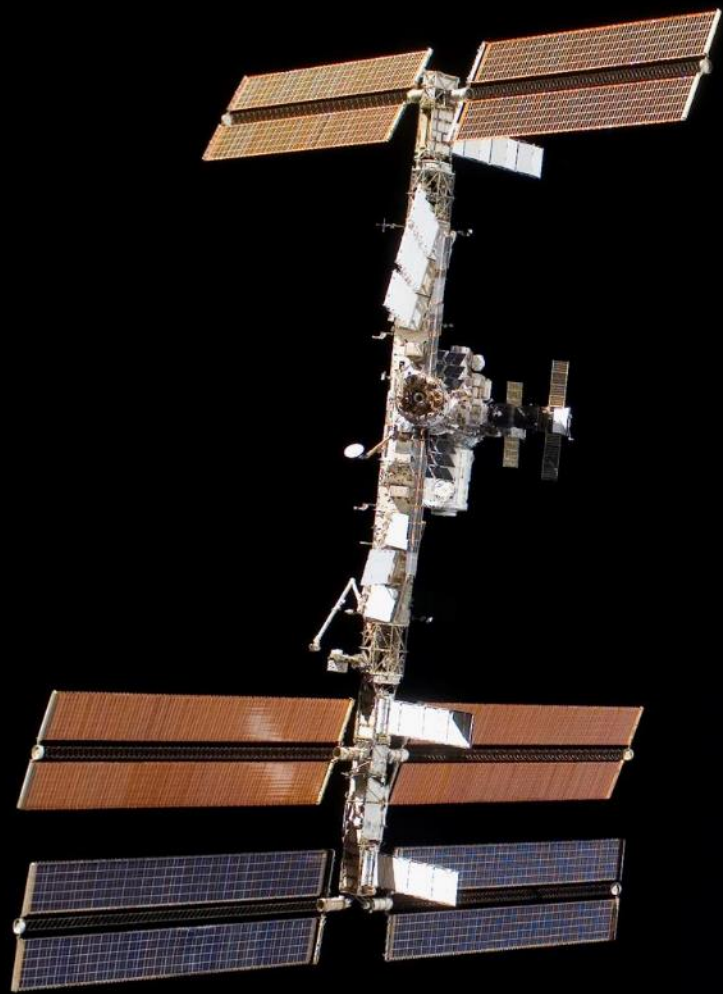
# Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

1. Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
2. Assistant Professor of Space Medicine, Center for Space Medicine
3. Attending Physician, Ben Taub General Hospital
  
4. Assistant Director, Human Health and Performance, NASA Johnson Space Center

I have financial interests in the above entities.

Today I am speaking in my capacity as an Assistant Director for NASA

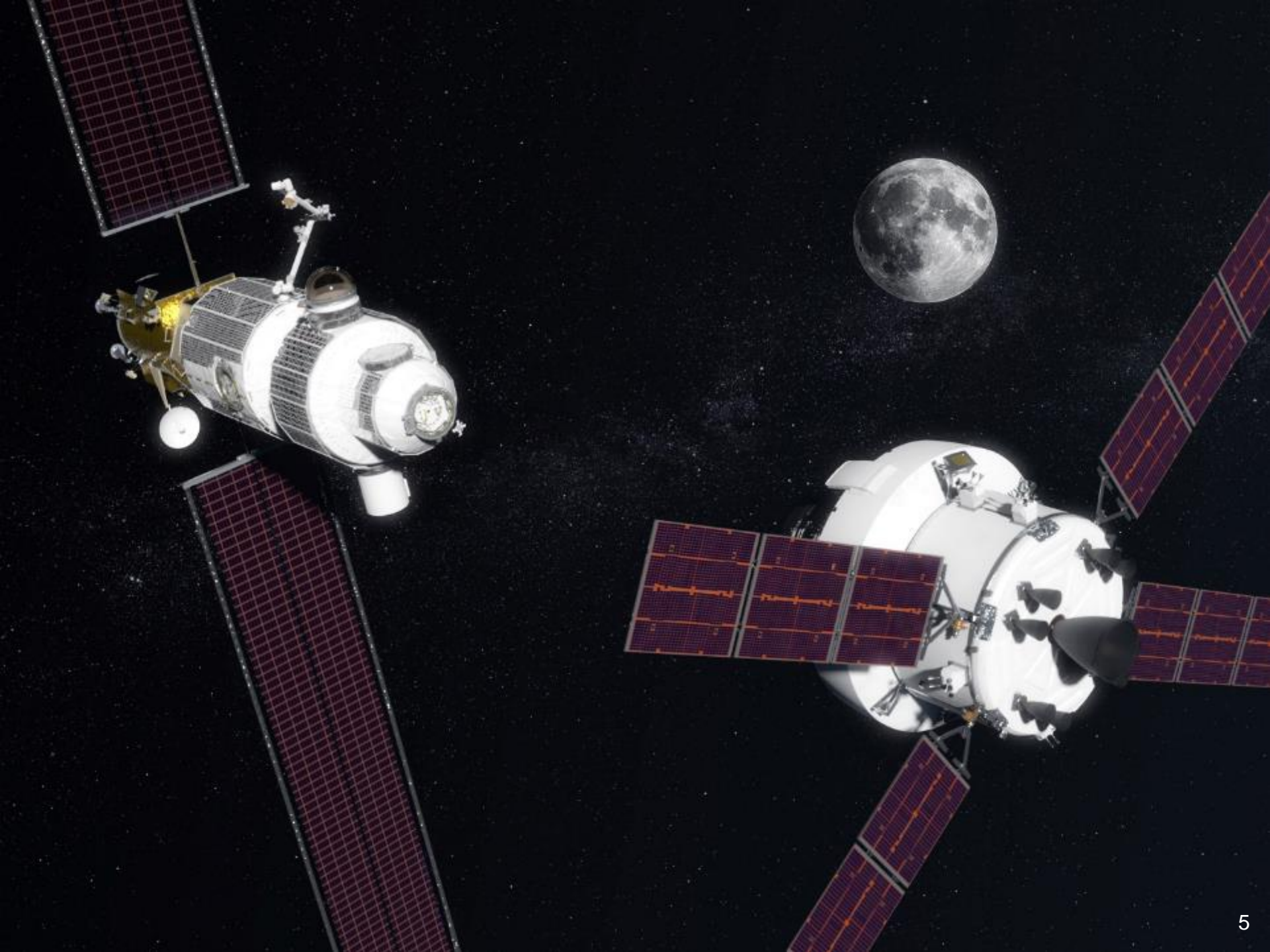




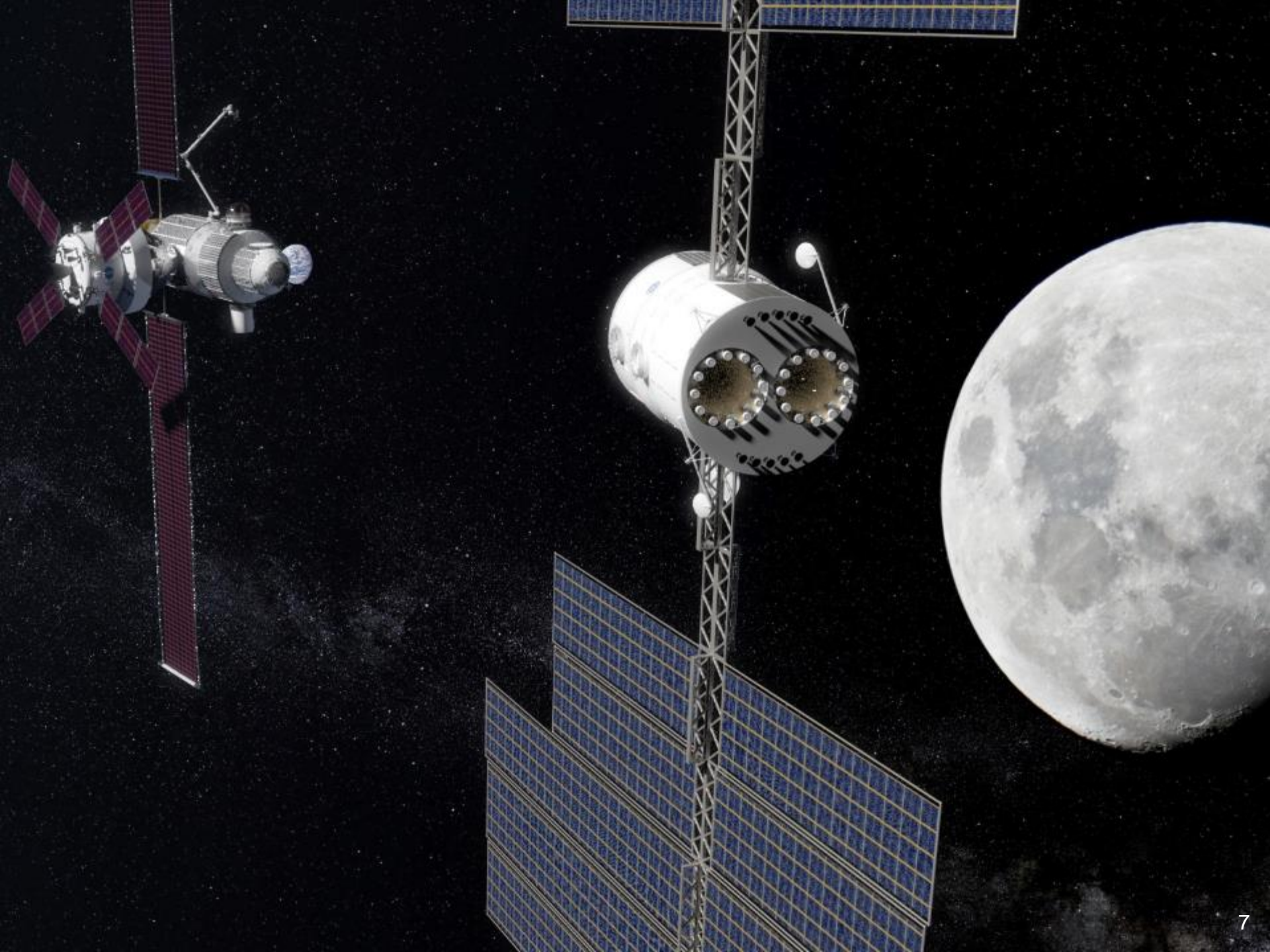
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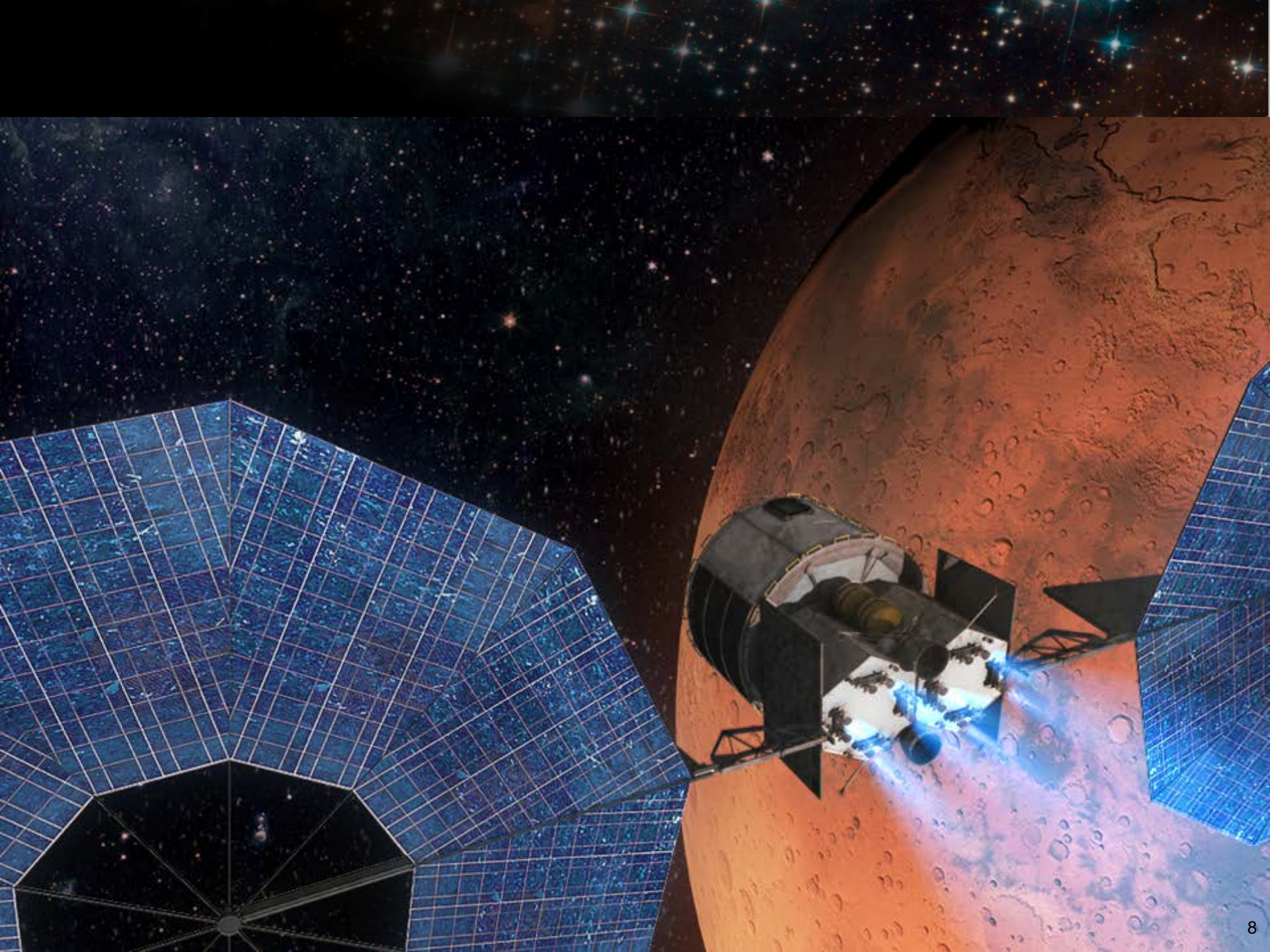
562

1 billion

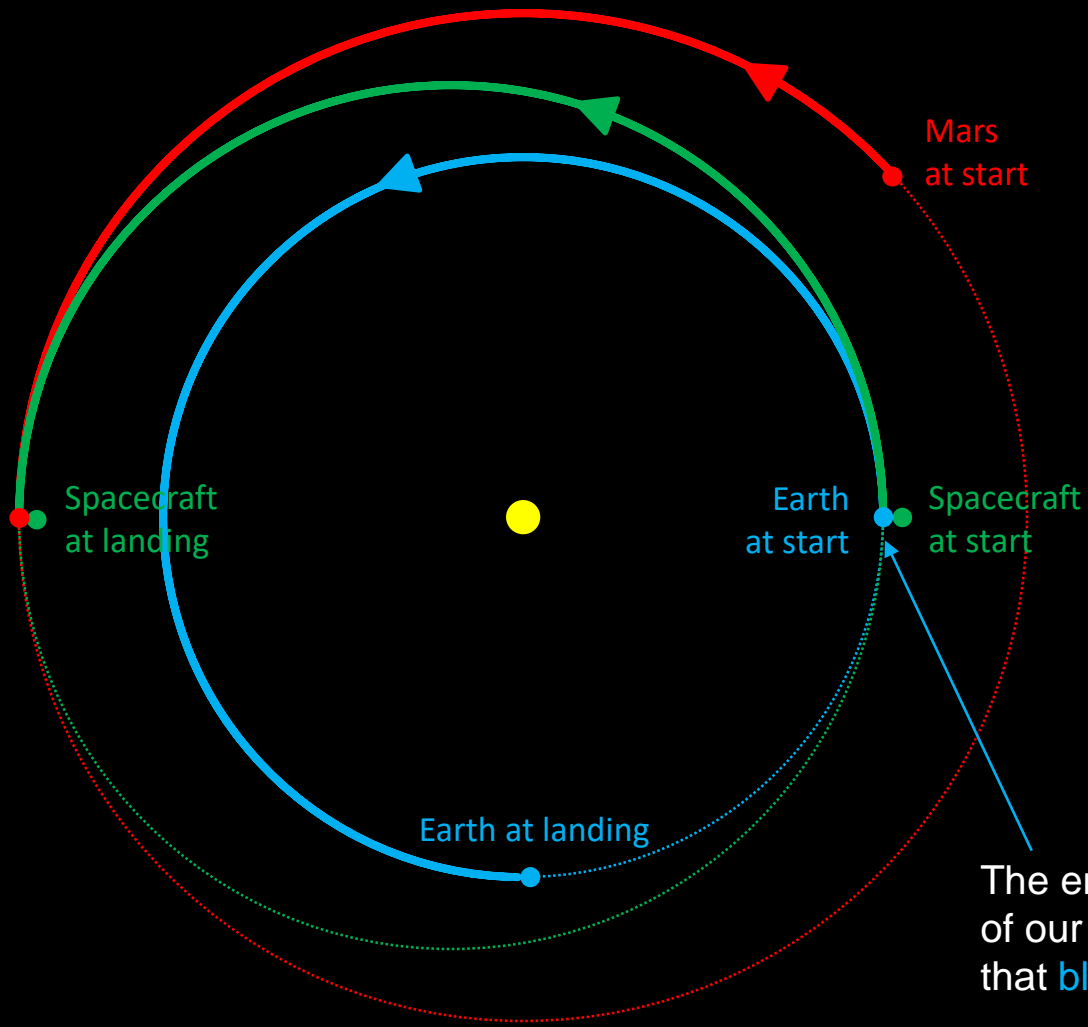




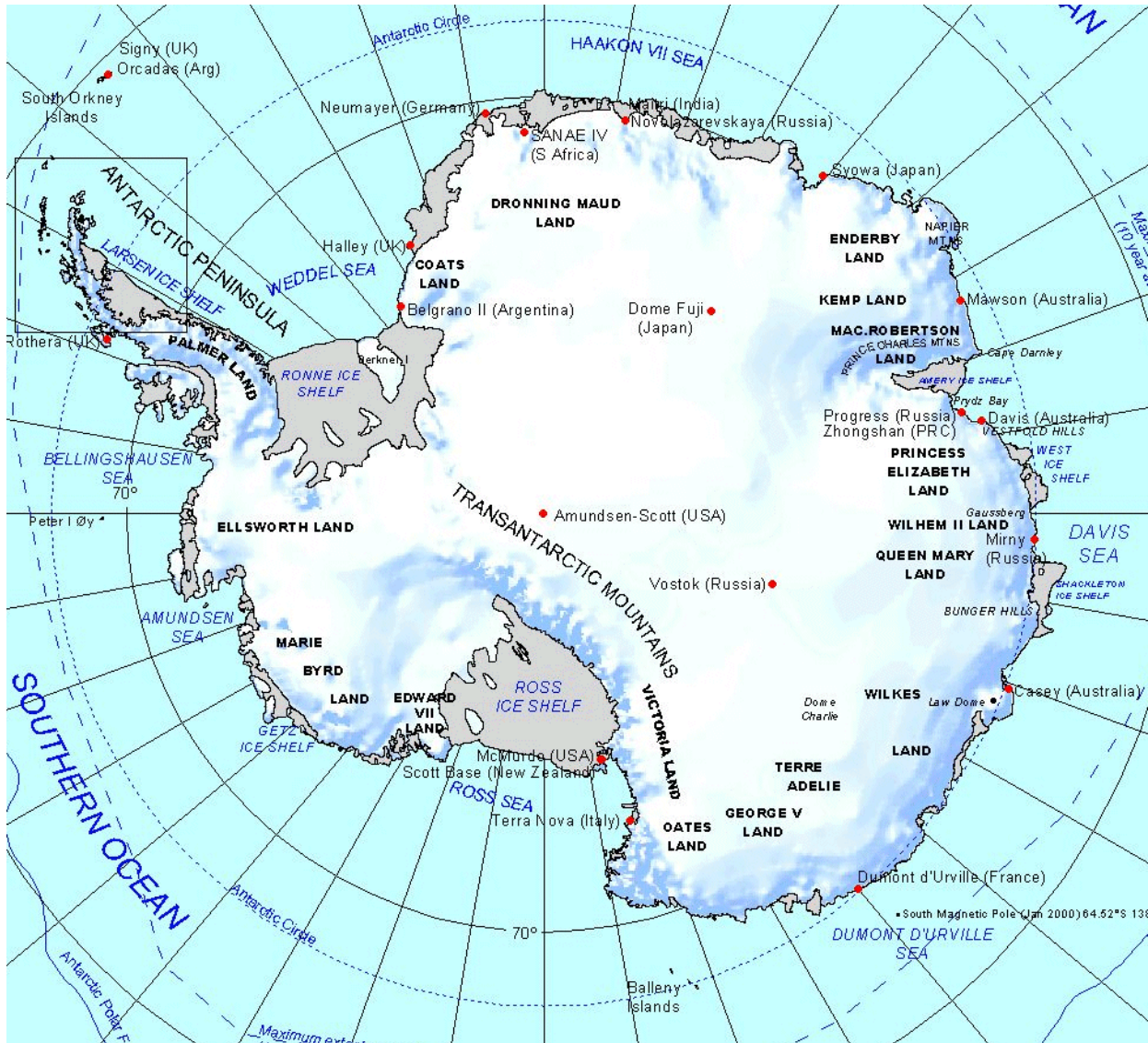








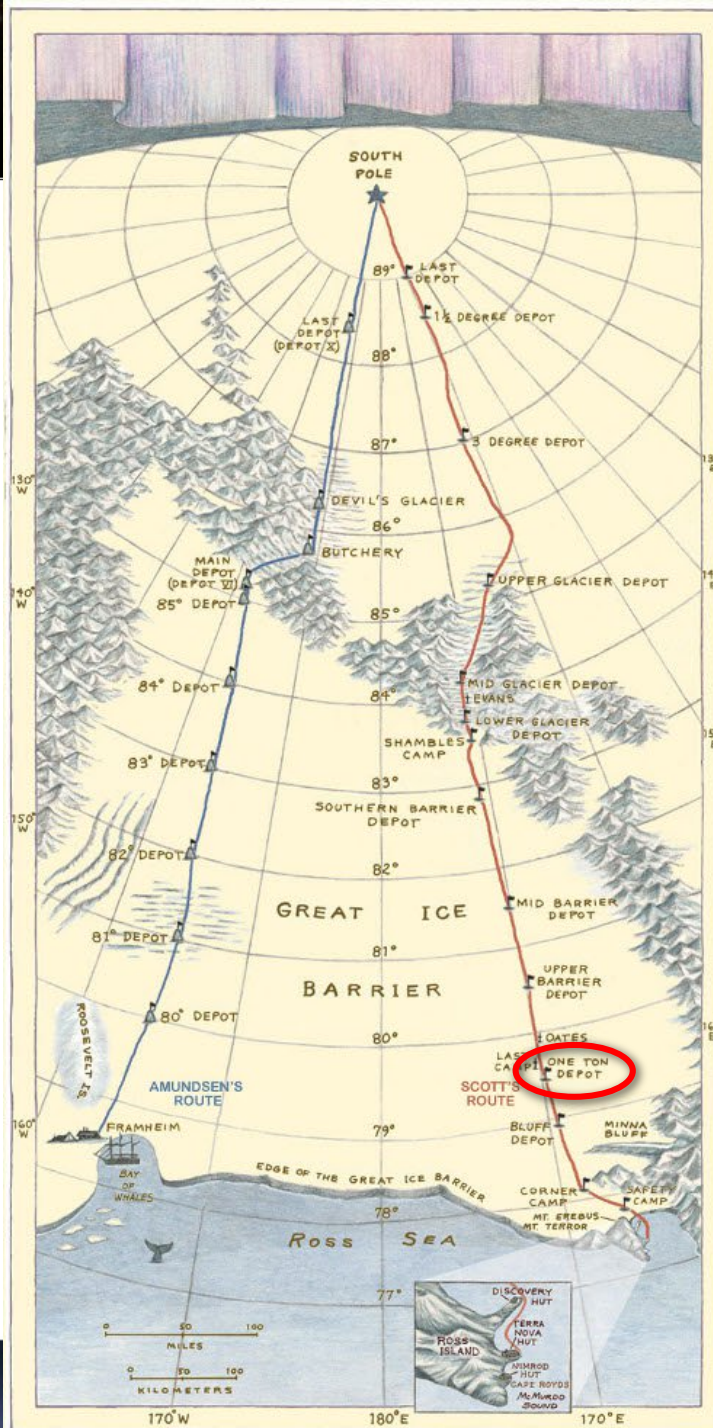
The entire experience of our species fits into that blue dot.



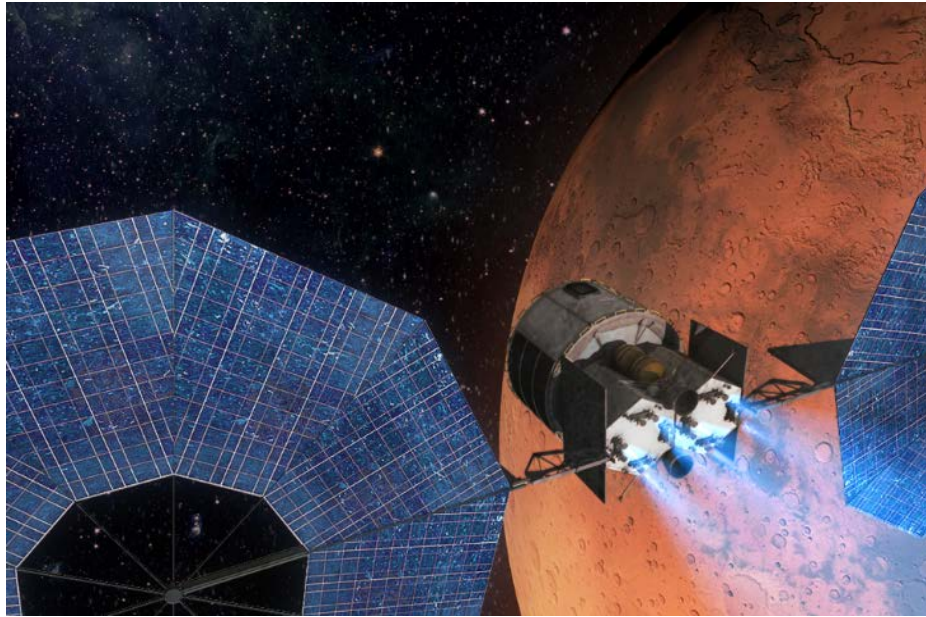
# Observation Hill



1911 - 1912



# Can we just use what we already know?



# How is medical care provided in mission?

- Live remote guidance



- Live monitoring



- Store and forward

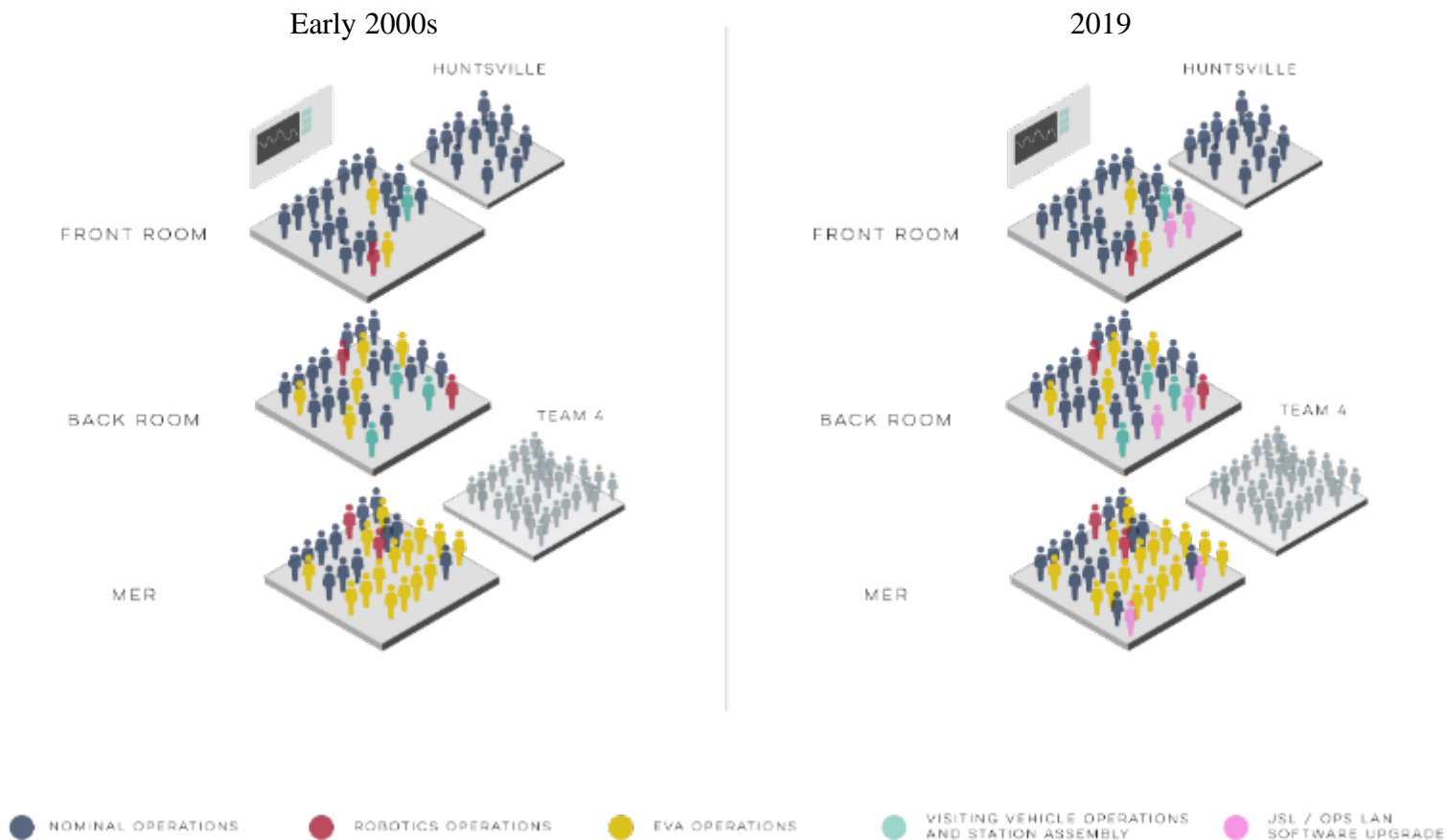


- Autonomous

# What does autonomous mean?

Can be up to 150 people working the first 1 hour of a critical situation

## MCC Staffing



# Fire and Toxic Exposure

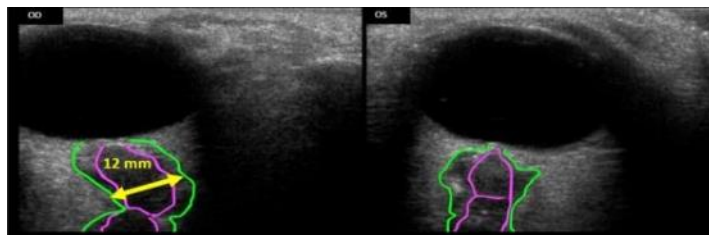




# Near Drowning in EVA



# SANS – adaptation or pathology?



# Urinary Tract Infections and Sepsis



In-flight Post-void  
Ultrasound

Ground Post-void  
Ultrasound

# Exploration Medical Conditions

## SKIN

Burns secondary to Fire  
Skin Abrasion  
Skin Laceration

## EYES

Acute Glaucoma  
Eye Corneal Ulcer  
Eye Infection  
Retinal Detachment  
Eye Abrasion  
Eye Chemical Burn  
Eye Penetration

## EARS, NOSE, THROAT

Barotrauma (sinus block)  
Nasal Congestion (SA)  
Nosebleed (SA)  
Acute Sinusitis  
Hearing Loss  
Otitis Externa  
Otitis Media  
Pharyngitis

## DENTAL

Abscess  
Caries  
Exposed Pulp  
Tooth Loss  
Crown Loss  
Filling Loss

## CARDIOVASCULAR

Angina/Myocardial Infarction  
Atrial Fibrillation / Atrial Flutter  
Cardiogenic Shock secondary to Myocardial Infarction  
Hypertension  
Sudden Cardiac Arrest  
Traumatic Hypovolemic Shock

## GASTROINTESTINAL

Constipation (SA)  
Abdominal Injury  
Acute Cholecystitis  
Acute Diverticulitis  
Acute Pancreatitis  
Appendicitis  
Diarrhea  
Gastroenteritis  
Hemorrhoids  
Indigestion  
Small Bowel Obstruction

## PULMONARY

Choking/Obstructed Airway  
Respiratory Infection  
Toxic Exposure: Ammonia  
Smoke Inhalation  
Chest Injury

\*SA – Space Adaptation

## NEUROLOGIC

Space Motion Sickness (SA)  
Head Injury  
Seizures  
Headache  
Stroke  
Paresthesia  
Headache (SA)  
Neurogenic Shock  
VIIP/SANS (SA)

## MUSKULOSKELETAL

Back Pain (SA)  
Abdominal Wall Hernia  
Acute Arthritis  
Back Injury  
Ankle Sprain/Strain  
Elbow Dislocation  
Elbow Sprain/Strain  
Finger Dislocation  
Fingernail Delamination (EVA)  
Hip Sprain/Strain  
Hip/Proximal Femur Fracture  
Knee Sprain/Strain  
Lower Extremity Stress fracture  
Lumbar Spine Fracture  
Shoulder Dislocation  
Shoulder Sprain/Strain  
Acute Compartment Syndrome  
Neck Injury  
Wrist Sprain/Strain  
Wrist Fracture

## PSYCHIATRIC

Insomnia (Space Adaptation)  
Late Insomnia  
Anxiety  
Behavioral Emergency  
Depression

## GENITOURINARY

Abnormal Uterine Bleeding  
Acute Prostatitis  
Nephrolithiasis  
Urinary Incontinence (SA)  
Urinary Retention (SA)  
Vaginal Yeast Infection

## INFECTION

Herpes Zoster (shingles)  
Influenza  
Mouth Ulcer  
Sepsis  
Skin Infection  
Urinary Tract Infection

## IMMUNE

Allergic Reaction  
Anaphylaxis  
Skin Rash  
Medication Reaction

## ENVIRONMENT

Acute Radiation Syndrome  
Altitude Sickness  
Decompression Sickness (EVA)  
Headache (CO<sub>2</sub>)

# Hazards of Spaceflight

## Hazards Drive Human Spaceflight Risks

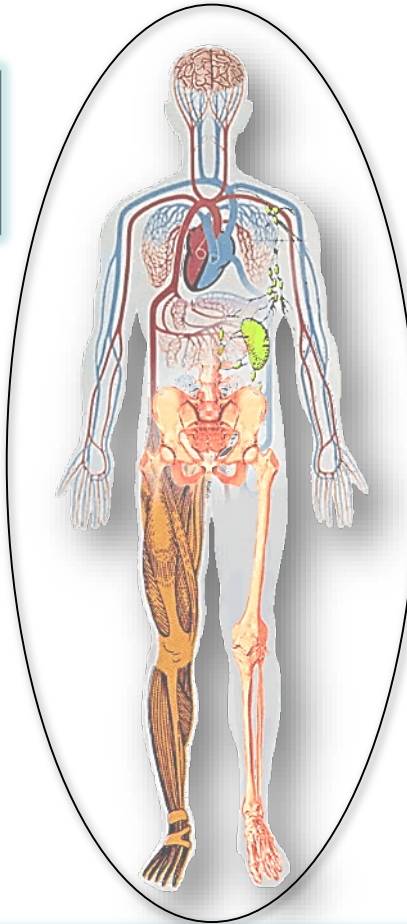
Altered Gravity -  
Physiological Changes

Distance from earth

Space Radiation

Hostile/  
Closed Environment

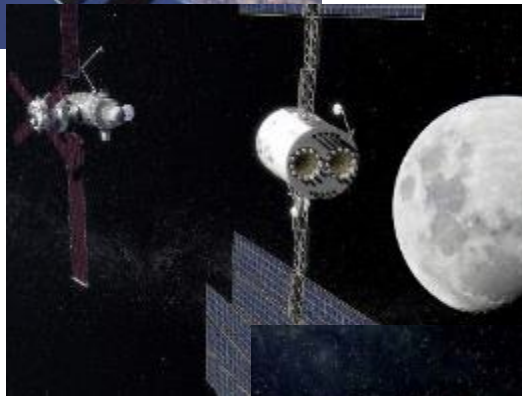
Isolation & Confinement



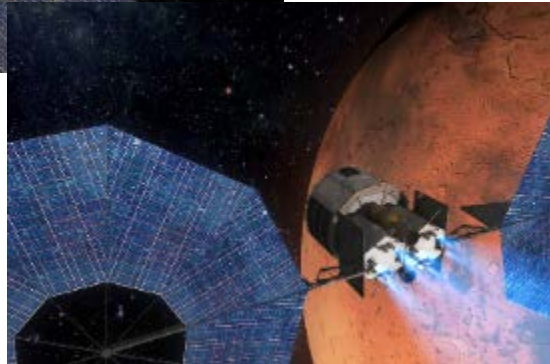
# Progressive Earth Independence



- Real Time Communications
- Evacuation Capability (1.5 – 36 hrs)
- ‘Strong’ Consumables Resupply



- Near Real Time Communications
- Evacuation Capability (**3-11 days**)
- **Limited** Consumables Resupply



- **No** Real Time Communications
- **No** Evacuation Capability
- **No** Consumables Resupply



Increasing exposure to Hazards

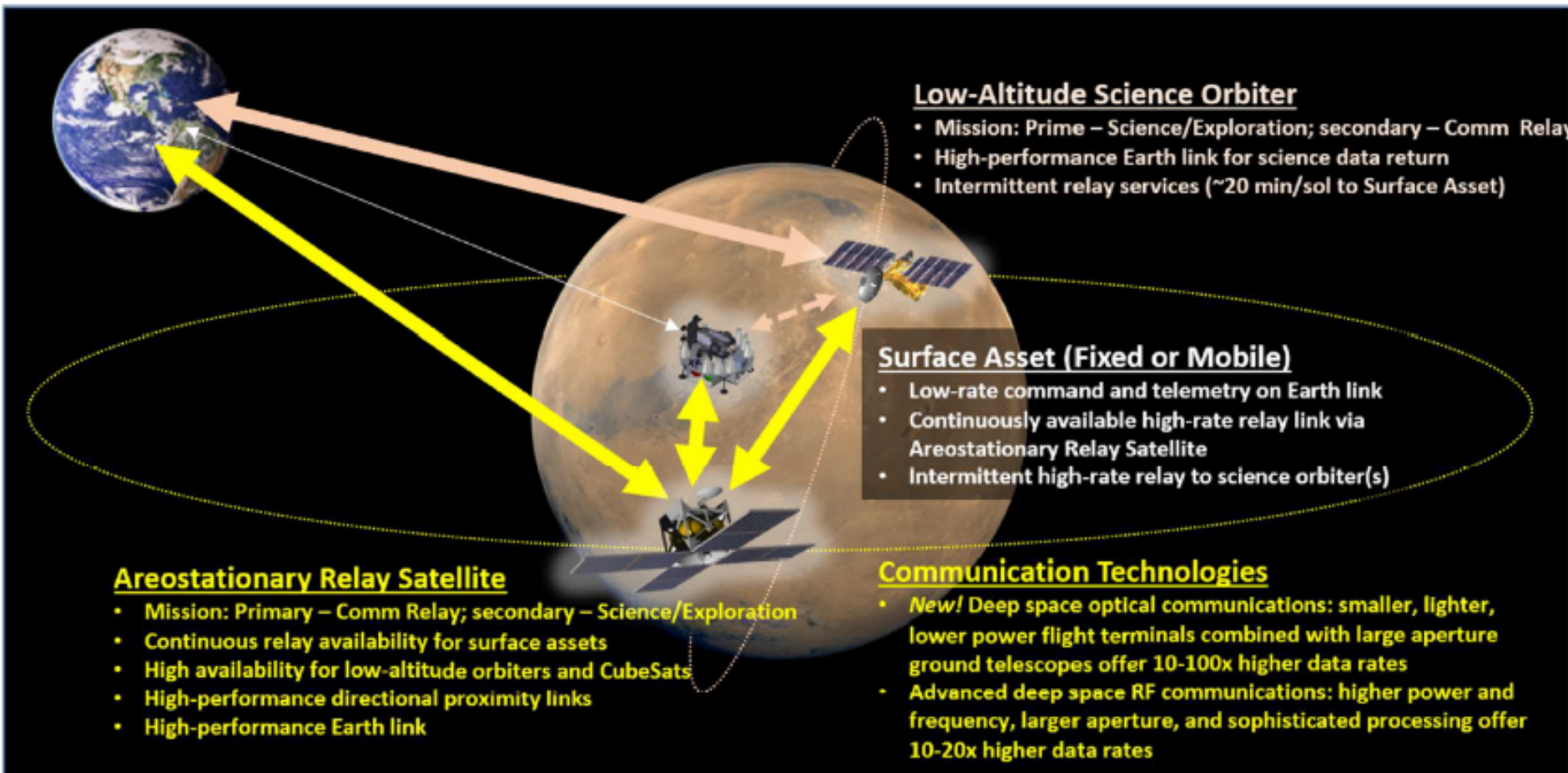
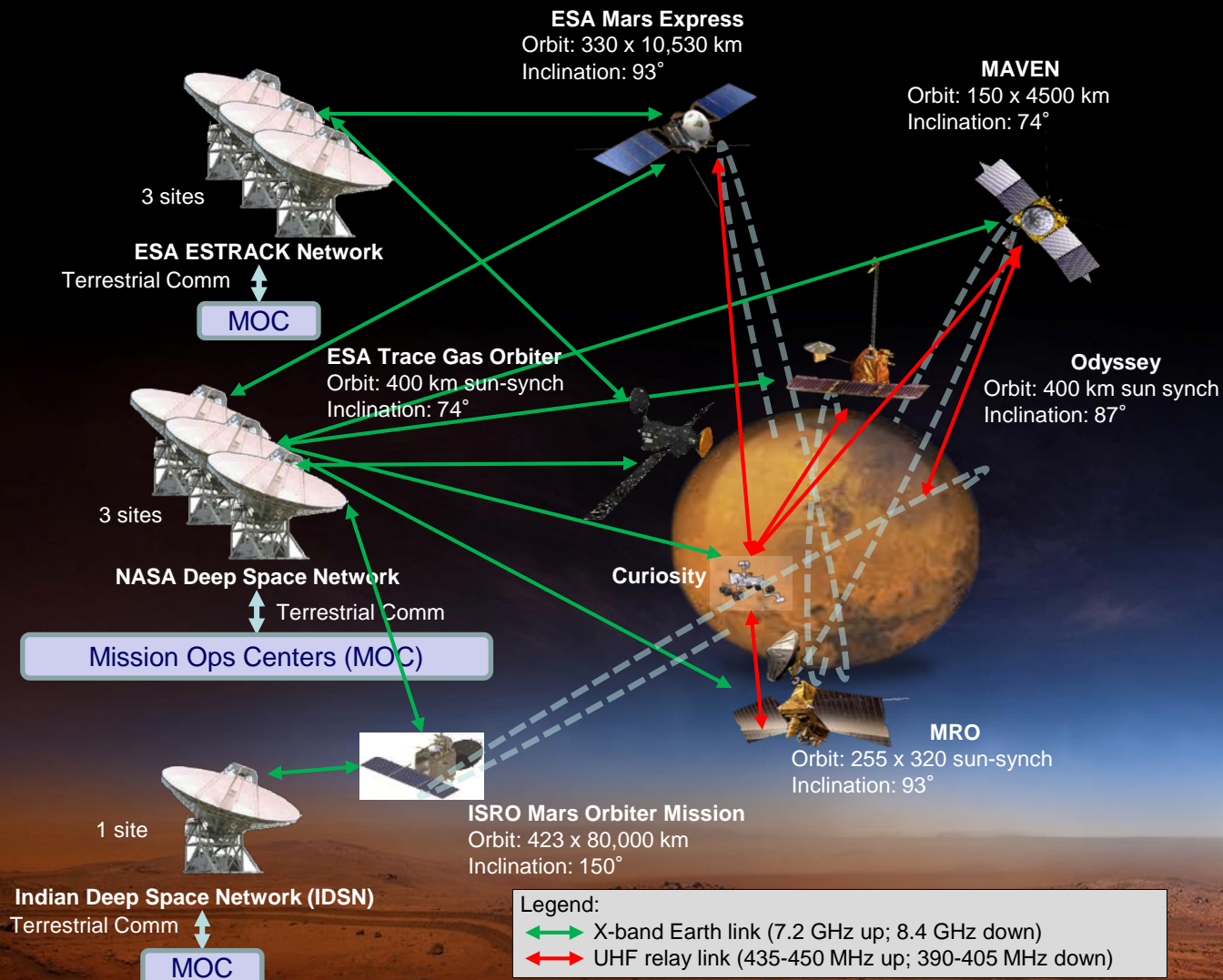


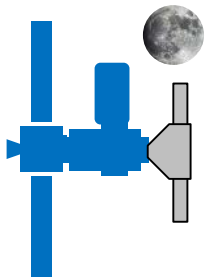
Figure 1. Advanced RF and optical communications technologies combined with using the areostationary orbit offer 100-1000x greater data return from Mars and nearly continuous availability.





# Consumables Resupply

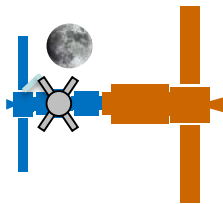
Gateway-Artemis  
2024



26-41 days

100%

Mars Transfer Vehicle  
2027



190-221 days

100%

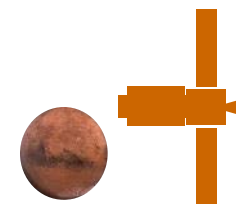
Precursor  
2029



1 year

100%?

Mars  
2033



2 years

80%?

3 years

16%?

Current Operational Models Sufficient  
For Pharmacy Provision

Current Operational Models Inadequate  
For Pharmacy Provision

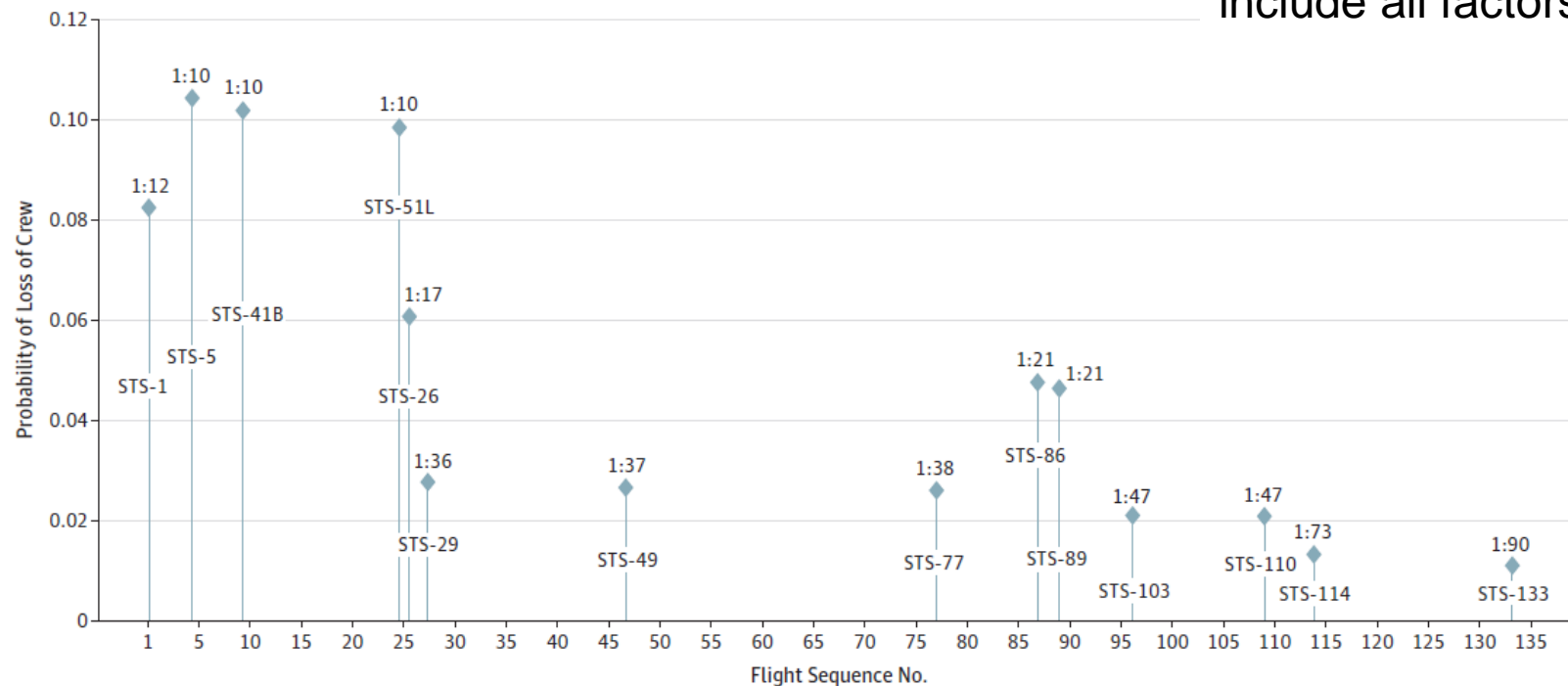
# Return to Gravity



# A Word about Risk

Figure. Results on Retrospective Analysis on Shuttle Risk

These results include all factors



STS-1 estimate includes crew escape with ejection seats (risk is 1:9 ratio without ejection seats). STS-1 risk may have been higher because of unquantified risks.

The vertical lines indicate individual flights. Adapted from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel.<sup>4</sup>

Bagian, JAMA Neurology January, 2019

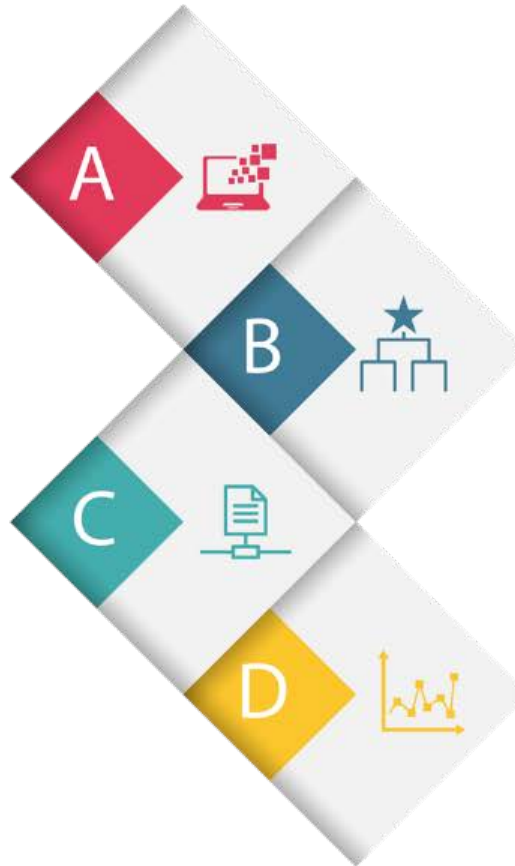


**NM** SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Move Knowledge,  
Not People



**A**mplification – Use **T**echnology  
to leverage scarce resources



**C**ase Based Learning  
to master complexity

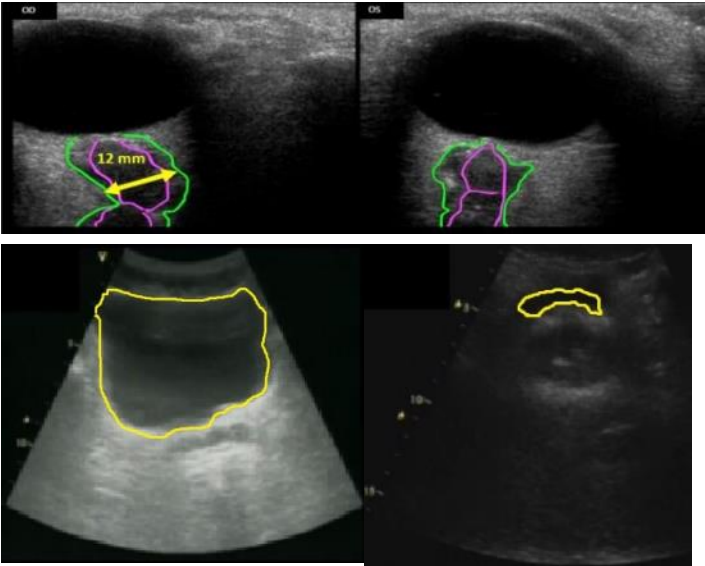
Share **B**est Practices  
to reduce disparity

Web-based **D**atabase to  
**M**onitor **O**utcomes

# A



Amplification - Use  
**Technology**  
to leverage scarce  
resources



## How do we validate tech for our environment?



# B



Share **Best practices** to reduce disparity.

# How do we provide up to date knowledge support?

Baylor College of Medicine



*For Clinical Decision Support in Space, NASA Astronauts Aboard International Space Station Turn to UpToDate from Wolters Kluwer*

UpToDate is the first evidence-based clinical decision support system to be used in space as part of ISS Expedition

(October 09, 2018 - 23:49 CEST) — October 10, 2018 – Wolters Kluwer, Health today announced that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is piloting the use of UpToDate® on board the International Space Station (ISS).

### Putting State-of-the-art Diagnostic Tools in the Hands of Mars Explorers

**VisualDx**

- healthcare informatics
- Improves diagnosis

Combines a knowledge base, image collection, and machine learning to improve medical decision-making.

**50K+** Active Users  
**77M** Images reviewed in 2018  
**41K** Image database

**ayso**

Used by over **2,300** hospitals, clinics, **90+** medical schools worldwide.

Take a photo. Analyze photo & choose lesion type. Add additional symptoms. Review diagnostic possibilities.

Take a photo. Answer questions. Review information. See results.

## EXPLORE MOON to MARS



Case-based learning  
to master complexity

## Level Ex® Receives Prestigious Grant from the Translational Research Institute for Space Health (TRISH) to help NASA Improve Medical Care During Space Missions

August 7, 2019

**CHICAGO, August 7, 2019**—Level Ex, creator of industry-leading medical video games for physicians, today announced it has received a significant grant from the Translational Research Institute for Space Health (TRISH) to build a virtual human simulation framework for NASA. Level Ex will simulate the human body's anatomical and physiological changes in space, demonstrate how medical devices and procedures function differently in microgravity, and create high-fidelity simulations of the spacecraft environment. Level Ex will expand on this framework to recreate spaceflight medical scenarios for astronauts to train prior to space missions.

Astronauts can experience changes in the structure and function of the heart, eyes, vascular system, and other parts of the body due to prolonged exposure to space conditions. These significant transformations create a need for new methods to effectively understand

# PULMEX

## DIAGNOSE + INTERVENE

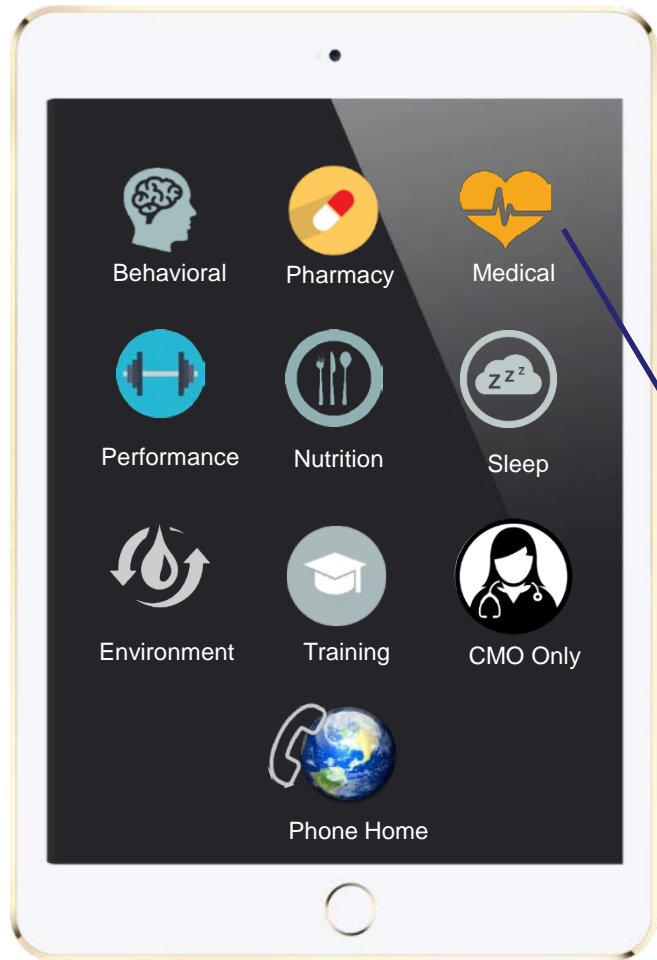
Hone your expertise in our award-winning game! Treat lifelike virtual patients presenting with restrictive and obstructive airway diseases and remove an array of foreign objects in difficult cases that will challenge even the most experienced pulmonologist.

EXPLORE GAME















# A Crew Health and Performance System



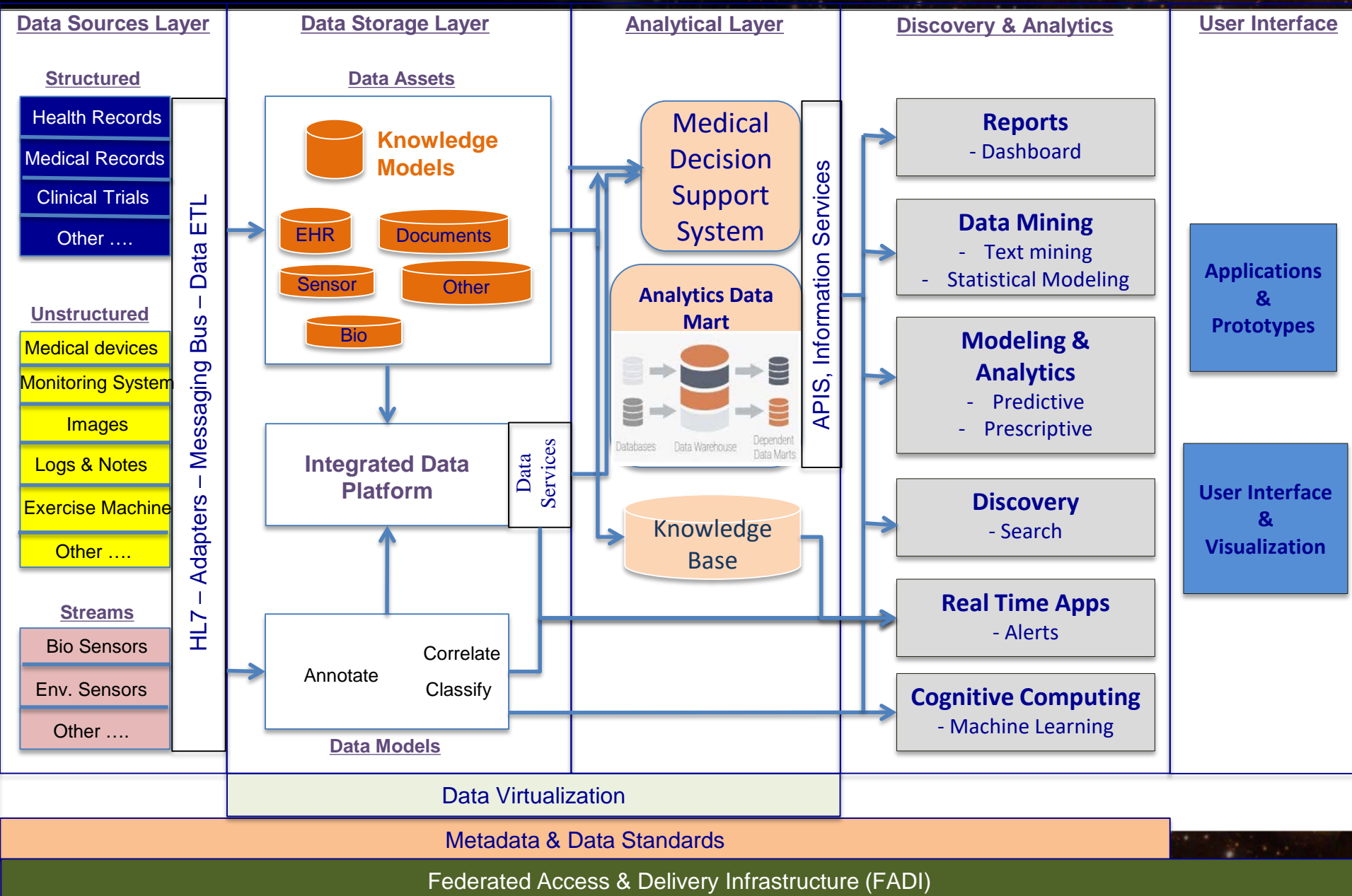
**D** Web-based Database to Monitor Outcomes

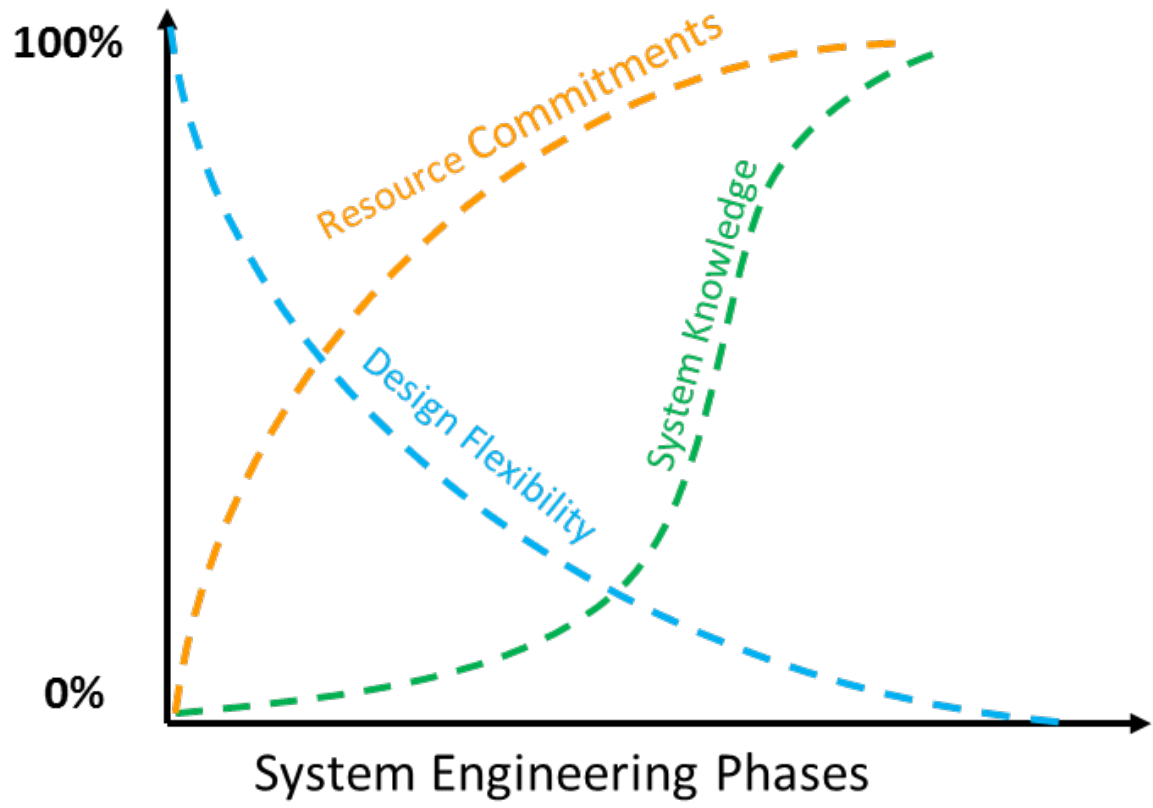


 EMR	 Dashboard	 Diagnosis
 Procedures	 References	 Laboratory
 Inventory	 Equipment	 Imaging

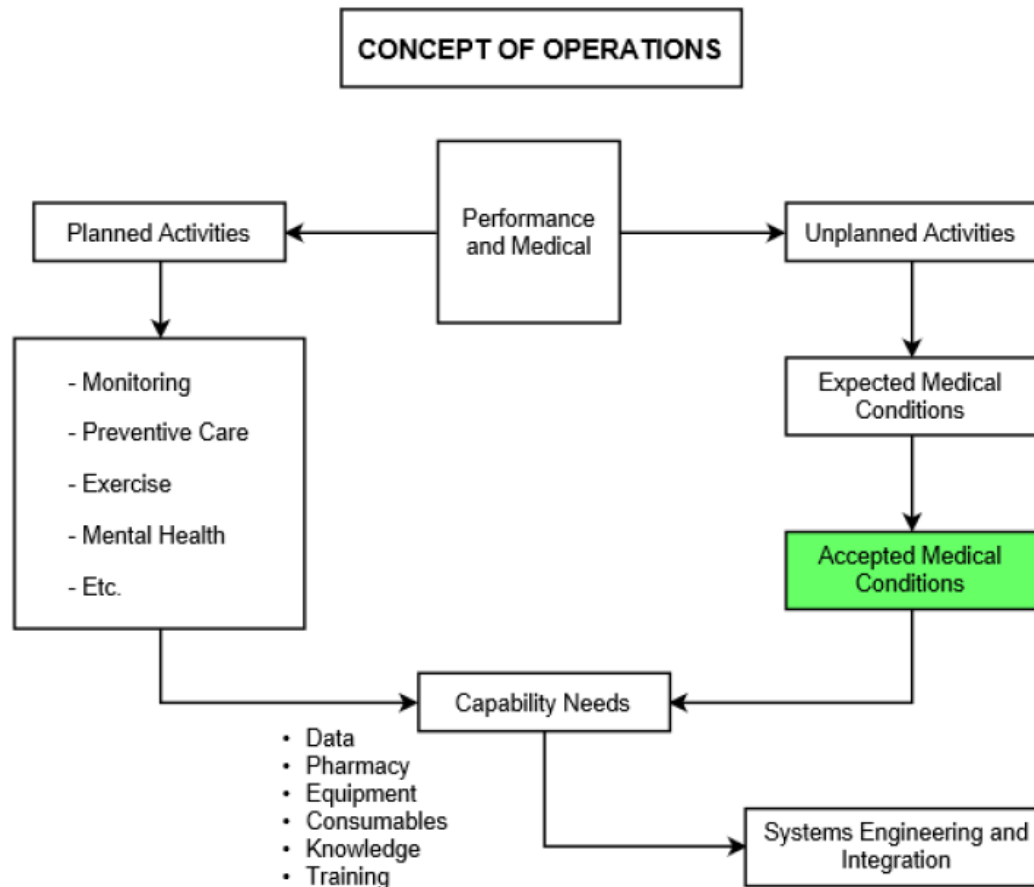
Medical







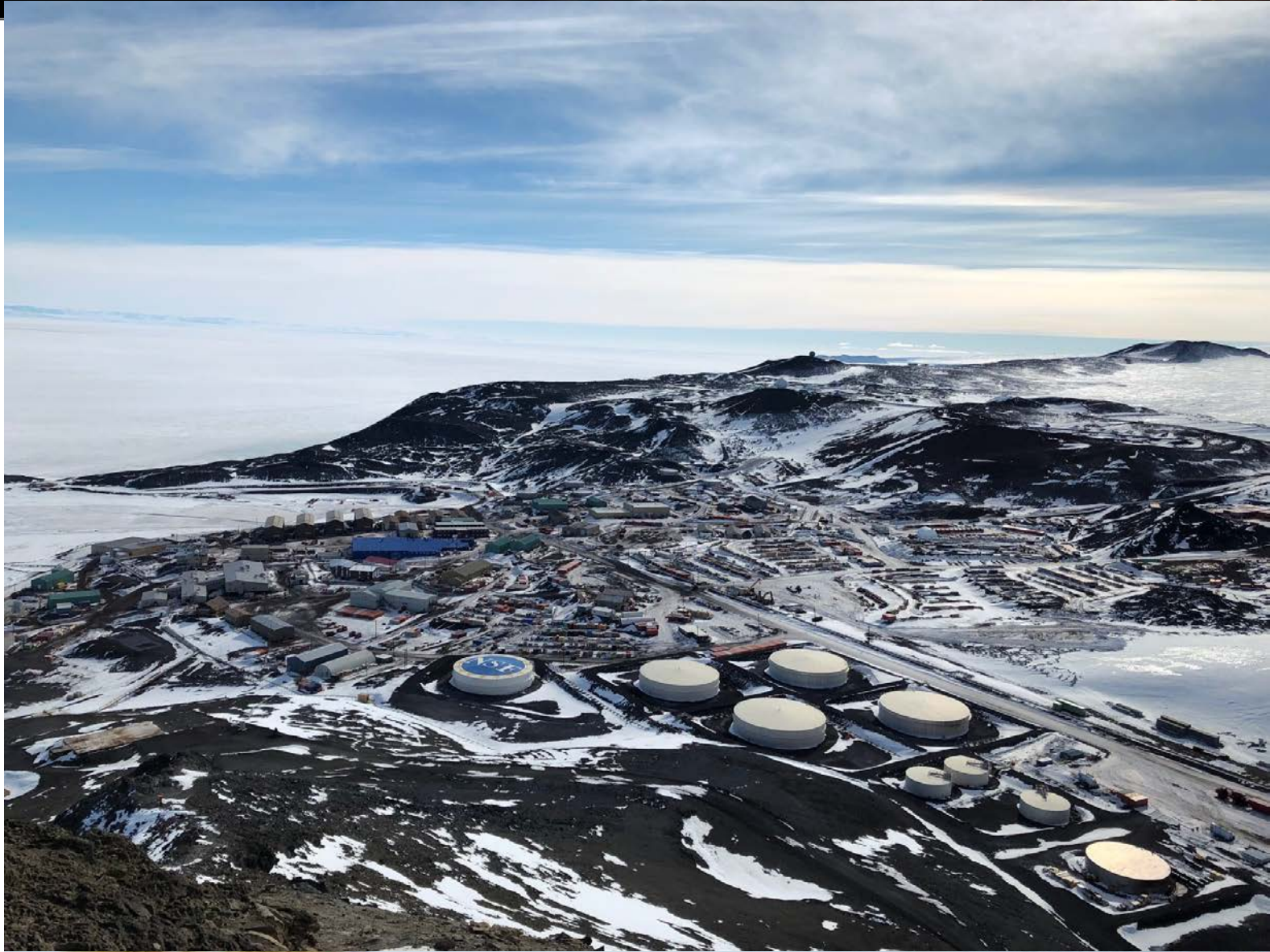
Pre A	A	B	C	D	E
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**SME Considerations:**

- Probability of Occurrence
- Frequency of Occurrence
- Severity of Condition
- Futility of Treatment
- Resource Constraints

- Functional Requirements
- System Requirements
- Subsystem Requirements
- Task List
- System Testing and Validation Pathway



# Curiosity Rover January 2014

