SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

GRANT NUMBER: NAG-2-1089

GRANT TITLE: An Evaluation of Collagen Metabolism in Non Human Primates Associated with the Bion 11 Space Program—Markers of Urinary Collagen Turnover and Muscle Connective Tissue.

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PERIOD OF REPORT: 07/01/96 TO 02/28/99
AN EVALUATION OF COLLAGEN METABOLISM IN NON HUMAN PRIMATES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BION 11 SPACE PROGRAM-MARKERS OF URINARY COLLAGEN TURNOVER AND MUSCLE CONNECTIVE TISSUE.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Patients exhibiting changes in connective tissue and bone metabolism also show changes in urinary by-products of tissue metabolism. Furthermore, the changes in urinary connective tissue and bone metabolites precede alterations at the tissue macromolecular level. Astronauts and Cosmonauts have also shown suggestive increases in urinary by-products of mineralized and non-mineralized tissue degradation. Thus, the idea of assessing connective tissue and bone response in spaceflight monkeys by measurement of biomarkers in urine has merit. Other investigations of bone and connective histology, cytology and chemistry in the Bion 11 monkeys will allow for further validation of the relationship of urinary biomarkers and tissue response. In future flights the non-invasive procedure of urinary analysis may be useful in early detection of changes in these tissues. *Purpose:* The purpose of this grant investigation was to evaluate mineralized and non-mineralized connective tissue responses of non-human primates to microgravity by the non-invasive analysis of urinary biomarkers. Secondly, we also wanted to assess muscle connective tissue adaptive changes in three weight-bearing skeletal muscles: the soleus, medial gastrocnemius and tibialis anterior by obtaining pre-flight and post-flight small biopsy specimens in collaboration with Dr. V. Reggie Edgerton's laboratory at the University of California at Los Angeles.

**METHODS**

Twenty-four hour samples were obtained intermittently before flight and after flight, before and after 1 G simulations of flight, and from vivarium monkeys. Urine volumes were measured and aliquots were frozen for subsequent analysis.

Collagen biomarker concentrations of urinary hydroxyproline (Hyp), hydroxylsylpyridinoline (HP cross-links), and lysylpyridinoline (LP cross-links) were assayed by reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC).

Urinary creatinine (Cr) was quantitated using a colorimetric assay to measure potential muscle rhabdomyolysis and to normalize the connective tissue and bone mineral bio-marker concentrations.
Bone mineral metabolism was analyzed by assaying pre- and post-flight urinary calcium (Ca\(^{2+}\)) by atomic absorption. Urinary osteocalcin (Oc), a biomarker for bone formation was analyzed by immunoassay with a polyclonal antibody raised against bovine Oc with tracer and standards derived from purified *Macaca mulatta* bone Oc.

Skeletal muscle hydroxyproline, an index of collagen concentration, and the mature collagen cross-links (HP and LP) were measured on micro-biopsy specimens from the pre-flight and post-flight time periods from all three groups.

**Statistics:** The urine measurements were analyzed using a two factorial repeated measures analyses of variance (ANOVA) with the significance set at \(P<0.05\).

**RESULTS**

**Collagen Biomarkers:** Summary Tables (Pre-Flight and Post-Flight) and Graphs (Pre-Post, Monthly and Daily Analyses) can be found in the appropriate sections.

Results indicate a high daily variance in the urine concentration of collagen metabolic biomarkers. The urinary collagen cross-link content in the postflight urines were significantly greater (\(P<0.05\)) in the Flight group compared to the Simulation and Vivarium groups indicating that more mature collagen had been degraded during the initial postflight recovery period in the Flight group. Creatinine analyses showed that in all groups urinary levels were significantly elevated (92%-111%) from preflight and the urinary content of non-reducible collagen cross-links (nM HP+LP/mM Cr) were overall greater during the postflight period (21%-35%).

**Bone metabolism:** Urinary Ca\(^{2+}\) measures were significantly lower (Flight -72%, Simulation -57%, Vivarium -31%) after flight versus preflight measurements (\(P<0.05\)). Oc analyses indicated that Flight (-43%) and Vivarium (-32%) had significantly lower Oc values postflight.

**Muscle Connective Tissue:** In the soleus muscle, the only significant changes observed were in the Vivarium group. The Hyp values were significantly greater post-flight versus preflight values (\(P<0.05\)). There was a trend towards decreased LP values post-flight compared to pre-flight values.
(P<0.09). No significant changes were found in the Flight or Simulated soleus muscle connective measurements. In the tibialis anterior, the only significant differences were found in the Flight group. Post-flight Hyp was significantly smaller in the Flight group in contrast to pre-flight measurements (P<0.05). However, HP and Total Cross-link measurements (HP+LP) tended to be larger post-flight compared to preflight measurements (HP: P<0.07) and (HP+LP: P<0.09) respectively. The medial gastrocnemius muscle demonstrated no significant differences in any measurements post-flight versus preflight (P>0.05)

SUMMARY FINDINGS

1. Biomarker profiles can be used as a first level non-invasive analyses to determine if connective tissue metabolism has been altered following spaceflight. Initial postflight measurements of collagen and mineral biomarkers, demonstrated in the first days following flight in the Daily Graphs, suggest an increase in mineralized and non-mineralized connective tissue turnover in the Flight group.

2. Elevated urine Hyp, HP+LP cross-link levels together with reduced urine Ca\(^{2+}\) levels may indicate new collagen secretion and Ca\(^{2+}\) storage, signifying new bone formation during postflight recovery.

3. Biomarker analyses investigating the temporal transitions of whole body collagen and mineral metabolism would be greatly enhanced if future experiments facilitated daily in-flight sample collection of urine from the primates aboard the unmanned space habitat.

4. Overall, no dramatic muscle connective tissue changes were observed post-flight in the SOL, MG or TA muscles. However, there was a significant decrease in skeletal muscle collagen in the post-flight TA biopsies in the Flight group with an accompanying increase in muscle collagen cross-
linking suggesting that the interstitial collagen is older "more mature" collagen. This findings were not observed in the SOL or MG muscle biopsies.

5. Fourteen days exposure to microgravity may not have been an adequate interval of time to view changes in skeletal muscle connective tissue protein. However, changes at the molecular level of collagen synthesis (measures of mRNA for COL 1A1, COL 3A1 and Lysyl Oxidase) may be evident when analyzed.

6. The biopsy samples received from Dr. Reggie Edgerton's laboratory were smaller in mass than what our current molecular biology methodology could quantitate. If our Laboratory receives further funding, we will attempt to optimize our mRNA assays for less than ~0.5-2.0 mg tissue wet weight.
Pre-Flight and Post-Flight Urine Biomarker Analyses
(Normalized to Creatinine)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Samples Collected</th>
<th>Hyp/Cr (µg/mMol)</th>
<th>HP/Cr (nMol/mMol)</th>
<th>LP/Cr (nMol/mMol)</th>
<th>Total (nmol HP+LP/mmol Cr)</th>
<th>Cross-links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flight</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(357,484)</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>19.89±2.29&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>120.51±13.90&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>21.01±2.86&lt;sup&gt;ab&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>141.53±16.58&lt;sup&gt;ab&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 2</td>
<td>(12-14)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>17.39±2.92&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>146.03±6.56&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>25.45±1.52&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>171.49±7.89&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(22)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Simulated</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(501,513,534)</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>9.66±1.02&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>82.68±6.21&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>15.74±2.56&lt;sup&gt;bc&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>98.41±7.73&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>n = 3</td>
<td>(20-22)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>9.14±0.97&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>112.48±12.76&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>17.32±1.92&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>133.09±14.01&lt;sup&gt;ab&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(30-36)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vivarium</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(396,447,448,</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>10.11±0.59&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>86.24±4.69&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>11.74±0.71&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>97.97±5.33&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>470,474,503)</td>
<td>(41-45)</td>
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<tr>
<td>n = 6</td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>8.77±0.39&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>110.67±8.59&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>16.66±1.30&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>127.32±9.82&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(50-52)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Values represent means ± SE. Means with the same letter are *not* significantly different. A significant *P* value was set at *P*<0.05.
## Pre-Flight and Post-Flight Urine Biomarker Analyses

(Non-normalized to Creatinine)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Samples Collected</th>
<th>Hyp (µg/mL)</th>
<th>HP (nM)</th>
<th>LP (nM)</th>
<th>Creatinine (mM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flight</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(357,484)</td>
<td>Pre-flight (12-14)</td>
<td>58.77±8.81&lt;sup&gt;bcd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>388.48±68.98&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>67.79±11.83&lt;sup&gt;cd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3.67±0.72&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 2</td>
<td>Post-flight (22)</td>
<td>85.11±13.44&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1020.0±209.29&lt;sup&gt;ab&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>649.67±102.62&lt;sup&gt;ab&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>7.76±1.83&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1 sample collected from 357 post-flight: pooled with 484 post flight)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Simulated</strong></td>
<td>Pre-flight (20-22)</td>
<td>38.27±5.78&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>359.25±52.81&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>61.29±7.86&lt;sup&gt;cd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4.13±0.54&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(501,513,534)</td>
<td>Post-flight (30-36)</td>
<td>57.22±5.69&lt;sup&gt;bcd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>710.47±88.91&lt;sup&gt;ac&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>111.56±13.96&lt;sup&gt;ac&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8.31±0.96&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 3</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vivarium</strong></td>
<td>Pre-flight (41-45)</td>
<td>43.49±3.98&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>396.39±47.08&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>54.62±7.16&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4.66±0.37&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(396,447,448, 470,474,503)</td>
<td>Post-flight (50-52)</td>
<td>64.13±5.62&lt;sup&gt;ad&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1083.82±195.10&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>169.98±30.07&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8.95±1.15&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 6</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Values represent means ± SE. Means with the same letter are not significantly different. A significant $P$ value was set at $P<0.05$. 

11
# Urinary Calcium and Osteocalcin

## Pre-Flight and Post-Flight Analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Time (# of samples)</th>
<th>Calcium (Ca²⁺ μg/mg Creatinine)</th>
<th>Osteocalcin (ng OC/ mg Creatinine)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flight (357,484)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>n = 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-flight (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>49.4±13.7^a</td>
<td>2.44±0.45^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-flight (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>18.9±3.9^b</td>
<td>1.39±0.24^b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>(21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulated (501,513,534)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-flight (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>52.5±16.2^a</td>
<td>1.09±0.22^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-flight (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>22.8±4.5^b</td>
<td>3.25±0.93^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>(28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivarium (396,447,448,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>470,474,503) n = 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-flight (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>37.3±6.0^a</td>
<td>2.60±0.86^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(45)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-flight (n)</td>
<td></td>
<td>25.9±3.3^a</td>
<td>1.76±0.47^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(52)</td>
<td>(13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values represent means ± SE. Means with the same letter are not significantly different. A significant $P$ value was set at $P<0.05$. ^aFlight Group Postflight Ca²⁺ ($P<0.02$) and OC ($P<0.03$) are significantly less than Preflight values. ^bSimulated Group Postflight Ca²⁺ ($P<0.05$) is significantly less than Preflight values.
Soleus Pre-Flight and Post-Flight Biopsies

Muscle Connective Tissue Analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Hyp (μg/mg dry wt)</th>
<th>HP (mol HP/mol Collagen)</th>
<th>LP (mol LP/mol Collagen)</th>
<th>Total Cross-links (HP+LP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flight (357,484) n = 2</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>5.34±0.26&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.4361±0.154&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0727±0.283&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.5088±0.182&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>10.92±3.49&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.3897±0.128&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0529±0.005&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.4426±0.132&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulated (501,513,534) n = 3</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>6.06±1.82&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.4940±0.075&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0690±0.024&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.5629±0.098&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>11.76±4.30&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.6709±0.292&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.1099±0.051&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.7809±0.343&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivarium (396,447,448, 470,474,503) n = 6</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>6.57±1.93&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.8439±0.428&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.1302±0.057&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.9741±0.485&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>11.01±2.14&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.3667±0.050&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0448±0.008&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.4115±0.058&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values represent means ± SE. Means with the same letter are not significantly different.

<sup>a</sup>Vivarium Soleus Postflight Hyp (P<0.04) and LP (<0.09) values are significantly less than Preflight values.
## Tibialis Anterior Pre-Flight and Post-Flight Biopsies

### Muscle Connective Tissue Analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Hyp (µg/mg dry wt)</th>
<th>HP (mol HP/mol Collagen)</th>
<th>LP (mol LP/mol Collagen)</th>
<th>Total Cross-links (HP+LP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flight (357,484) n = 2</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>10.49±6.53&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.2732±0.068&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0337±0.011&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.3069±0.080&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>1.68±0.15&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.8867±0.006&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.1153±0.017&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1.003±0.011&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simulated (501,513,534) n = 3</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>4.12±0.70&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.3441±0.024&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0597±0.009&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.4039±0.027&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>4.33±1.29&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.6101±0.227&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.1025±0.040&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.7126±0.268&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivarium (396,447,448, 470,474,503) n = 6</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>4.95±1.38&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.4374±0.178&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0858±0.040&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.5232±0.217&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>6.16±0.75&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.2695±0.030&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.0422±0.006&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.3117±0.034&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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</table>

Values represent means ± SE. Means with the same letter are not significantly different. A significant P value was set at P<0.05.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Soleus Postflight Hyp (P<0.03) is significantly less than the Preflight values.  <sup>c</sup>Soleus Postflight HP (P<0.07) and HP+LP (P<0.09) values are significantly greater than Preflight values.
Medial Gastrocnemius Pre-Flight and Post-Flight Biopsies
Muscle Connective Tissue Analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Hyp (µg/mg dry wt)</th>
<th>HP (mol HP/mol Collagen)</th>
<th>LP (mol LP/mol Collagen)</th>
<th>Total Cross-links (HP+LP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flight</strong> (357,484) n = 2</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>3.07±0.05</td>
<td>0.6561±0.120</td>
<td>0.0810±0.041</td>
<td>0.7371±0.161</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>7.75±6.46</td>
<td>0.4849±0.289</td>
<td>0.0624±0.035</td>
<td>0.5473±0.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simulated</strong> (501,513,534) n = 3</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>4.48±1.54</td>
<td>0.4720±0.184</td>
<td>0.0552±0.157</td>
<td>0.5272±0.199</td>
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<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>3.93±1.59</td>
<td>0.8010±0.347</td>
<td>0.1214±0.079</td>
<td>0.9225±0.391</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vivarium</strong> (396,447,448,470,474,503) n = 6</td>
<td>Pre-flight</td>
<td>5.64±1.14</td>
<td>0.4774±0.172</td>
<td>0.0870±0.038</td>
<td>0.5644±0.209</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Post-flight</td>
<td>6.36±0.98</td>
<td>0.3395±0.060</td>
<td>0.0473±0.008</td>
<td>0.3868±0.067</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Values represent means ± SE. Means with the same letter are not significantly different. There are no significant differences between Groups (P>0.05)
FIGURES
HYP values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

HYP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium
Total Collagen Cross-links
(HP+LP/CR)

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

Time

Pre-flight
Post-flight

HP+LP/CR (nMol/mMol)

80
100
120
140
160
180
Creatinine values for the 3 animal groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

Creatinine (mM) vs. Time

Pre-flight vs. Post-flight
Monthly HYP values for the 3 Animal Groups

- **Flight**
- **Simulated**
- **Vivarium**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HYP (mg/mL)</td>
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<td>Preflight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postflight</td>
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</table>
Monthly HYP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- **Flight**
- **Simulated**
- **Vivarium**

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<tr>
<td>HYP/CR (mg/mL)</td>
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</table>

Preflight | Postflight
Monthly HP values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

HP (nM)


Preflight  Postflight

Month
Monthly HP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

HP/CR (nM/mM)

Month


Preflight | Postflight

25
Monthly LP values for the 3 Animal Groups
Monthly HP+LP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

HP+LP/CR (nM/mM)

Month


Preflight Postflight
Monthly Creatinine values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

Creatinine (mM)

Month


Preflight Postflight
Daily HYP values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium
Daily HYP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- [Flight]
- [Simulated]
- [Vivarium]
Daily HP values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

HP (nM)

Day

Preflight | Postflight

06/28 07/05 08/02 08/08 08/15 09/04 09/11 09/18 09/25 10/02 10/09 10/16 10/23 10/30 11/06 11/13 11/20 11/27 12/04 12/11 12/18 12/25 01/01 01/08 01/15 01/22 01/29 02/05 02/12 02/19 02/26 03/03 03/10 03/17 03/24
Daily HP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium
Daily LP values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium

LP (nM)

Day

6/28
7/5
8/6
8/9
9/6
9/10
9/12
9/14
9/19
9/25
10/2
10/4
10/9
10/11
1/7
1/9
1/11
1/14
1/17
1/21
1/23
1/26
1/28
2/2
2/14
2/18
2/20
2/24
3/13

Preflight
Postflight
Daily LP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- Flight
- Simulated
- Vivarium
Daily HP+LP/CR values for the 3 Animal Groups

- **Flight**
- **Simulated**
- **Vivarium**

Day

- Preflight
- Postflight
Daily Creatinine values for the 3 Animal Groups