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Fiscal Year:	FY 2023	Task Last Updated:	FY 12/02/2022
PI Name:	Bailey, Susan M. Ph.D.		
Project Title:	Telomeres and the One Year Mission Project		
Division Name:	Human Research		
Program/Discipline:			
Program/Discipline Element/Subdiscipline:			
Joint Agency Name:		TechPort:	No
Human Research Program Elements:	(1) SR :Space Radiation		
Human Research Program Risks:	(1) Cardiovascular :Risk of Cardiovascular Adag Outcomes	ptations Contributing to Adv	erse Mission Performance and Health
Space Biology Element:	None		
Space Biology Cross-Element Discipline:	None		
Space Biology Special Category:	None		
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City:	Fort Collins	State:	СО
Zip Code:	80523-1618	Congressional District:	2
Comments:			
Project Type:	Flight	Solicitation / Funding Source:	2017-2018 HERO 80JSC017N0001-BPBA Topics in Biological, Physiological, and Behavioral Adaptations to Spaceflight. Appendix C
Start Date:	01/31/2019	End Date:	01/30/2026
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No. of PhD Candidates:	1	No. of Master' Degrees:	
No. of Master's Candidates:		No. of Bachelor's Degrees:	
No. of Bachelor's Candidates:	1	Monitoring Center:	NASA JSC
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Flight Program:			
Flight Assignment:			
Key Personnel Changes/Previous PI:			
COI Name (Institution):	Jeevarajan, Antony Ph.D. (NASA Johnson Space	ce Center)	
Grant/Contract No.:	80NSSC19K0434		
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Performance Goal Text:			

Task Description:	The ultimate goal of the studies proposed here is to establish temporal profiles of human telomere length dynamics and DNA damage responses of importance for maintenance of human health and performance during long-duration deep space missions. We hypothesize that telomere length dynamics (changes over time) represent a particularly relevant and informative biomarker of health for the astronauts, as it reflects the combined experiences and exposures encountered during spaceflight. That is, an astronaut's individual genetic susceptibilities, unique lifestyle stresses encountered (e.g., nutritional, psychological, physical), and particular environmental exposures (e.g., altered atmospheres, microgravity, space radiations) are all integrated and captured as changes in telomere length. Thus, the rate at which telomeres shorten provides a general measure of health that can be linked to aging, as well as to risk of developing age-related pathologies, ranging from reduced immune function and dementia, to cardiovascular disease and cancer. Importantly, functional telomeres are also essential for maintaining genomic integrity and stability, as they protect chromosomal termini from inappropriate degradation, and prevent these natural DNA ends from being recognized as broken DNA and triggering inappropriate DNA damage responses (DDRs). To identify trends in adaptations to human health and performance during long-duration low-Earth orbit, we propose telomere length and DDR/cytogenetic measures pioneered and validated in the NASA Twins Study/first One Year Mission, across the Integrated One-Year Mission Project onboard the International Space Station and the concurrent ground analog (prolonged isolation) component.		
Rationale for HRP Directed Research:			
Research Impact/Earth Benefits:	Identifying interactive effects of genetic and nongenetic telomere length determinants and DDRs will improve understanding of aging and aging trajectories (disease risk), as well as guide future studies and development of potential strategies for improving health-span, not only in astronauts on long-duration missions, but for those on Earth, too.		
Task Progress:	Astronauts live and work in an extreme environment fraught with extraordinary hazards and chronic stressors, including space radiation exposure, microgravity and/or altered gravity, confinement and isolation (psychologically stressful), a closed environment (biologically hostile), altered nutrition and microbiome – all in addition to intermittent bouts of acute stress, e.g., extravehciular activities (EVAs), and endurance/aerobic exercise to maintain bone and muscle mass. Considering the combination of unique stressors and chronic space radiation exposure associated with long-duration spaceflight, as well as the adverse health effects experienced by multiple physiological systems (e.g., dysregulated immunity, inflammation, infection), we proposed that monitoring of telomere length dynamics and persistent DDRs (DNA damage responses) (genome instability) would be of particular relevance for astronauts because these informative biomarkers provide insight into individual health status during a mission, as well as potential implications and predictions for aging and disease risk later in life. The recent launch of Artemis 1 carried with it the hopes and dreams of returning to the Moon and venturing beyond to Mars. As the number and diversity of space travelers increase in the coming years, a better understanding of how long-duration spaceflight affects human health is essential to maintaining individual astronaut performance during and improving disease and aging trajectories following future exploration missions. Findings from our NASA Twins Study and Telomeres investigations provide clues suggestive of potential mechanistic roles for chronic exposure to the space radiation environment and the telomeric and DNA damage responses we observed, as well as radiation dose-dependent decreases in WBC (white blood cell) counts post-spaceflight, provide support for the development of effective radiation mitigators and individual/actors and bindyidual/actors and highlight the critical need for personalized monitoring and prec		
Bibliography Type:	Description: (Last Updated: 12/06/2024)		
Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals	Bailey SM, Luxton JJ, McKenna MJ, Taylor LE, George KA, Jhavar SG, Swanson GP. "Ad Astra - telomeres in space!" Int J Radiat Biol. 2022;98(3):395-403. <u>https://doi.org/10.1080/09553002.2021.1956010</u> ; <u>PMID: 34270368</u> , Jan-2022		