NASA Human Research Program

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Human Research Program Mission

To enable space exploration beyond Low Earth Orbit by reducing the risks to human health & performance through a focused program of:

– **Basic, applied, and operational research**

leading to the development and delivery of:

– **Human health, performance, and habitability standards**

– **Countermeasures and other risk mitigation solutions**

– **Advanced habitability and medical support technologies**
Planned Exploration Activities

Exploring Space In Partnership

- **2020s**
  - Operating in the Lunar Vicinity

- **2030s**
  - Leaving the Earth-Moon System and Reaching Mars Orbit

**Phase 0**
- Solve exploration mission challenges through research and systems testing on the ISS. Understand if and when lunar resources are available

**Phase 1**
- Conduct missions in cislunar space; assemble Deep Space Gateway and Deep Space Transport

**Phase 2**
- Complete Deep Space Transport and conduct Mars verification mission

**Phases 3 and 4**
- Missions to the Mars system, the surface of Mars

Now
- Using the International Space Station

Advancing technologies, discovery and creating economic opportunities
Deep Space Stressors

**Altered gravity** (hyper, hypo, transition)
- bone, muscle, cardiovascular, sensorimotor, nutrition, clinical medicine, behavior/performance, immunology, human factors

**Radiation** (lower earth orbit, deep space)
- immunology, carcinogenesis, behavior/performance, tissue degeneration, pharmaceutical stability

**Distance from Earth** (medical care impacts)
- behavior/performance, autonomy, food systems, clinical medicine

**Isolation** (psychological)
- behavior/performance

**Hostile/closed environment** (spacecraft design)
- behavior/performance, nutrition, immunology, toxicology, microbiology

*Note that severity generally increases with mission duration.*
### Altered Gravity Field
1. Spaceflight-Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS)
2. Renal Stone Formation
3. Impaired Control of Spacecraft/Associated Systems and Decreased Mobility Due to Vestibular/Sensorimotor Alterations Associated with Space Flight
4. Bone Fracture due to spaceflight induced changes to bone
5. Impaired Performance Due to Reduced Muscle Mass, Strength & Endurance
6. Reduced Physical Performance Capabilities Due to Reduced Aerobic Capacity
7. Adverse Health Effects Due to Host-Microorganism Interactions
8. Urinary Retention
9. Orthostatic Intolerance During Re-Exposure to Gravity

### Radiation
1. Risk of Space Radiation Exposure on Human Health:
   - Acute solar events
   - Cancer
   - CNS impairment
   - Tissue degeneration (cardio)

### Distance from Earth
1. Adverse Health Outcomes & Decrement in Performance due to Inflight Medical Conditions
2. Ineffective or Toxic Medications due to Long Term Storage

### Isolation/Confinement
1. Adverse Cognitive or Behavioral Conditions & Psychiatric Disorders
2. Performance & Behavioral health Decrement Due to Inadequate Cooperation, Coordination, Communication, & Psychosocial Adaptation within a Team

### Hostile Closed Environment
1. Acute and Chronic Carbon Dioxide Exposure
2. Performance decrement and crew illness due to inadequate food and nutrition
3. Injury from Dynamic Loads
4. Injury and Compromised Performance due to EVA Operations
5. Adverse Health & Performance Effects of Celestial Dust Exposure
6. Adverse Health Event Due to Altered Immune Response
7. Reduced Crew Performance Due to Hypobaric Hypoxia
8. Performance Decrement & Adverse Health Outcomes Resulting from Sleep Loss, Circadian Desynchronization, & Work Overload
9. Reduced Crew Performance Due to Inadequate Human-System Interaction Design
10. Decompression Sickness
11. Toxic Exposure
12. Hearing Loss Related to Spaceflight

### Concerns
1. Concern of Clinically Relevant Unpredicted Effects of Medication
2. Concern of Intervertebral Disc Damage upon and immediately after re-exposure to Gravity

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**Key:** High LxC, Medium LxC, Low LxC, TBD LxC

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**Research Solicited to Address Specific Risks**

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**Risks Managed by NASA Human Systems Risk Board**
Venues for Conducting Research

- International Space Station
- NASA Space Radiation Lab
- Human Exploration Research Analog
- :envihab
Research Opportunities

• Flagship solicitations
  • NASA Research Announcements (NRA) entitled Human Exploration Research Opportunities (HERO)
  • https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/

• Omnibus solicitations (July)
  • Short-term investigations that address any risk and gap in the Integrated Research Plan
  • Omnibus grants up to one year and $150K total
  • Recommended mechanism to supplement current ONR grants with synergistic specific aims