Fiscal Year:	FY 2021	**Task Last Updated:**	FY 07/22/2020
PI Name:	Rosi, Susanna Ph.D.		
Project Title:	VNSCOR: Probing the Synergistic Effects of Radiation, Altered Gravity and Stress on Behavioral Cognitive and Sensorimotor Functions to Predict Performance Decrement in Astronauts		
Division Name:	Human Research		
Program/Discipline:			
Program/Discipline--Element/Subdiscipline:			
Joint Agency Name:		**TechPort:**	No
Human Research Program Elements:	(1) **HFBP**:Human Factors & Behavioral Performance (IRP Rev H)		
Human Research Program Risks:	(1) **BMed**:Risk of Adverse Cognitive or Behavioral Conditions and Psychiatric Disorders (2) **Sensorimotor**:Risk of Altered Sensorimotor/Vestibular Function Impacting Critical Mission Tasks		
Space Biology Element:	None		
Space Biology Cross-Element Discipline:	None		
Space Biology Special Category:	None		
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Zip Code:	94110-3518	**Congressional District:**	12
Comments:			
Project Type:	Ground	**Solicitation / Funding Source:**	2018 HERO 80JSC018N0001-Crew Health and Performance (FLAGSHIP, OMNIBUS). Appendix A-Flagship, Appendix B-Omnibus
Start Date:	10/01/2019	**End Date:**	09/30/2023
No. of Post Docs:	0	**No. of PhD Degrees:**	0
No. of PhD Candidates:	0	**No. of Master' Degrees:**	0
No. of Master's Candidates:	0	**No. of Bachelor's Degrees:**	0
No. of Bachelor's Candidates:	0	**Monitoring Center:**	NASA JSC
Contact Monitor:	Whitmire, Alexandra	**Contact Phone:**	
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Flight Program:			
Flight Assignment:			
Key Personnel Changes/Previous PI:	July 2020 report: Adam Ferguson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, Director of Data Science, Brain and Spinal Injury Center (BASIC), and the Weill Institute for Neurosciences at the University of California, San Francisco is now CoInvestigator. Drs. Mora and Wyrobek and Dr. Mao are no longer CoInvestigators on the project.		
COI Name (Institution):	Ferguson , Adam Ph.D. (University of California, San Francisco)		
Grant/Contract No.:	80NSSC19K1581		
Performance Goal No.:			
Performance Goal Text:			

Task Description:	The purpose of this application is to: 1) determine the possible synergistic and individual effects of radiation exposure (GCRsim), isolation confinement stress, and altered gravity on behavioral, cognitive, and sensorimotor performance; 2) establish if there are sex-dimorphic responses; 3) develop predictive biomarkers for individual sensitivity; 4) incorporate these results into a predictive statistical model for the extrapolation of performance decrement; and 5) estimate Central Nervous System (CNS) risks in astronauts. The central hypothesis of this proposal is that there is a synergistic effect of multiple factors (defined by GCRsim, isolation confinement stress, and altered gravity) encountered in deep space exposure that leads to enhanced inflammatory response, promotes synapse loss, and decreases synaptic integrity that leads to long-term loss of sensorimotor, behavioral, and cognitive functions. The rationale of the proposed research is to understand the mechanisms that underlie the cumulative and synergistic effects of radiation exposure, isolation confinement stress, and altered gravity on behavioral, cognitive, and sensorimotor deficits. Further, we will explore sex-dimorphic responses along with potential peripheral biomarkers associated with simulated deep space travel. Our studies will provide novel information regarding the cellular mechanisms of altered neuronal function involved in simulated deep space conditions (GCRsim, isolation confinement, and altered gravity). Finally, we will incorporate all the results to build risk assessment and performance decrement for astronauts. We will characterize molecular, cellular, tissue, and behavioral endpoints underlying CNS function in an individual manner with animals prescreening. We will use multiple behavioral and cognitive tests known to be comparable to human performance. We will use state of the art techniques to dissect cellular and molecular changes in the brain. The endpoints will be selected to probe key physiological processes that support tissue homeostasis plasticity in the brain. We will determine if and how cellular and molecular impairments are linked to compromised behavior in motor, social, and cognitive domains. By combining assessments of multiple processes that may have distinct time constants and magnitudes of responses to simulated deep space conditions we will begin to identify operationally-relevant brain functions impacted by the three stressors and relate these to human performance. Furthermore, by comparing outcome measures in both males and females we will begin to understand the distinct aspects of the responses controlled by sex and are therefore more likely to translate to humans. The proposed aims directly address Human Exploration Research Opportunities (HERO) announcement needs detailed in Appendix A that specify research needs (gaps) related to NASA Research and Technology Development to Support Crew Health and Performance in Space Exploration Missions. The specific gaps this proposal addresses are Topic 1, gap CNS 1 (Are there significant adverse changes in CNS performance in the context and time scale of spaceflight operations? If so, how is significance defined, and which neuropsychological domains are affected? Is there a significant probability that space radiation exposure would result in adverse changes? What are the pathways and mechanisms of change?), CNS 2 (Does space radiation exposure elicit key events in adverse outcome pathways associated with neurological diseases? What are the key events or hallmarks, their time sequence and their associated biomarkers (in-flight or post-flight)?), CNS 5 (How can new knowledge and data from molecular, cellular, tissue and animal models of acute CNS adverse changes or clinical human data, including altered motor and cognitive function and behavioral changes be used to estimate acute CNS risks to astronauts from GCR and SPE-solar particle event?), SM6.1 (Determine if sensorimotor dysfunction during and after long-duration spaceflight affects ability to control spacecraft and associated systems), SM 26 (Determine if exposure to long-duration spaceflight leads to neural structural alterations and if this remodeling impacts cognitive and functional performance), and IM 8 (IM8: We do not know the influence, direct, or synergistic, on the immune system of other physiological changes associated with spaceflight).
Rationale for HRP Directed Research:	
Research Impact/Earth Benefits:	Our research goals, hypothesis, and proposed aims directly address Human Exploration Research Opportunities (HERO) announcement needs detailed in Appendix A that specify research needs (gaps) related to NASA Research and Technology Development to Support Crew Health and Performance in Space Exploration Missions. The specific gaps this proposal addresses are in Topic 1, CNS 1 “Are there significant adverse changes in CNS performance in the context and time scale of space flight operations? Is there a significant probability that space radiation exposure would result in adverse changes? What are the pathways and mechanisms of change?”; Gap CNS2: “Does space radiation exposure elicit key events in adverse outcome pathways associated with neurological diseases? What are the key events or hallmarks, their time sequence and their associated biomarkers (in-flight or post- flight)?”; SM 26: “Determine if exposure to long-duration spaceflight leads to neuronal structural alterations and if this remodeling impacts cognitive and functional performance.”; IM 8: “We do not know the influence, direct or synergistic, on the immune system of other physiological changes associated with spaceflight.”
Task Progress:	During the first year of the grant we established the work collaboration with the other Virtual NASA Specialized Center of Research (VNSCOR) Principal Investigators (PIs) and we concluded the Definition Phase. Dr. Rosi was asked by the Central Nervous System, Behavioral Health, and Sensorimotor (CBS) team to serve as the leader for the 3 VNSCORs projects. Lead PI for three grant VNSCOR to provide: Assurance of high quality, integrated-risk research Standardization of approaches/rationale Mechanisms to maintain communications (and reduce site burdens) Consistent information Efficiently/effectively integrate research efforts Data management Integration of research data Research data submission formats Computational modeling lead Throughout the definition phase the Ronca, Rosi, and Sanford groups have agreed upon the A) standardizations (where

	possible without changing the study objectives) of experimental design for exposure regimen, husbandry, animal sex and ages and data collection schedules. In addition to the animal care specifics, we have developed a unified model for combined space stress that will be used at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) by all investigators, stages of which will be followed by each grant's specific aims. In brief, all animals will have an identical length of time at BNL under the same husbandry conditions including same diet, undergo the same acclimation, social isolation, microgravity model, GCR dose, similar euthanasia methods, and a minimum of one unified downstream marker in both the blood and brain. To maintain standardization across the three VNSCOR investigators have agreed on: time at BNL, dose, diet, parasite protection, cognitive measures, and blood biomarkers. Due to COVID-19 we were not able to proceed with Aim 1 as planned. These experiments have been postponed to Spring 2021.
Bibliography Type:	Description: (Last Updated: 09/04/2023)
Articles in Other Journals or Periodicals	Paladini MS, Krukowski K, Feng X, Rosi S. "Microglia depletion and cognitive functions after brain injury: from trauma to galactic cosmic ray." Neuroscience Letters. In press as of July 2020. , Jul-2020