National Aeronautics and Space Administration





Craig Kundrot Director, Biological and Physical Sciences Division NASA

Overview



Example of Physical Sciences research: Studying quantum gasses



Example of Space Biology research: Growing plants in space

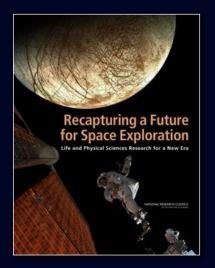
BPS Vision

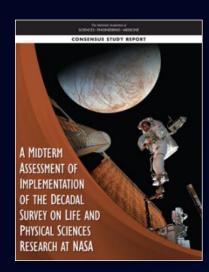
We use spaceflight environments to study biological and physical systems.

Examining phenomena under extreme conditions can help us better understand how they function.

- This can contribute to significant scientific and technological advancements that
 - make fundamental advances in science,
 - enable space exploration, and
 - benefit life on Earth.

BPS Mission







Pioneer Scientific Discovery

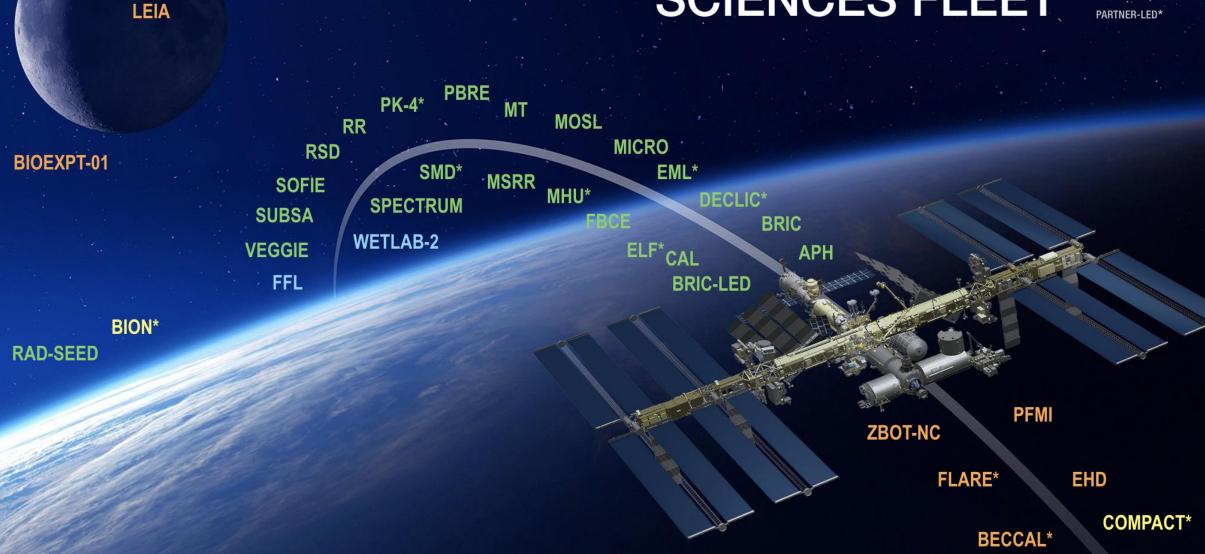
- Proactively seek out new ways to expand fundamental scientific knowledge
- Provide expertise and support to others seeking to utilize space

Enable Sustainable Exploration

- Anticipate and investigate critical areas for scientific knowledge and technology development
- Deliver results to other NASA organizations and industry

BIOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES FLEET

FORMULATION
IMPLEMENTATION
OPERATIONAL
AVAILABLE
PARTNER-LED*



BPS Employs Many Research Platforms





CubeSat



International Space Station



Free Flyers (BION)



*Lunar Gateway



*Commercial Lunar Lander Services



[•]Human Landing System



Drop Tower



Parabolic Flight



Sounding Rocket Sub-orbital Vehicle



Electrostatic Levitator



Rodent Unloading

NSF Polar Station



Centrifuge



Russian Isolation Chamber



Balloon Flight



Gravity Vector Averaging



NASA Space Radiation Lab



Physical Sciences Informatics

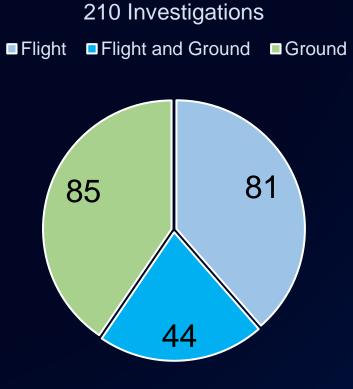


NASA Isolation Chamber



GeneLab

BPS Investigations Span Many Disciplines



- Animal Biology
- Plant Biology
- Microbiology
- Combustion
- Fluid Physics
- Materials Science
- Soft Matter
- Fundamental Physics

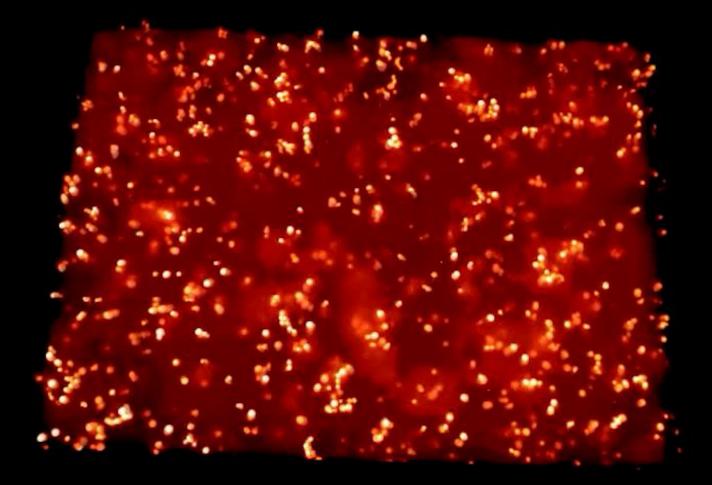
BPS Partners with Govt, Academics, and Industry



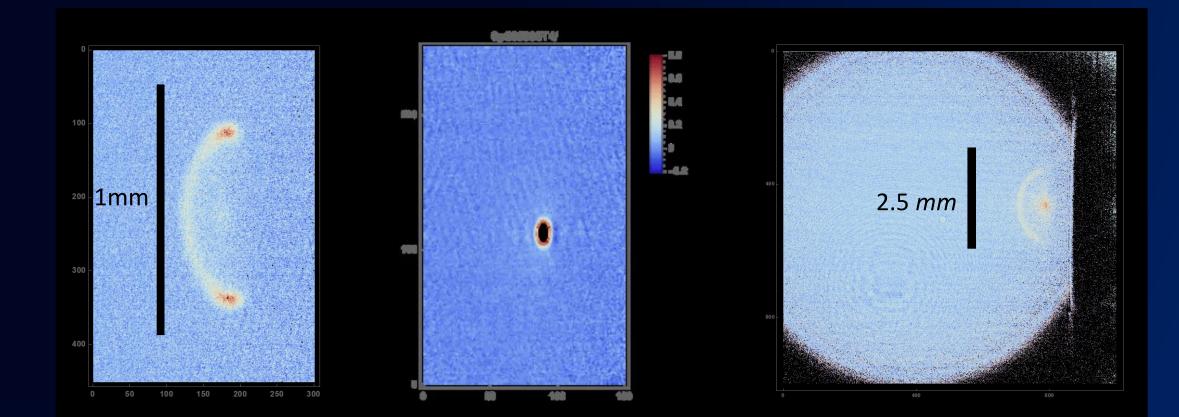
Examples of BPS Research

Soft Matter

- Colloidal interaction potentials
- Consumer product shelf life



Bose-Einstein Condensates



• Fundamental properties of quantum matter

Two-Phase Flow

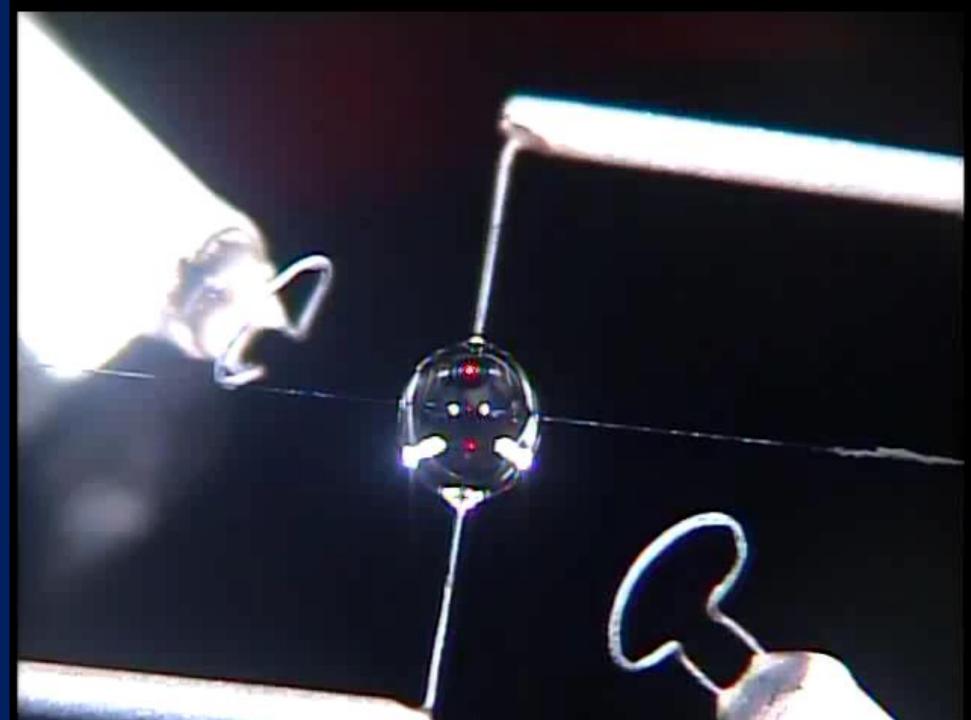




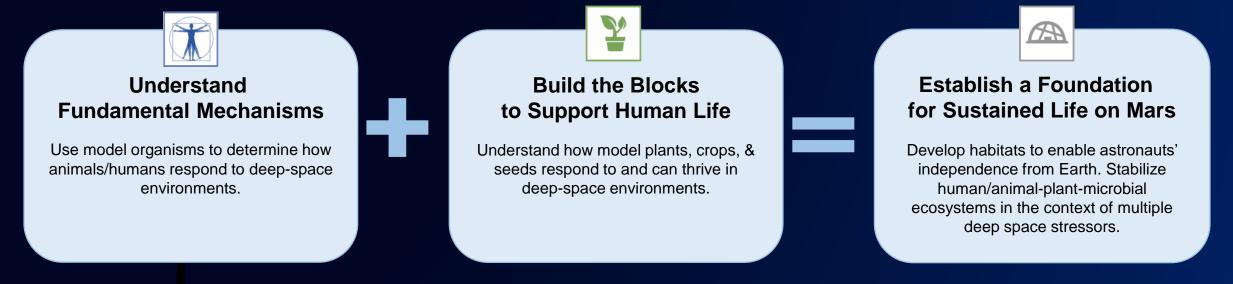
- Thermal management
- Cryogenic fuel refueling
- Power systems

Cool Flames

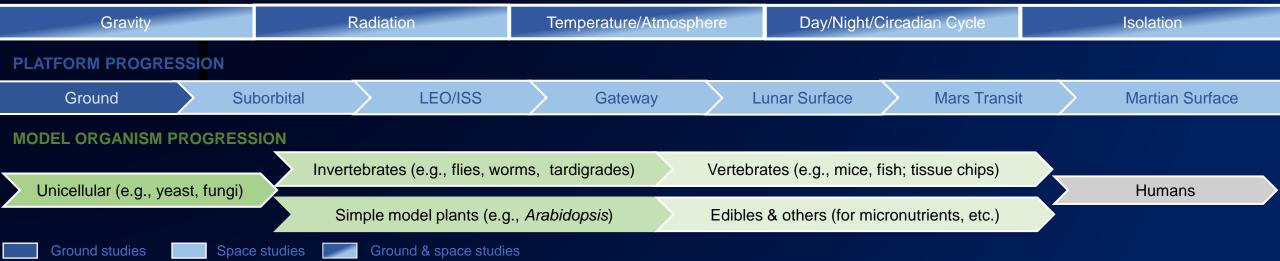
- Fire safety in exploration
- Terrestrial combustion models



Thriving in Deep Space (TIDES)



DEEP-SPACE STRESSORS



Plant Signaling

- Preparation for flight
- Ca²⁺ signaling on Earth

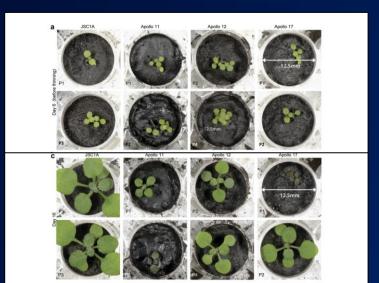


Plant Growth

• Crop plants grown on ISS

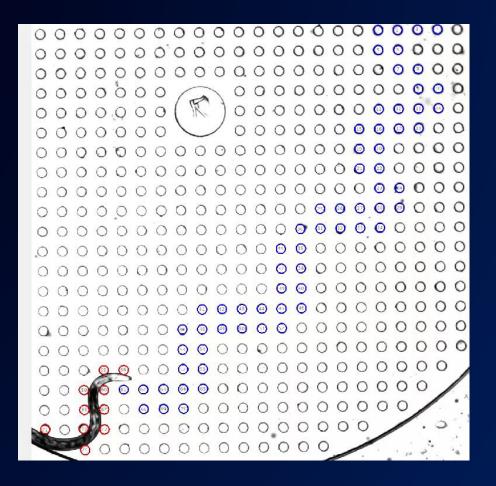


 Plants grown in lunar regolith collected during the Apollo 11, 12 and 17 missions



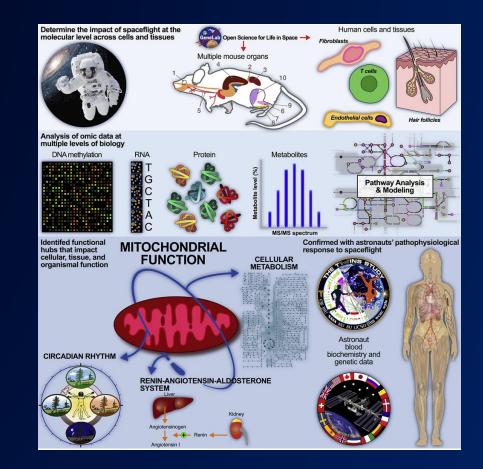
Muscle Atrophy

 Nematodes pushing pillars in orbit

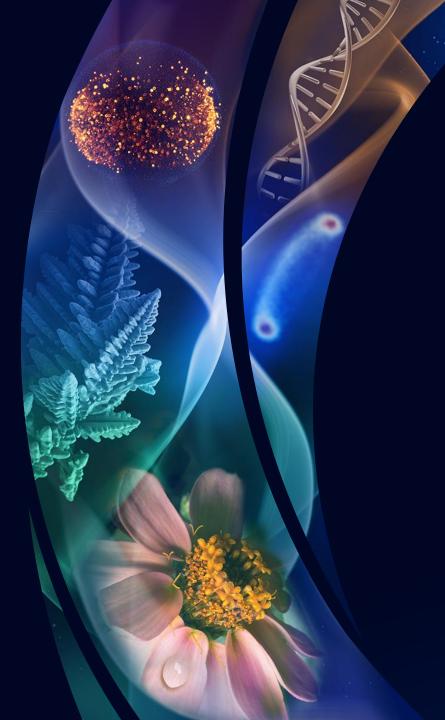


Omics

- Cell culture, mice, astronauts
- Mitochondrial dysfunction is a central hub for spaceflight response



Status



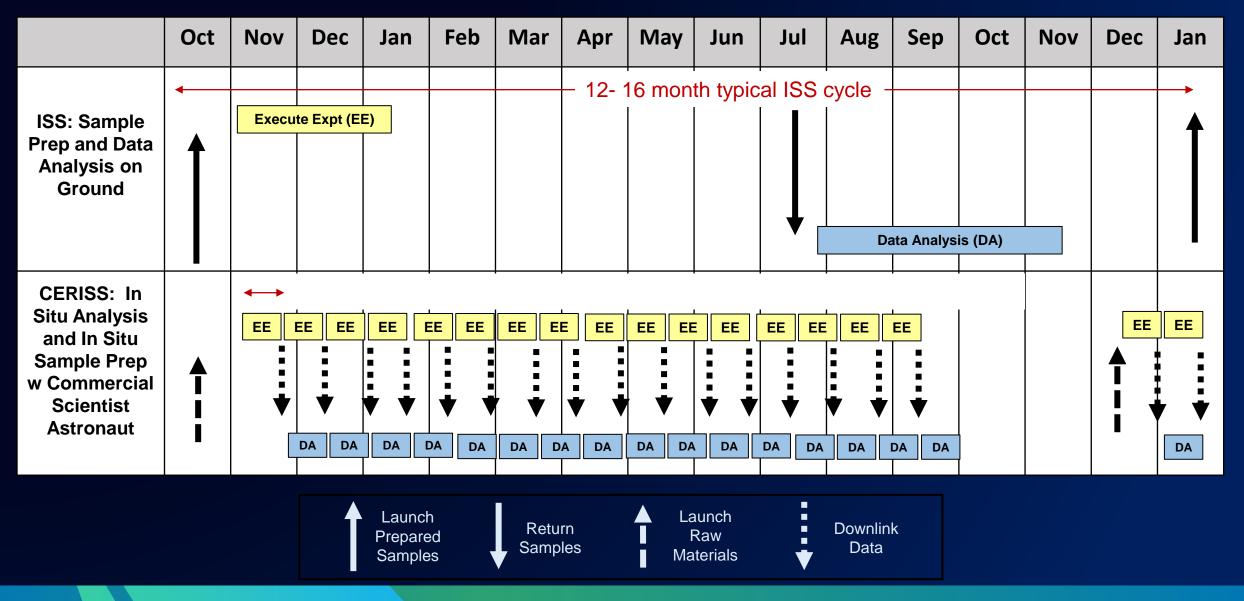
Current Status

- Continue "base" program
 - Maintain focus on and solicit new research in two areas
 - Quantum science
 - TIDES (Thriving in Deep Space)
 - Fulfill 2011 Decadal commitments in other disciplines
 - Expand Open Science and IDEA activities
- Launch commercial initiative (CERISS) to increase research productivity and research demand in low Earth orbit
- Prepare to respond to the 2023 Decadal Survey

Commercially-Enabled RapId Space Science (CERISS)

- Objective
 - Develop transformative research capabilities with commercial space industry to dramatically increase pace of research
- Long-Range Goals
 - Conduct Scientist Astronaut Missions (SAMs) on the ISS and Commercial LEO Destinations
 - Develop automated hardware for experiments beyond low Earth orbit (e.g., lunar surface)
- Motivation
 - The pace of ISS research is too slow for OGAs and industry; it can take years to plan, develop, launch, operate, return samples and begin the cycle again
- Benefits
 - 10- to 100- fold faster pace of research for a wide range of research sponsored by BPS, NASA Human Research Program, OGAs, and industry
 - Increases demand for R&D in low Earth orbit, facilitating growth of commercial space industry

CERISS Dramatically Improves Pace of ISS Research



CERISS Approach

- Develop and deploy in situ analysis and in situ preparation capabilities in low Earth orbit for use by all astronaut types (NASA, PAM, SAM)
 - Issue RFIs and conduct gap analysis with Space Operations Mission Directorate
 - RFI 1: Existing state-of-the-art capabilities, capabilities in development
 - RFI 2: Decadal Survey priorities that benefit most
 - RFP: Compete contracts for the development of in situ analysis and in situ preparation capabilities
 - ROSES: Compete research grants for using and refining capabilities
 - Ground-based
 - Commercial suborbital flight (crewed), as needed
 - ROSES: Compete research grants to use capabilities in low Earth orbit operated by NASA and/or private astronauts
 - Initially on ISS, then on Commercial LEO Destinations
- Develop plans for BPS missions building on in situ capabilities
 - Scientist Astronaut Missions (SAM)
 - Use Private Astronaut Mission (PAM) capability to fly hyper-specialized scientist for up to 30 days to conduct fast-paced transformative research
 - Initially on ISS, then on Commercial LEO Destinations
 - Automated experiments beyond low Earth orbit
 - Artemis Commercial Lunar Payload Services, Gateway, and Human Landing System
 - Deep Space Free-Flyers

Future

The Next Decadal Survey for BPS (2023-2032)

- Recommendations for a decade of transformative science at the frontiers of biological and physical sciences research in space
 - Uniquely advance scientific knowledge,
 - Meet the needs of human and robotic exploration missions, and/or
 - Provide terrestrial benefits
- Recommendations for implementing the transformative science goals and objectives
 - Research activities
 - Associated facilities and platforms ("Keystone Capabilities/Missions")
 - Research Campaigns

The transformative science conducted through Keystone Capabilities and Research Campaigns will be the building blocks of BPS's scientific program for the next decade

Possible Transformative Areas in Physical Sciences

- Soft Matter: Active, non-equilibrium systems responsive to external forces controlled in space and time.
- Quantum Matter the physics of few- to many-body quantum systems
- General Relativity (GR) precision metrology exploring the limits of GR
- Dark Matter (DM) and Dark Energy (DE) quantum mechanics applied to search for signatures of DM and DE
- Quantum Mechanics entanglement in relativistic systems and over solar system-scale distances
- Combustion: High pressure transcritical combustion; low temperature chemical kinetics
- Fluid Physics: Cryogenic fuel management; thermal management systems
- Materials Science: Additive manufacturing; lunar surface construction using regolith



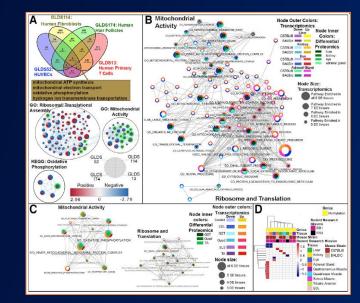


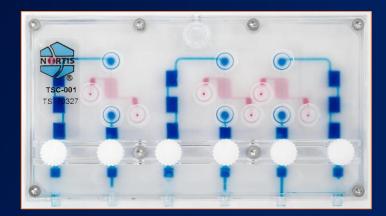


Possible Transformative Areas in Space Biology

- Systems Biology
- Quantitative Genetics
- Genetic Engineering of Plants
- 3D Tissues & Organ-on-Chip Models
- Automation, Miniaturization & Data Telemetry
- Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)







Conclusion

More about BPS

- News
 - Twitter: @NASASpaceSci
 - Website: science.nasa.gov/biological-physical
- Funding and Requests for Information
 - NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System
 - <u>nspires.nasaprs.com</u>
 - CERISS solicitation: NNH22ZDA014L
 - Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES)
- Research Portfolio
 - Task Book: taskbook.nasaprs.com
- Commercial Contacts
 - Lisa Carnell, Program Scientist
 - lisa.a.scottcarnell@nasa.gov
 - DeVon Griffin, Program Manager
 - devon.w.griffin@nasa.gov





Conclusion

- As commercial spaceflight capabilities expand in sub-orbital, LEO, and lunar domains and
 - As NASA plans to
 - return to the lunar surface,
 - develop sustainable lunar habitation, and
 - prepare to explore Mars
- Biological and Physical Sciences will, guided by the 2023 Decadal Survey, tackle the most transformative research questions
 - > To pioneer scientific discovery,
 - > Enable sustainable exploration,
 - Benefit life on Earth







Thank you!