

# The Martian Radiation Environment and Human Health Risks

A Science Strategy for the Human Exploration of Mars  
Panel on Biological and Physical Sciences and Human Factors

Open Meeting  
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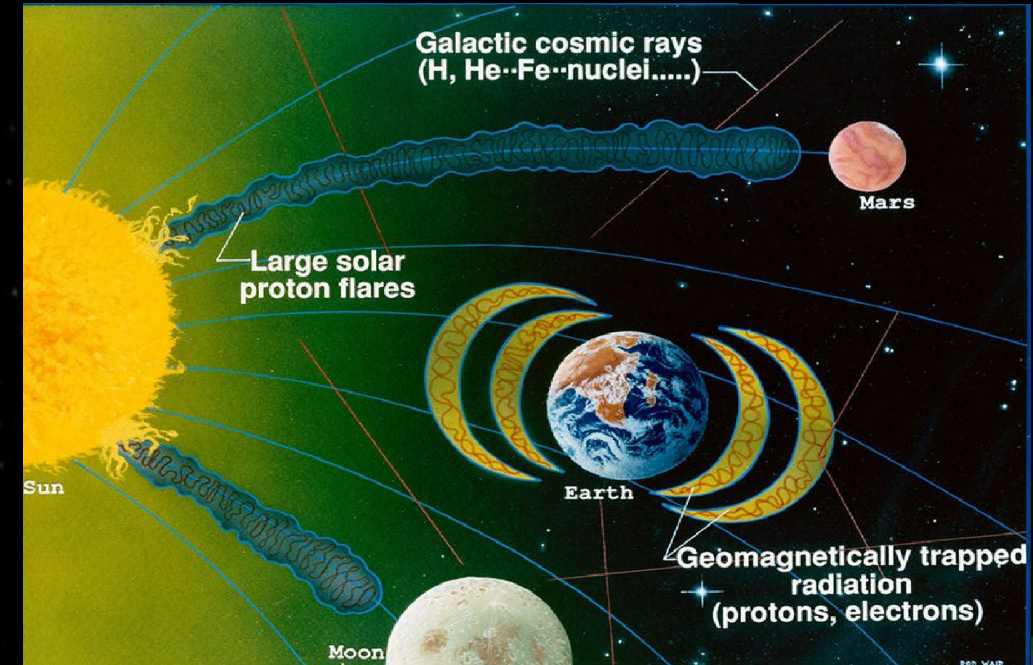
# Space Radiation Environment

## Solar Proton Events (SPE)

- Low to medium energy protons – most in  $<100$  MeV range
- Travel along magnetic field lines, can arrive quickly if well connected to vehicle
- Real time dosimetry and shielding are effective to prevent acute exposure
- **Shortfall:** Accurate forecasting; Earth independence along Sun-Mars line

## Galactic Cosmic Radiation (GCR)

- Continuous background of low dose radiation consisting of  $\sim 89\%$  protons,  $\sim 10\%$  alpha particles (He), and  $\sim 1\%$  heavier nuclei
- Broad energy spectrum from 10's of MeV/n to  $>50$  GeV/n
- Highly penetrating difficult to shield against - fragment into lighter, penetrating species
- **Shortfall:** Effective shielding; Uncertainty about biological effects limits ability to quantify risks and develop countermeasures



*GCR intensity varies with  $\sim 9.5$  to 12 yr solar cycle*

### *Solar Maximum*

- *Highest probability of SPE*
- *GCR intensity at lowest levels*

### *Solar Minimum*

- *GCR intensities at highest levels*
- *Lower probability of SPE*



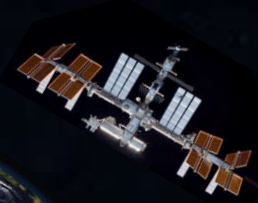
# Comparison of Radiation Exposures & Environments

## Terrestrial Exposures

- Round trip NY to London:  $< \sim 0.1$  mSv
- One adult chest x-ray:  $\sim 0.1$  mSv
- Computed Tomography (CT) of Brain: 1.6 mSv
- Background from natural radiation: 3 mSv/yr
- Radiation worker exposure limit: 50 mSv/yr
  - BUT Lifetime average 10 mSv

## ISS Low Earth Orbit

- Typical dose-rates:  $\sim 0.6$  mSv/day
- Magnetosphere offers protection against SPEs (except high energy tail) and low energy GCR
- Exposure from trapped radiation and high energy GCR
- 6 months (50 – 100 mSv) to 1 yr missions (100 – 200 mSv)



## Lunar Surface

- Protection from planetary shielding
- Dose-rate  $\sim 1.5$ x ISS (0.9 mSv/day)



## Lunar Mission

- Artemis sorties (30 day): 40 - 60 mSv
- 6 mos to 1 yr. cis-lunar space/surface;  $< 250$  to 500 mSv

## Deep Space – Gateway and Transit

- Outside Earth's magnetosphere in free space
- Dose eq. rate: 2 to 3 x's ISS (1.3 mSv/day)



## Mars Mission:

- 870 to 1250 days;  $\sim 625$  to 1650 mSv



## Mars Surface

- Protection via atmosphere & planetary shielding
- Dose eq. rate similar to ISS ( $\sim 0.65$  mSv/day)

## Large solar particle events:

- Shield to  $< 250$  mSv



Gap type:

*K* - knowledge, requires scientific research

*D* - development (TRL 1-4)

*T* - Technology (TRL 5-9)

*E* - engineering (TRL 5-9) mission specific

## Space Radiation Protection Gaps

### Physical Mitigation Technologies

#### 1.1 Space Weather Forecasting

- (D) SPE forecasting tools
- (D) Earth – independent alert system
- (K) GCR forecasts: Predictive models of solar cycle modulation

#### 1.2 Radiation Monitoring

- (E) On-board dosimetry systems
- (T) Adv. space radiation env. characterization systems

#### 1.3 Effective Shielding

- (E) SPE shielding
- (T/E) GCR shielding - passive
- (T) Combined GCR/SPE shielding - active

### Biological Mitigation

#### 1.4 Predictive Models of Crew Health Risks

- (K) Probabilistic health risk models

#### 1.5 Biomedical Countermeasures and Surveillance

- (K) Biomedical countermeasures
- (K) Biomarkers & Technologies for In-flight Monitoring and Health Management

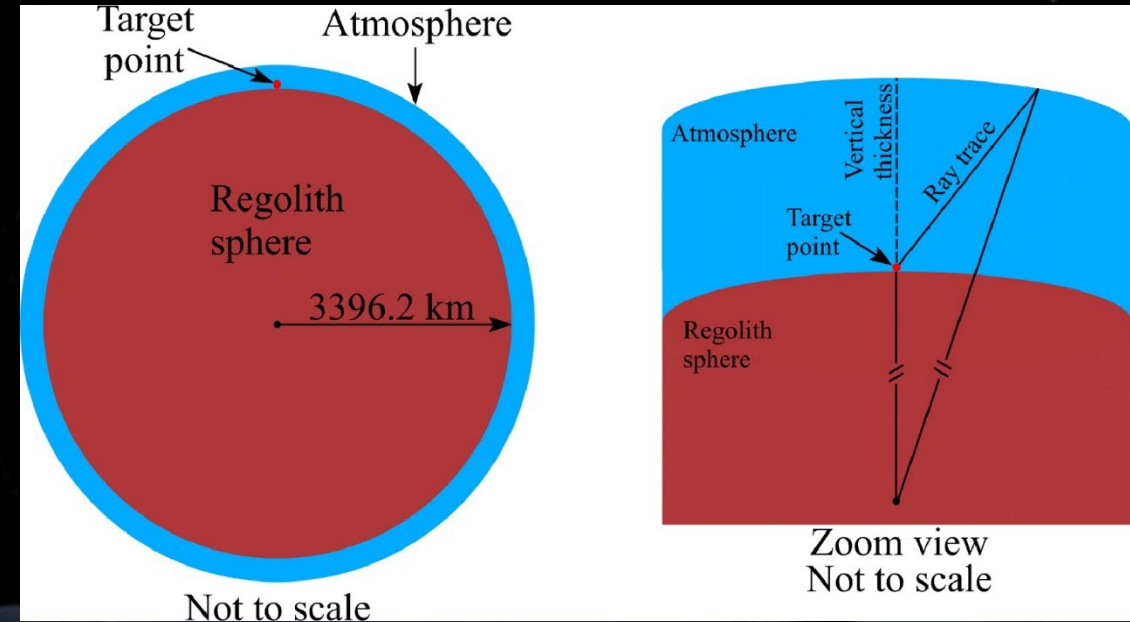
**Major Asset:** Space Weather architecture

**Major Asset:** NASA Space Radiation Laboratory

# Interaction of free space radiation creates a complex mixed radiation field on the surface of Mars



- No global magnetic field
- Thin Atmosphere:  $\sim 95\%$   $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\sim 3\%$   $\text{N}_2$
- Vertical thickness:  $\sim 21 - 23 \text{ g/cm}^2$  at Gale Crater ( $\sim 1000 \text{ g/cm}^2$  Earth) -
- Surface Pressure: 6 to 8 millibars ( $< 1\%$  atmospheric mass of Earth).
  - Diurnal variation / thermal tide (10%)
  - Seasonal variation / southern polar cap (30%)
- Rugged terrain – large topographical relief



*Slaba and Stoffle, Life Sci Space Res, 2017*

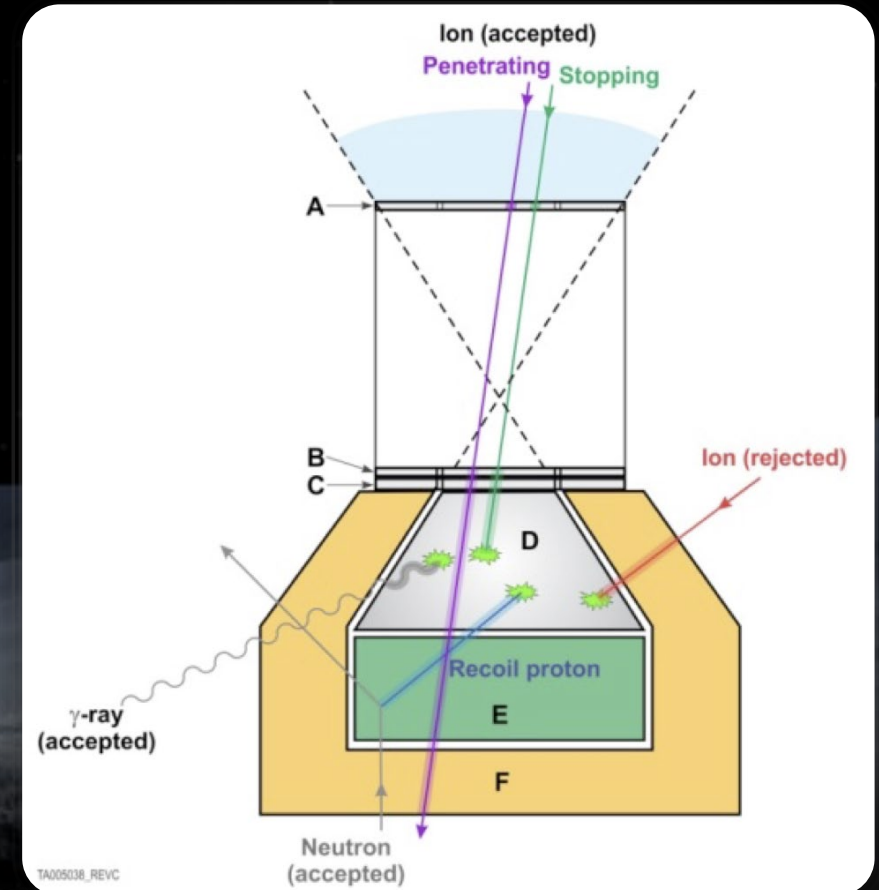
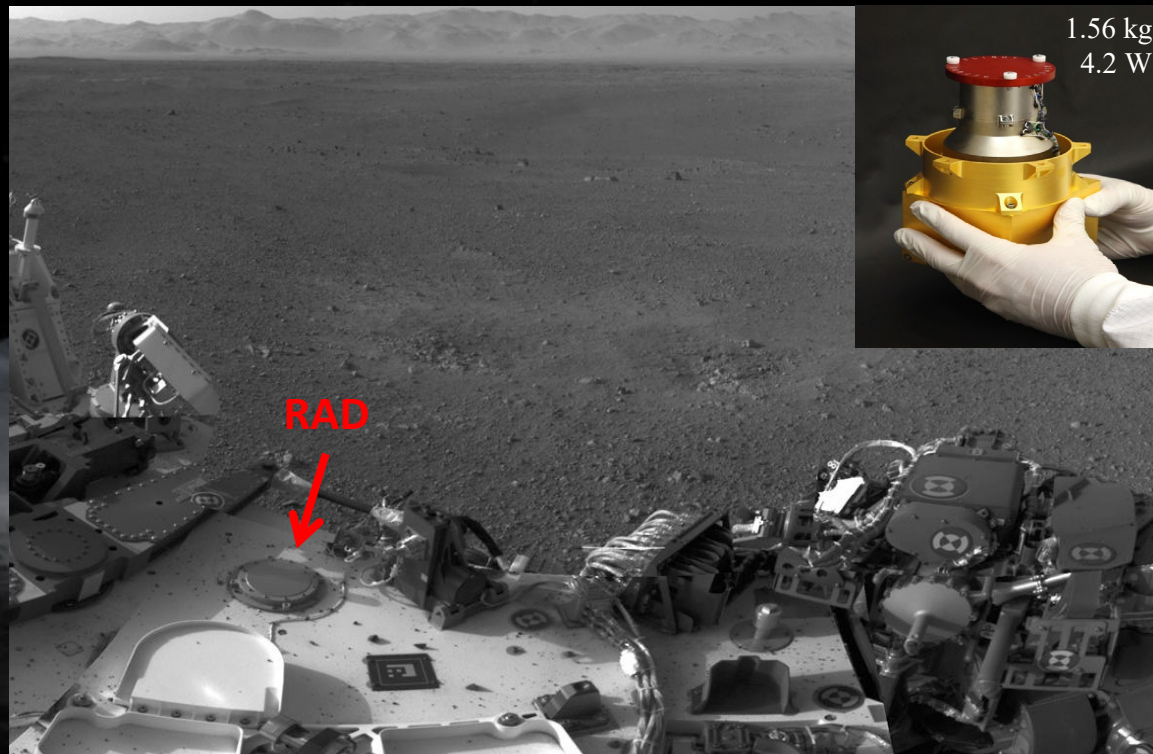
- GCR penetrates deeply and interacts with atoms in the atmosphere and ground creating a complex mixture of particles types spanning many orders of magnitude in energy
- Most SEPs have energies below 100 MeV, much of their flux does not reach the Martian surface, although even non-penetrating SEPs can create secondary neutrons that do reach the surface
- Precursor missions important to characterizing environment



# MSL Radiation Assessment Detector (RAD) – operational since August 2012

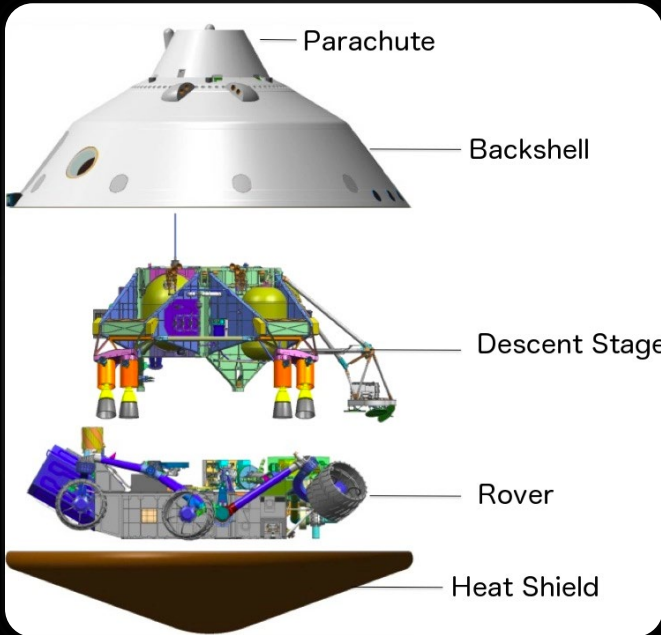
**Science Objective:** Quantify through direct measurement the total radiation environment in advance of future manned missions to properly assess safety risks and to develop potential mitigation strategies:

- Baseline GCR flux and secondaries
- Range of episodic SEP radiation
- Variation over the Solar Cycle



Hassler et al. 2012 , Space Science Reviews

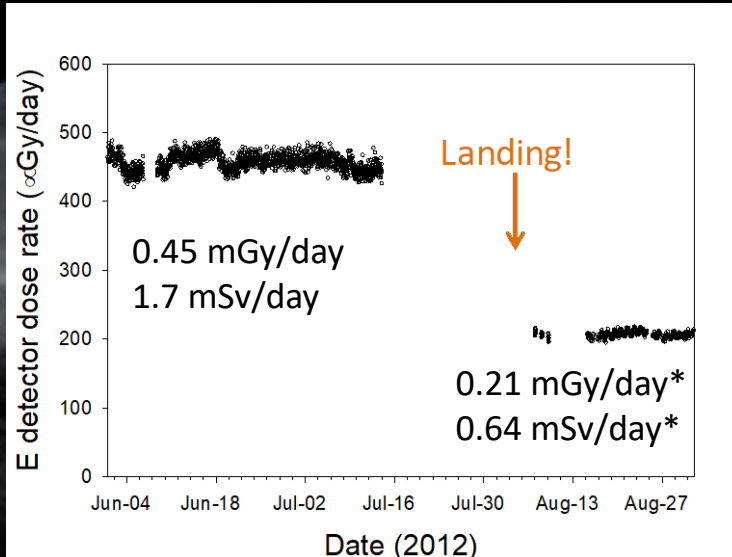
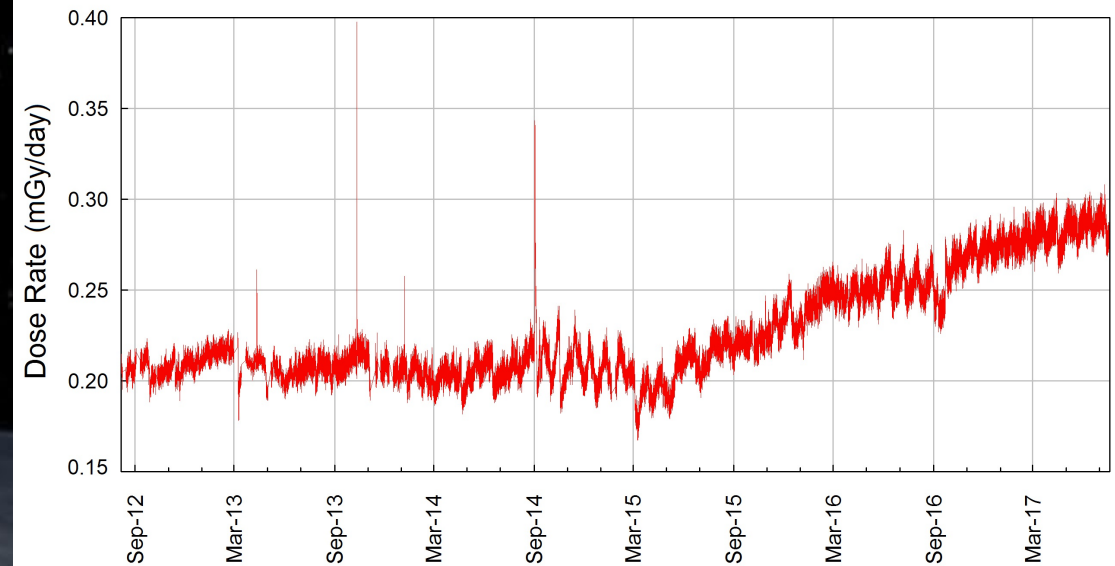
# MSL RAD measured Dose Rates



## Transit-

- Average shielding depth was  $16 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$
- Near-constant GCR + five SEP events seen
- Dose rates spike by factors of 10 to 100 during SEP events, but contribution to total dose equivalent over cruise is only  $\sim 5\%$

## Measurements at Gale Floor ( $23 \text{ g/cm}^2 \text{ CO}_2$ ) 2012 to 2017



- Dose drops by factor of 2.5
- Four small SPE's – contribution to total dose is small
- GCR flux & dose rate increase heading toward solar min

\*Hassler et al. 2014



# Mixed field Environment on Mars Surface - GCR



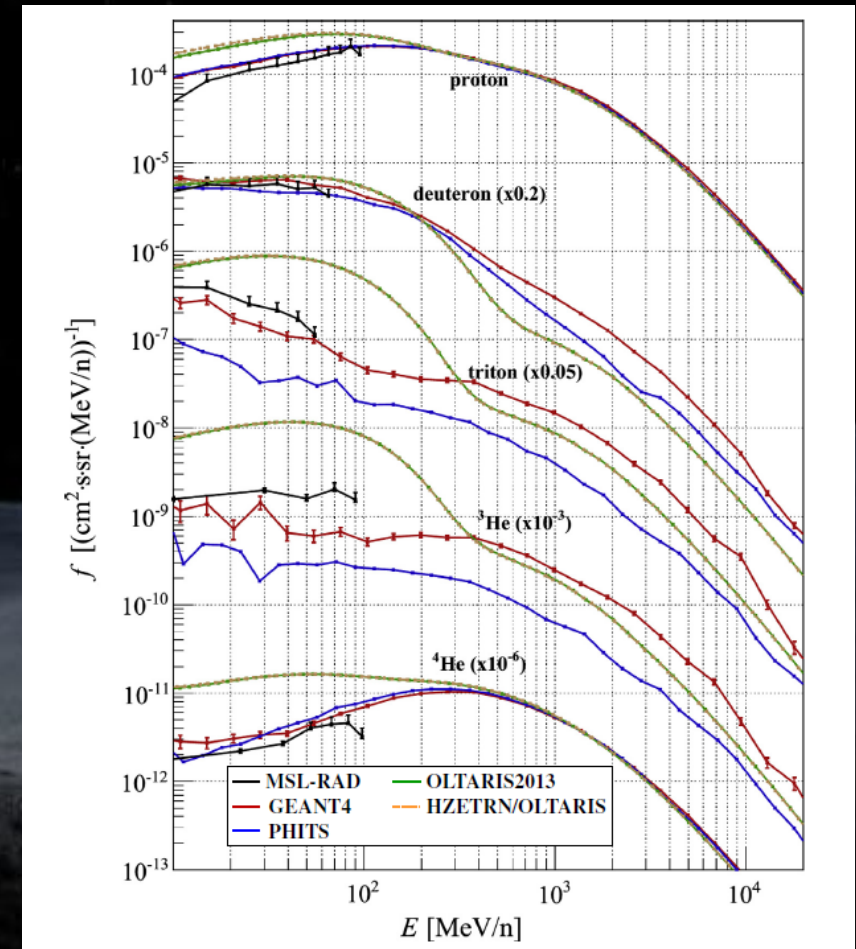
## Radiation dose from secondary particles is comparable to that from the primary GCR -

- At higher energies  $>$  a few 100 MeV/n – protons and heavier nuclei dominate environment
- Some GCR heavy ions, such as C, N, and O, are relatively abundant and have a significant probability of reaching the surface
  - These particles are most biologically damaging – quantifying particle fluxes are important to assess health risks
- At lower energies – secondary neutrons and gamma prevail
  - Gamma rays do not contribute significantly to dose, but neutrons do
  - Neutrons have high RBE and important to quantify for human health risks

## Comparison of measurements with transport codes –

- Recent work has shown that dose rates derived from transport models agree within 7-12% of measured quantities
- Generally good agreement estimating many particle fluxes, but some can differ substantially - particularly for production of pions, neutrons, and isotopes of hydrogen and helium
- **Sufficient environmental understanding for short stay human missions**

Build up (1 to 2 orders of magnitude) of low energy hydrogen isotopes (deuterons, tritons) and  $^3\text{He}$  from atmospheric interactions.





# Comparison of Daily Exposures – Model Results



*Table 6.1.6-1. Daily Exposure within 0, 20, and 40 g/cm<sup>2</sup> Spherical Aluminum Shielding in Free Space and on Surface of Moon and Mars for Solar Minimum (2009) and Solar Maximum (2001) GCR Conditions*

|            |                     | Dose (mGy) <sup>1</sup> |      |      | Dose equivalent (mSv) <sup>1,2</sup> |      |      | Effective dose (mSv) <sup>3</sup> |      |      |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------|------|--------------------------------------|------|------|-----------------------------------|------|------|
|            |                     | 0                       | 20   | 40   | 0                                    | 20   | 40   | 0                                 | 20   | 40   |
| Solar max. | g/cm <sup>2</sup> → |                         |      |      |                                      |      |      |                                   |      |      |
|            | Free space          | 0.15                    | 0.21 | 0.25 | 1.02                                 | 0.69 | 0.59 | 0.63                              | 0.51 | 0.53 |
|            | Lunar surf.         | 0.10                    | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.58                                 | 0.39 | 0.33 | 0.38                              | 0.31 | 0.32 |
|            | Mars surf.          | 0.12                    | 0.13 | 0.15 | 0.30                                 | 0.28 | 0.30 | 0.28                              | 0.30 | 0.32 |
| Solar min. | Free space          | 0.46                    | 0.52 | 0.56 | 2.85                                 | 1.50 | 1.22 | 1.46                              | 1.09 | 1.07 |
|            | Lunar surf.         | 0.27                    | 0.28 | 0.30 | 1.56                                 | 0.82 | 0.67 | 0.84                              | 0.64 | 0.62 |
|            | Mars surf.          | 0.25                    | 0.26 | 0.28 | 0.61                                 | 0.55 | 0.56 | 0.54                              | 0.56 | 0.59 |

<sup>1</sup>Values have been calculated without the influence of any human tissue shielding and would be directly comparable to an area dosimeter placed at the center of the spherical shield.

<sup>2</sup>Dose equivalent is calculated using the ICRP 60 quality factor [ICRP 1991].

<sup>3</sup>Effective dose is calculated using the ICRP 60 quality factor [ICRP 1991] and ICRP 103 [ICRP 2007] tissue weights for a female astronaut [Slaba et al. 2010].



# Improving Estimates of Mars Surface Radiation Environment for long duration stays

**Better characterization of mixed field environment becomes more important as surface stays increase AND may be important to meet specific TBD science objectives**

Physical interactions driving the albedo neutron environments on the Moon and Mars are qualitatively similar (20% of surface dose eq.)

**Requires improvements to nuclear models fundamental to radiation transport for the production and absorption of secondary radiation at large thicknesses**

**Additional data are necessary to fully validate models**

- Reduce uncertainties of relevant light ion production cross sections using ground-based accelerators
- Extend spacecraft (ISS, Gateway) and lunar surface neutron measurements in the  $\geq 100$  MeV upto 1 GeV energy range
- Validate with in-space or lunar surface measurements at vehicle relevant thicknesses ( $\sim 20$  to  $40 \text{ g/cm}^2$ ) and large depths ( $> 80$  to  $> 100 \text{ g/cm}^2$ ) using simplified geometries

**Results also inform vehicle and habitat GCR shield design**





# Reducing the uncertainties in forecasts of solar cycle duration would enable more informed calculations of GCR exposure.

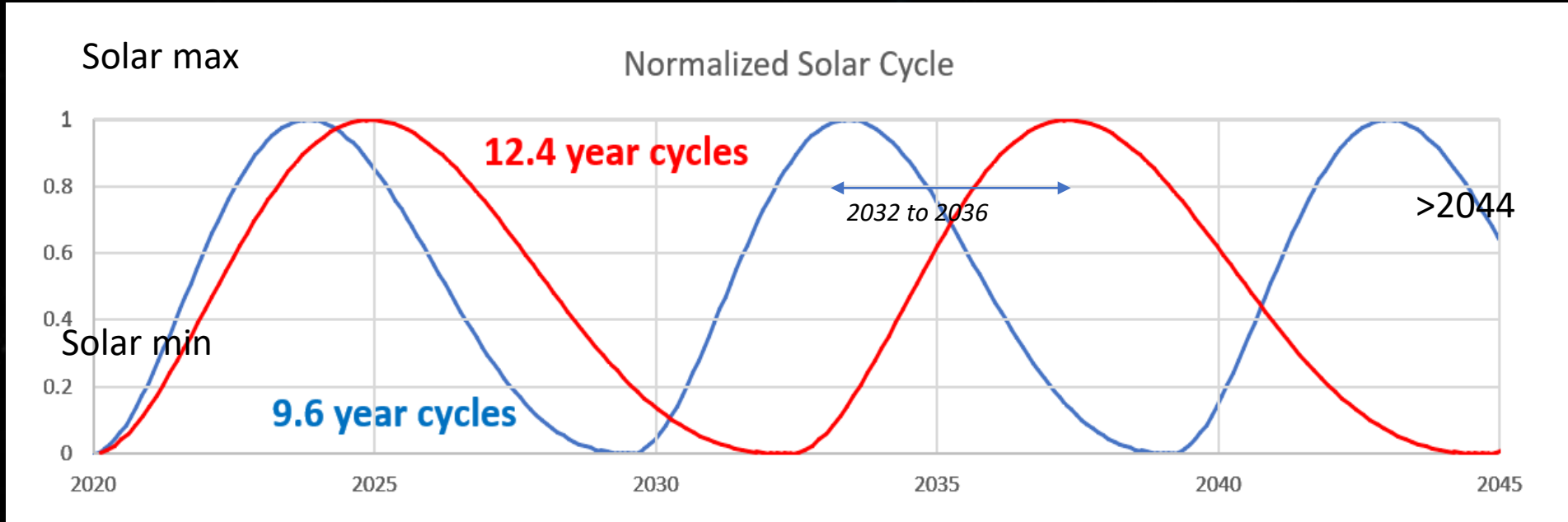
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- Due to strong effect on radiation exposure, mission timing with respect to the solar cycle should be considered an input factor to Mars mission planning
- NASA should continue to support research into forecasting solar cycle amplitude and should initiate research into forecasting solar cycle duration.
- ***Caveat*** - *The schedule for a Mars mission is likely to be driven by factors other than expectations of solar activity levels: Launch windows, hardware development, budget profile, schedules.....*
- Research into forecasting solar cycles has focused on predicting the amplitude of the next solar maximum, but little has been done to forecast solar cycle duration.
- Solar cycle length variation will have a significant impact on estimates of mission dose if the projection is for 20 years out
- 6-month launch window to remain below 600 mSv starting in 2034 Variability reduced looking 10 years out (or one cycle); adjustments possible five years out

# GCR SHIELDING: Time in Solar Cycle

Plan Mission during Solar Maximum (K)

**Solar Cycle Variation: GCR effective dose ~50% less during Solar Max**



**Return crew safely and mitigate health impacts (RT 3)**

**Can we adequately predict when solar max is for mission planning?**

- Most effort focused on predicting solar cycle intensity
- Solar cycle duration ranges from 9.6 to 12.5 years, making it difficult to forecast cycle activity two cycles out
- Next solar max between 2032 to 2036, then after 2043
- Measurements / models supporting predictions of solar cycle durations >10 years in advance
- Alignment of mission architecture departure dates w/ solar max



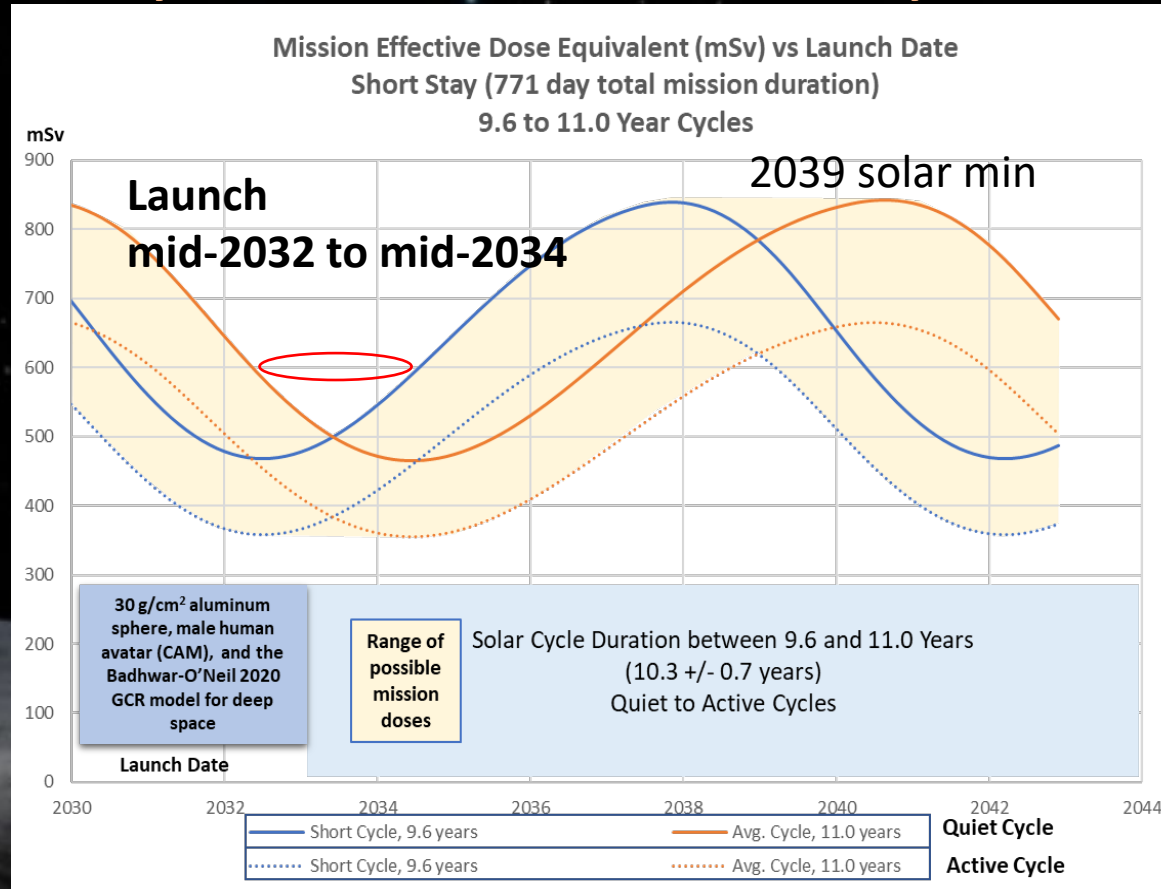
# Improve Forecasting Capabilities to avoid high GCR Exposures at Solar Min



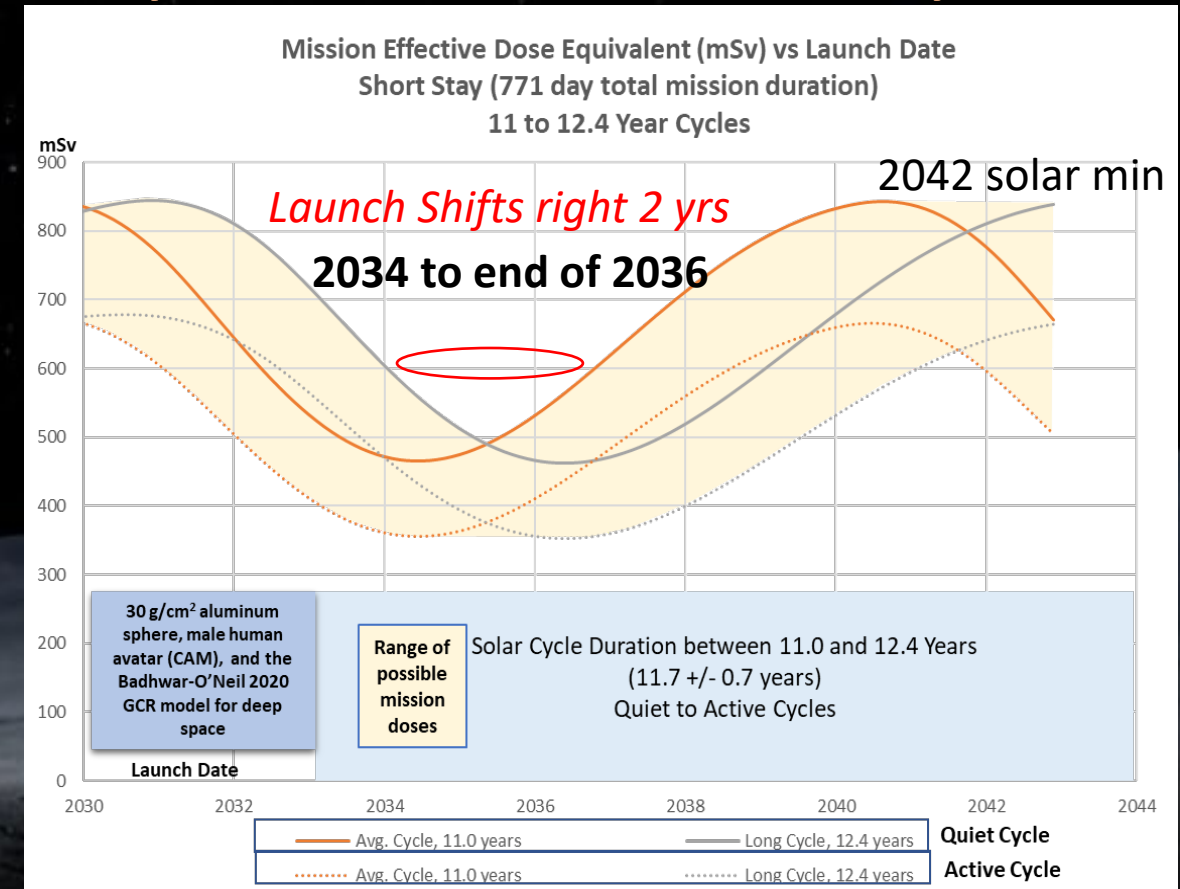
Analysis by Ron Turner

## 771 Day Mission Dose Range Assuming duration uncertainty reduced by half

Cycle Duration between 9.6 and 11 years.



Cycle Duration between 11 and 12.4 years.



Reducing the uncertainty in solar cycle duration by half (from 2.8 to 1.4 yrs) increases the length of the launch window to meet 600 mSv limit from 6 months to 2 years

# Solar Particle Events Requirements & Design Guidance

Permissible Exposure Limit: Effective dose from a solar particle event shall not exceed 250 mSv  
*SPE shielding guidelines: Design reference spectrum – Sum of Oct 1989 events*

Table 6—Recommended Shielding Guidelines for SPEs

| <i>Mission Location and Duration</i>        | <i>Shielding*</i>   | <i>Type(s) of Shielding</i>   | <i>Comments</i>   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <i>Celestial surface any duration</i>       | <i>10 cm (or g/cm<sup>2</sup>) water equivalent surrounding the astronaut; Considers celestial surface shielding contribution</i> | <i>Reconfigurable shielding already within the vehicle</i>  | <i>Timeline of SPEs allows for reconfiguration</i>                                    |
| <i>Beyond low Earth orbit &lt;6 months</i>  | <i>15 cm (or g/cm<sup>2</sup>) water equivalent surrounding the astronaut</i>   | <i>Reconfigurable shielding already within the vehicle; Shielding may include personal protective equipment (PPE)</i> | <i>Timeline of SPEs allows for reconfiguration</i>                                    |
| <i>Beyond low Earth orbit &gt; 6 Months</i> | <i>20 cm (or g/cm<sup>2</sup>) water equivalent surrounding the astronaut</i>   | <i>Integrated vehicle and/or reconfigurable Shielding which may include PPE</i>                                       | <i>Long-duration missions increase the probability of the crew being exposed SPEs</i> |

*\*The shielding required to meet the standard (utilizing existing mass when feasible).*

## *Estimated SPE effective dose using guidelines for new programs*

### **Mars Surface:**

- 25 mSv with 10 cm water equiv. storm shelter
- 40 mSv no shielding

### **Mars Transit:**

- 107 mSv with 20 cm water equiv. storm shelter

*Standard 3001 Vol. 1 ( update 2022)*

**Research & Technology Gap**  
Accurate forecasting and Earth  
Independent Monitoring Required



# Solar Particle Events – Research 2 Operations

**Heliophysics Research:** Understand of the nature of the Sun and the dynamic processes of space weather 2

**Human Operations:** **Protect crew and** maintain high levels of human health and performance

## Research and Technology needs:

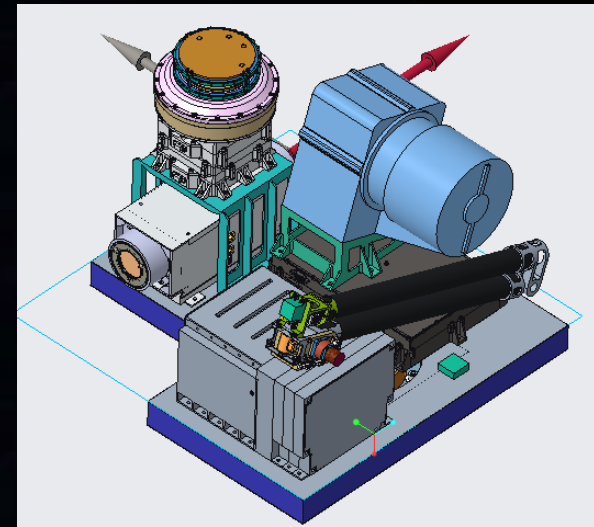
### **Accurate real-time operational forecasting of solar particle events**

- Develop an integrated suite of multiple independent solar event and flare forecasting models utilizing current sun-Earth observation assets (e.g., GOES, SOHO)
  - Increase accuracy & warning times in advance of storm – 24 hrs
  - Reliable predictions of peak flux, duration, magnitude and time evolution of event – over hours to >7 days
  - All-clear periods
- Demonstrate during cis-lunar and lunar surface operations: Artemis II-V
- Advance to use with on-board space environment observation data in prep for Mars

### **Earth-independent monitoring and forecasting**

- Miniaturized onboard instrument suite for space weather observation
- Possibility of new space weather architecture platforms along Sun-Mars Line
- Autonomous forecasting & warning software

### **Major Asset – Space Weather Architecture**



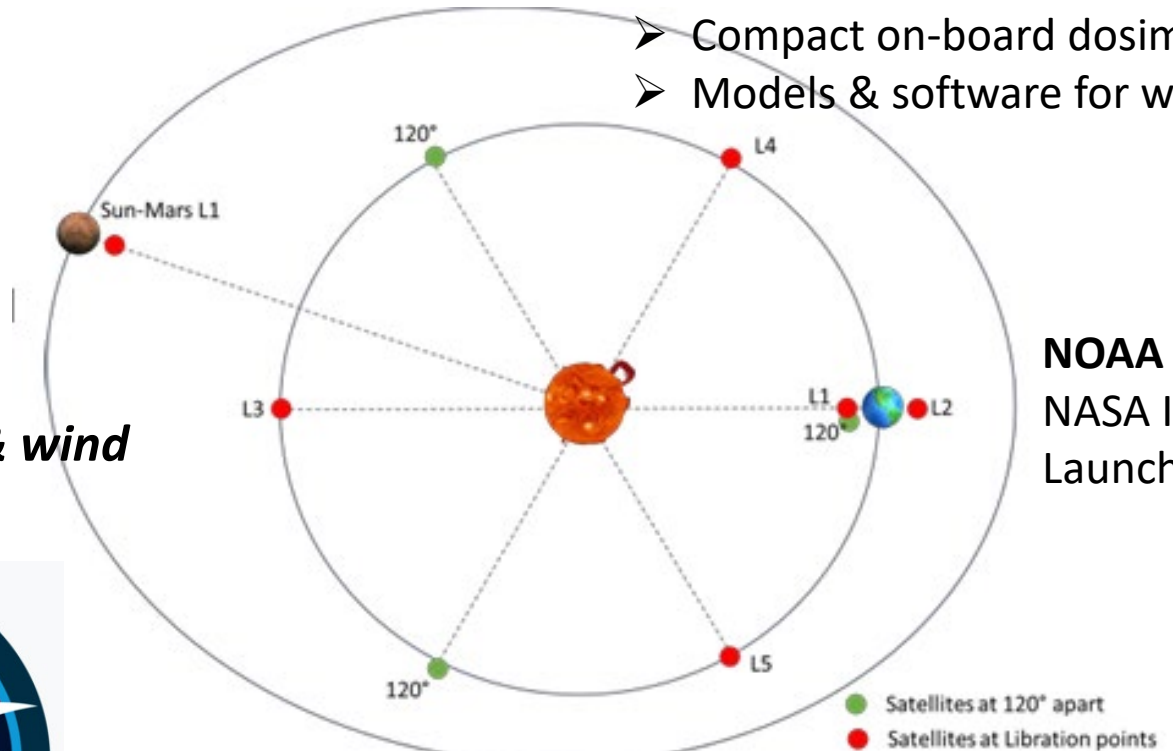
HERMES on Gateway

# Space Weather Architecture: M2M

**\*\*NEW\*\***

## Mars – Earth Independent

- Observations along Sun-Mars Line
- Targeting L4 for additional assets
- Essential for all-clear forecasts
- Compact on-board dosimetry
- Models & software for warning



**NOAA SWFO-L1**  
**NASA IMAP**  
Launch 2025

## Planned Assets Lagrange - L5

**ESA VIGIL – Launch 2029**

- Early warnings of increased solar activity
- 4-5 days of forecasting

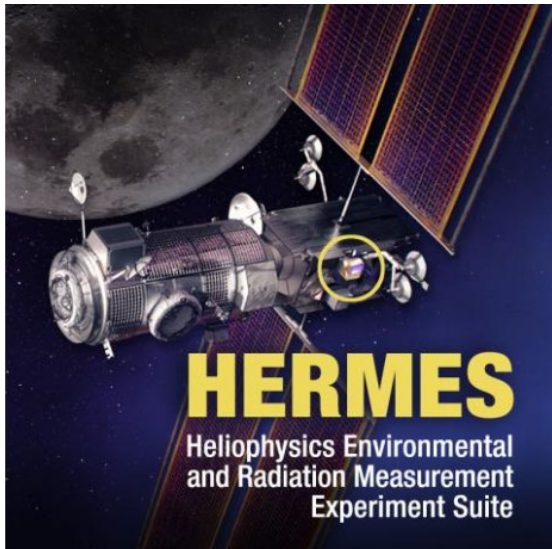
## Current Assets Support Early Artemis

- Measurements along Sun–Earth line L1 (~1 AU)
- **GOES/ACE** (soft X-ray spectrograph, energetic charged particle detectors)
- **SDO/HMI** (magnetograph & solar imager)
- **SOHO/LASCO/STEREO/CCOR** (Coronagraph)

## Gateway as Testbed

**NASA HERMES - Launch NET 2024**

- *Compact instruments observing solar particles & wind*

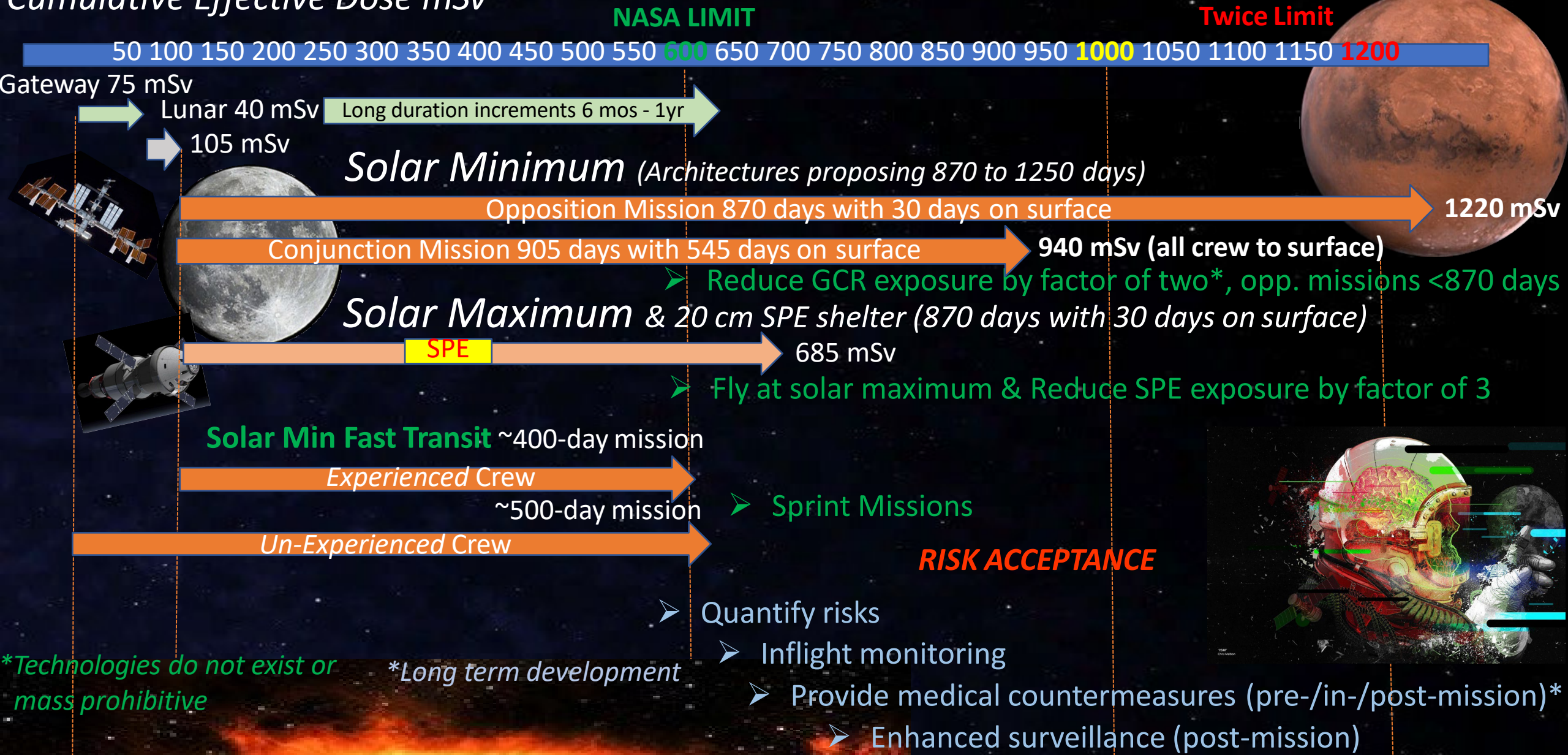


- *Develop and test forecasting software*



# Risk Posture for Mars Demo Mission

Cumulative Effective Dose mSv



# Space Radiation Health Risks

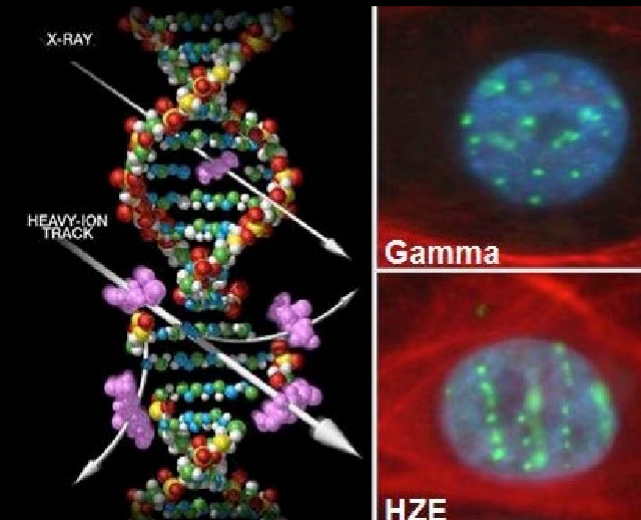
## Major Risks -

- Acute Radiation Syndromes from solar particle events
- Central Nervous System Effects – inflight and post mission
- Radiation Carcinogenesis
- Degenerative Diseases – cardiac and vascular



## Unique Biological Challenges -

- *Radiation Quality Effects*
- *Low dose-rates in space*
- *Translation to humans*
- *Understanding individual radiation sensitivity*
- *Quantifying combined spaceflight stressors*



(Cucinotta & Saganti, Patel & Huff, NASA)

Densely ionizing radiation along particle track cause unique damage to biomolecules, cells, and tissue



# Space Radiation Health Risks



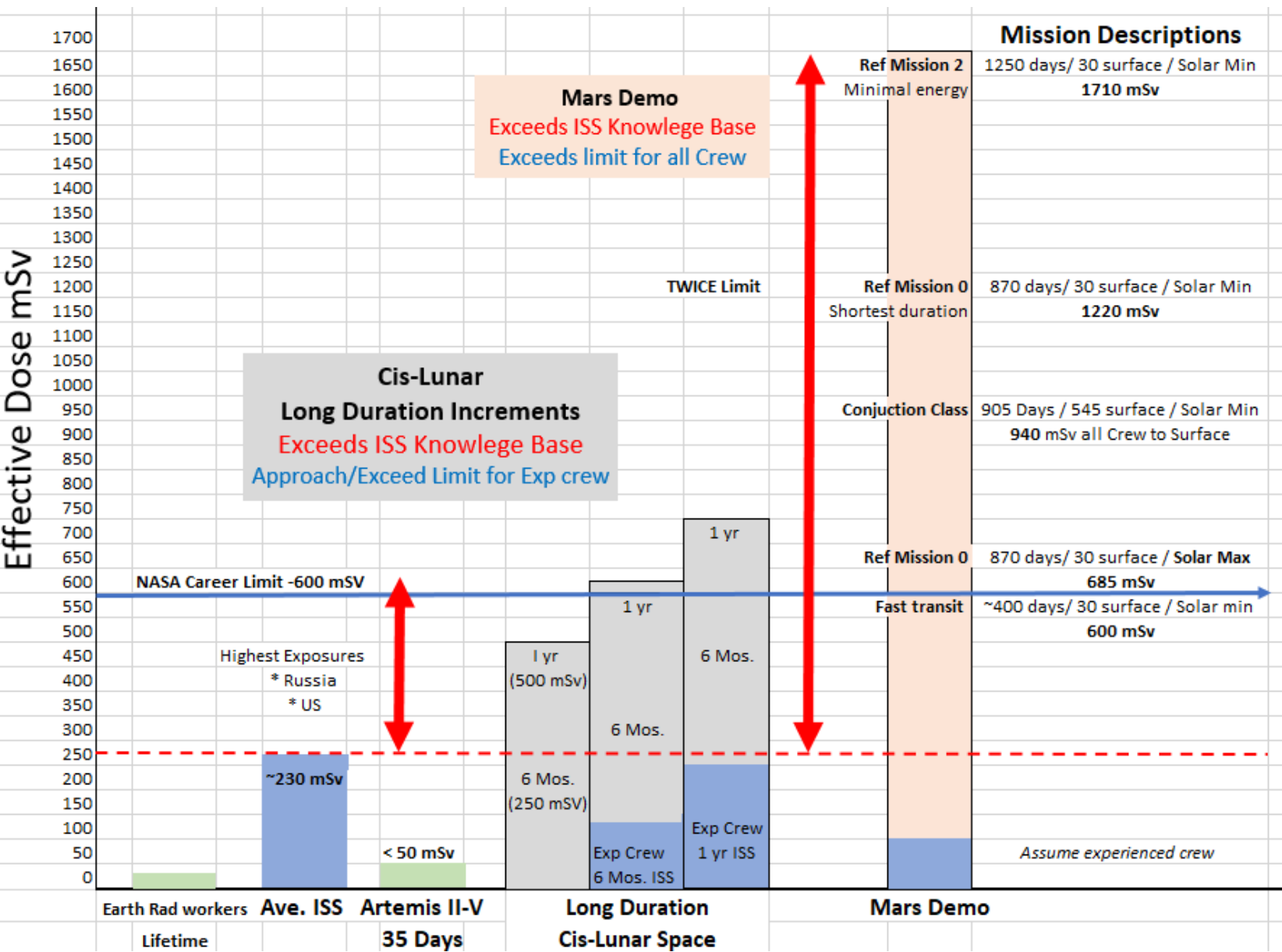
- **Risk of Radiation Carcinogenesis**
  - Morbidity and mortality risks
- **Risk of Acute (In-flight) & Late Central Nervous System Effects from Radiation Exposure**
  - Changes in cognition, motor function, behavior and mood, or neurological disorders
- **Risk Of Cardiovascular Disease & Other Degenerative Tissue Effects**
  - Degenerative changes in the cardiovascular system and lens
  - Diseases related to aging and immune system dysfunction
- **Risk of Acute Radiation Syndromes due to Solar Particle Events**
  - Prodromal effects (nausea, vomiting, anorexia, and fatigue)
  - Skin injury
  - Depletion of the blood-forming organs and immune dysfunction



*Risks documented in HRP  
Evidence Books*



# Radiation Risk Posture for the Moon 2 Mars Mission Segments



## Foundational Exploration Segment (6 mos to 1 yr. cis-lunar space/surface; <250 to 500 mSv)

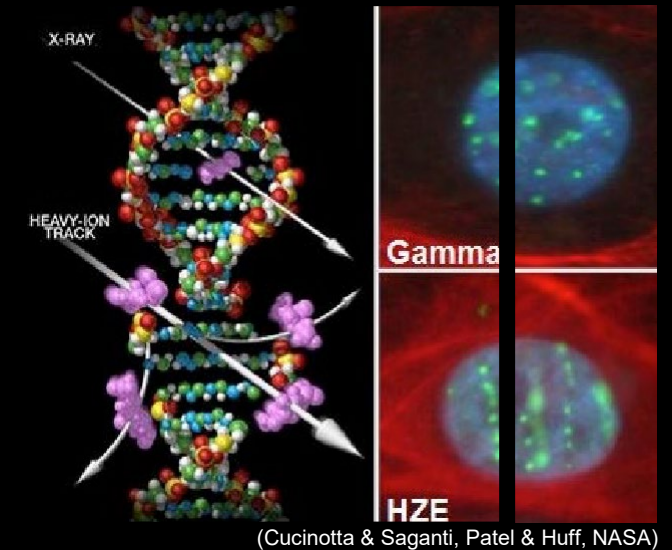
- Knowledge gap between our average ISS experience (200-300 mSv) and limit (600 mSv)
  - Possibility exists of crossing thresholds for increased risks of cardiac, vascular, cerebrovascular, and neurocognitive diseases
  - Evidence of excess risk in terrestrial cohorts, but data are inclusive.
- Additional protection strategies needed for experienced crew and those most sensitive to radiation

## Mars (870 to 1250 days; ~685 to >1700 mSv)

- Exposure levels well outside spaceflight knowledge
- Lack of risk characterization: significant gap between 200-300 mSv and >1700 mSv.
- In >600 mSv dose range, added potential exists for in-mission CNS performance decrements
  - Risk levels are not well understood
  - Effects of the combined stressors of spaceflight unknown
- Additional protection required for all crew

# The Biological Perspective: Research Challenges

- **Understanding radiation quality effects on biological damage**
  - Qualitative and quantitative differences between space radiation compared with x-rays or gamma-rays
- **Quantifying low dose and dose rate dependencies**
  - Biology of repair, cell, and tissue regulation
- **Translating experimental data to humans**
  - Lack of human data exist to estimate risk from high LET GCR exposures
  - Animal and cellular models with simulated space radiation must be used
- **Understanding Individual radiation sensitivity**
  - Genetic, dietary and healthy worker effects
- **Quantifying synergistic modifiers of risk from other spaceflight factors**



(Cucinotta & Saganti, Patel & Huff, NASA)

Densely ionizing radiation along particle track cause unique damage to biomolecules, cells, and tissue

# Protection from Galactic Cosmic Radiation (GCR): Long-Duration Increments & Mars

The background of the slide features a composite image. The upper portion shows a view of the planet Mars against a starry space background. The lower portion shows a dark, sandy, and rocky desert landscape, likely representing the Martian surface.

## Goal: Return crew safely and mitigate health impacts (RT 3)

- Within the current architecture, shield technologies and fast Mars transit to further reduce GCR exposures - by any significant ( $>\sim 50\%$ ) amount - are mass prohibitive.
- Breakthroughs in Physical Technologies and/or additional Biological Strategies are needed to protect crew
- *Biological Strategies Include:*
  - Provide tools to assess risk for crew informed consent and appropriate acceptance of risk by Agency decision makers (8900.1B requirement)
  - Increase protection for crew which are most susceptible to radiogenic health risks and/or select most resilient crew for the longest durations (Mars demo)
  - Provide in-flight monitoring and preventative medical countermeasures
  - Monitor long-term health of crew member  $> 5$  yrs post mission
    - ✓ Maintain high quality of life – Inspire next generation
    - ✓ Enable return to flight for multiple missions



# Protection from GCR: Mars Demo Mission

**Goal: Return crew safely and mitigate health impacts (RT 3)**



## Biological Strategies

### **Risk Acceptance**

- (K) Perform necessary research to understand risks
- (K) Provide tools for crew informed consent and appropriate acceptance of risk by Agency decision makers (8900.1B requirement)

### **Personalized Protection**

- (K) Understand the biology of individual sensitivity/susceptibility
- Increase protection for crew which are most susceptible to radiogenic health risks and/or select most resilient crew for the longest durations (Mars demo)



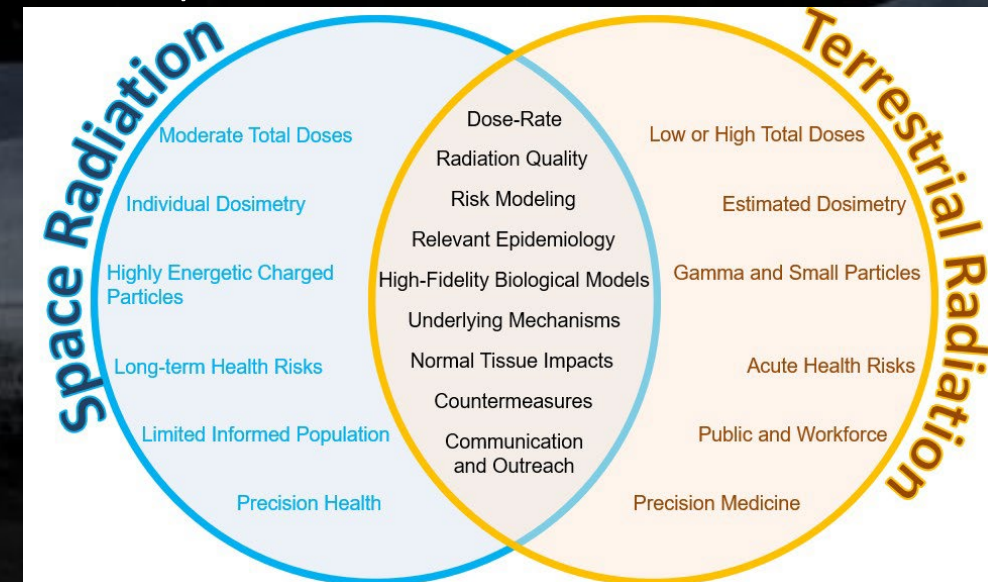
NASA Space Radiation Laboratory

## **In-flight monitoring and preventative medical countermeasures**

- (K) Identification of biomarkers of tissue injury & behavioral health
- (K/T) Compact diagnostics
- (K) Validated countermeasures focused on disease prevention

### **Monitor long-term health of crew**

- Maintain high quality of life – Inspire next generation
- Enable return to flight for multiple mission



# Biological Mitigation Research Objectives

## 1. Perform necessary research to quantify risks from GCR

- In 450 mSv to  $\geq 600$  mSv – understand risk of cardiac & vascular diseases and late neuro cognitive impairments (*Foundational Exploration*)
- In  $>600$  mSv – understand in-mission CNS performance decrement (*Mars Demo*)
- Evaluate combined spaceflight hazards
- Develop computational tool set to inform risk

## 2. Understand the biology of individual sensitivity/susceptibility

- Leverage terrestrial radiation research (*incl. NCI, ICRP*)
- Capability for personalized risk assessment and protection plan

## 3. Provide *In situ* monitoring of crew health to inform countermeasure deployment

- Biomarkers of tissue injury or early disease indicators\*
- In-space validation during missions  $>6$  months

## 4. Provide cross-risk<sup>^</sup> biological countermeasures to reduce adverse health outcomes

- Focus on disease prevention
- Target common disease pathways<sup>^^</sup>
- Validate terrestrial approaches for space applications

## 5. Post mission, leverage terrestrial advances in early detection and personalized treatments

- Enable return to flight for multiple missions
- Maintain high quality of life

## Biological Mitigation

# Space Radiation Protection Gap Details

### 1.4 Predictive Models of Crew Health Risks

- **(K) Probabilistic health risk models**

- Long-term health models for cancer, cardiovascular disease, late neurodegenerative diseases
- Capability to provide personalized risk estimates to inform medical countermeasures and disease surveillance
- Capability to evaluate in-mission radiation risks for CNS
- Methodologies to evaluate interaction of radiation with 4 other hazards of spaceflight

Ground Based Only

### 1.5 Biomedical Countermeasures and Surveillance

- **(K) Biomedical countermeasures**

- Validated CMs with known safety profile, mode of action, and efficacy in reducing space radiation induced damage covering the large range of radiogenic cancers and other degenerative health effects.

- **(K) Biomarkers & Technologies for In-flight Monitoring and Health Management**

- Deliver evidence base of at least 2 predictive biomarkers
- Miniaturize commercial diagnostic technologies.

### Spaceflight Validation: Incremental Approach

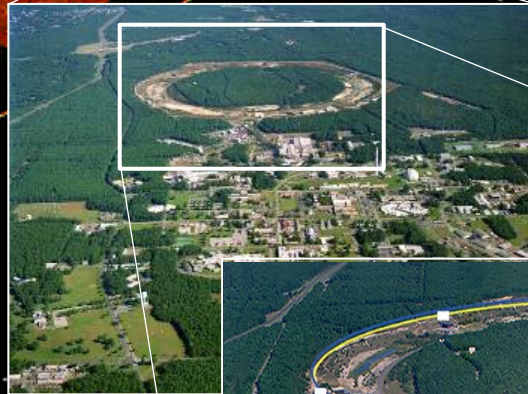
- Understand pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics (PK/PD) for human dosing in space environment. Utilize ISS as research platform (If CM identified for flight by end-of-life - needed) or Commercial LEO destinations (possible), Gateway (possible) (Missions >14 days).
- Monitor efficacy on Gateway and lunar surface for missions of ~180 days.

- Test measurement technology in space environment on ISS if technology is identified by end-of-life (2030 - needed) or at Commercial LEO destinations (possible).
- In-situ monitoring (biomarkers) of crew for missions of ~180 days on Gateway and Lunar Surface.



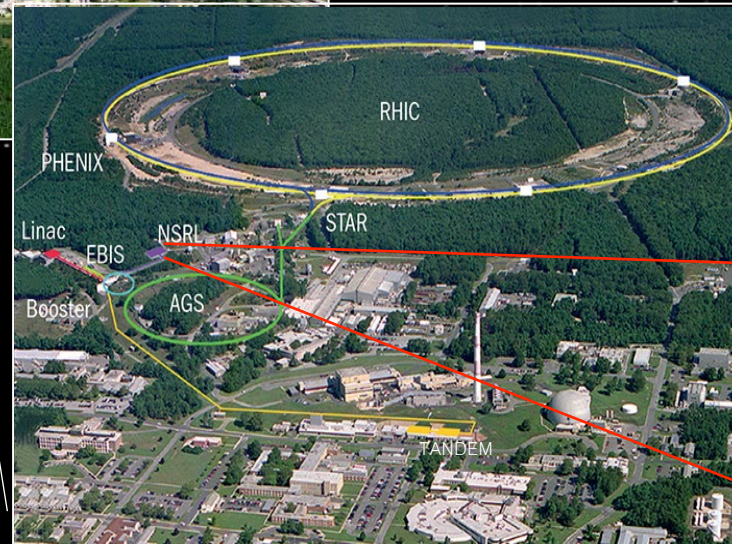
# NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) at DOE Brookhaven National Lab

- Simulates space radiation - high energy ion beams ( $H^+$ ; He, Fe, Si, C, O, Cl, Ti, etc.)
- GCR Simulator
- 3 experimental campaigns per year
- Animal and cell biology facilities
- Heavily utilized by NASA & commercial spaceflight and DOD Missile Defense Agency



**NSRL Beam Line**

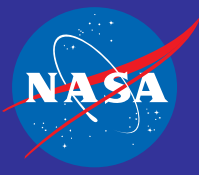
Images courtesy of BNL



**NSRL**

# GCR Simulator Beam Definition

## Normalized to 500 mGy



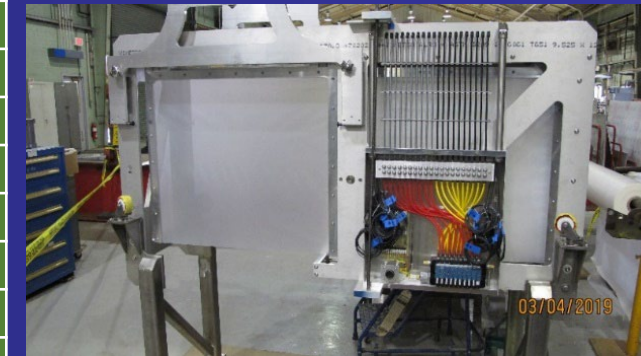
### GCR Simulation Beam consists of 33 beams

- 4 H energies plus degrader (65-75% dose)
- 4 He energies plus degrader (10-20% dose)
- 5 Heavy ions: C, O, Si, Ti, Fe (6-8% dose)

| Ion              | Energy (MeV/n) | Range (cm)                      | LET (keV/μm) | Dose (mGy)   |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <sup>1</sup> H   | 100            | <i>Polyethylene degrader to</i> |              |              |
| <sup>1</sup> H   | 150            | 15.9                            | 0.54         | 35.0         |
| <sup>1</sup> H   | 250            | 38.1                            | 0.39         | 68.9         |
| <sup>1</sup> H   | 1000           | 326.6                           | 0.22         | 123.6        |
| <sup>4</sup> He  | 100            | <i>Polyethylene degrader to</i> |              |              |
| <sup>4</sup> He  | 150            | 16.0                            | 2.17         | 7.5          |
| <sup>4</sup> He  | 250            | 38.3                            | 1.56         | 16.4         |
| <sup>4</sup> He  | 1000           | 327.8                           | 0.88         | 24.9         |
| <sup>12</sup> C  | 1000           | 110.1                           | 7.95         | 11.7         |
| <sup>16</sup> O  | 350            | 17.0                            | 20.8         | 15.4         |
| <sup>28</sup> Si | 600            | 22.7                            | 50.2         | 8.1          |
| <sup>48</sup> Ti | 1000           | 32.5                            | 109.5        | 4.5          |
| <sup>56</sup> Fe | 600            | 13.1                            | 175.1        | 4.1          |
| <b>Total</b>     |                |                                 |              | <b>500.0</b> |

| Ion            | Energy (MeV/n) | Range (cm) | LET (keV/μm) | Dose (mGy) |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| <sup>1</sup> H | 20.0           | 0.43       | 2.59         | 30.4       |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 23.3           | 0.56       | 2.29         | 6.7        |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 27.2           | 0.75       | 2.02         | 7.4        |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 31.7           | 0.98       | 1.79         | 8.0        |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 37.0           | 1.30       | 1.58         | 8.7        |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 43.2           | 1.72       | 1.39         | 9.3        |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 50.3           | 2.26       | 1.23         | 10.0       |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 58.7           | 2.99       | 1.09         | 10.6       |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 68.5           | 3.95       | 0.97         | 11.1       |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 79.9           | 5.20       | 0.86         | 11.2       |
| <sup>1</sup> H | 100.0          | 7.76       | 0.73         | 27.2       |

| Ion             | Energy (MeV/n) | Range (cm) | LET (keV/μm) | Dose (mGy) |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| <sup>4</sup> He | 20.0           | 0.43       | 10.34        | 11.0       |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 23.3           | 0.57       | 9.14         | 2.1        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 27.2           | 0.75       | 8.06         | 2.2        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 31.7           | 0.99       | 7.12         | 2.3        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 37.0           | 1.31       | 6.29         | 2.5        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 43.2           | 1.73       | 5.56         | 2.6        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 50.3           | 2.28       | 4.92         | 2.7        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 58.7           | 3.01       | 4.36         | 2.7        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 68.5           | 3.97       | 3.86         | 2.7        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 79.9           | 5.23       | 3.43         | 2.7        |
| <sup>4</sup> He | 100.0          | 7.81       | 2.90         | 6.1        |



*Large binary filter system used to deliver lower energy H and He beams – installed 2019*



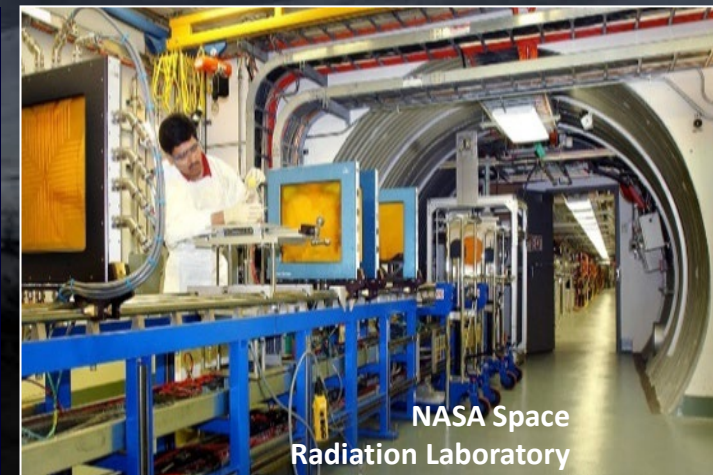
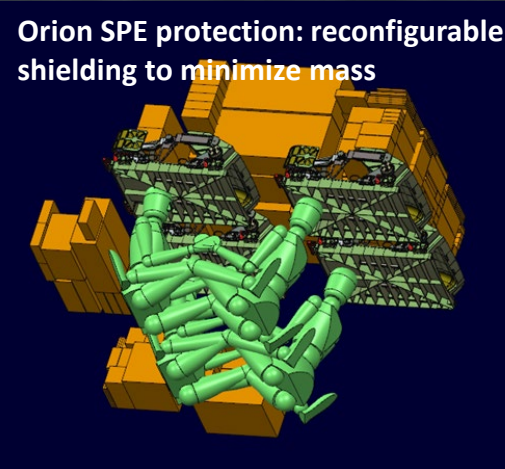
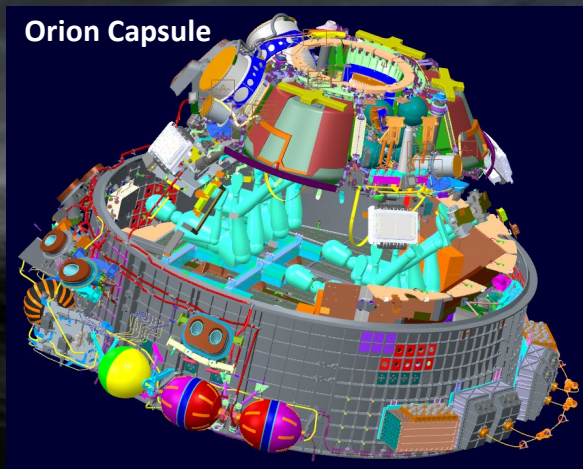
# Significance of Environmental Data

## Supports Optimization and Validation of Radiation Mitigations Strategies

- Predict dose rates for human missions
- Risk Model updates and calculation of Permissible Exposure Limits
- Shield Optimization & Verification of Exposure Requirements
- Definition of GCR Simulator requirements for ground-based radiation health research
- Validation of biological countermeasures

## Science Data

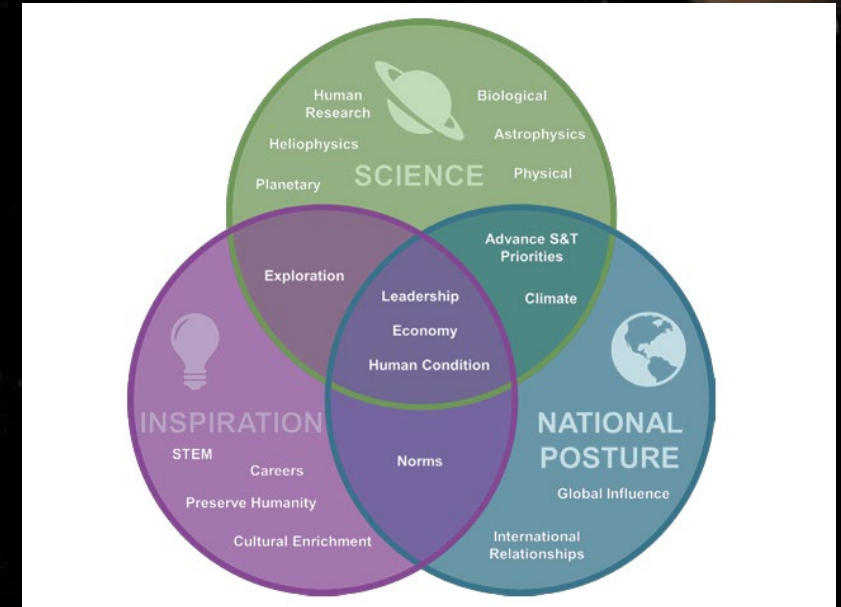
- Impact of radiation hazards on indigenous Martian life forms - similar to terrestrial?
- radiation or oxidizing chemistry will determine the minimum depth needed to drill to look for extant life on Mars today
- How deep life would have to be today for natural shielding to be sufficient
- radiation contributes significantly to the unique chemistry of the Martian surface





# Characterizing the Mars Radiation environment

## Moon2Mars Architecture Objectives



- Advance the understanding of how biological systems and humans responds to the environment of the moon, Mars, and deep space (Human and Biological Science 1, 2, 3)
- Utilize robotic and human missions to improve our understanding of space weather phenomena (HS 1)
- Determine the history of the Sun as recorded in lunar & Martian regolith (HS 2) – regolith contains the scientific record of the history of solar activity
- Advance our understanding of the origin of life in our solar system (LPS-4) – how did radiation affect prebiotic chemistry?
- Understand and mitigate impacts of the space & planetary environments on crew health and performance to support the first human mission to Mars (OP 6, 7)
- Return Crew safely to Earth and mitigate adverse impacts to their health (RT-3) – inspire our next generation



Questions?

