Fiscal Year:	FY 2024	**Task Last Updated:**	FY 03/05/2024
PI Name:	Contractor, Noshir Ph.D.		
Project Title:	Composing Teams with TEAMSTaR: Tool for Evaluating and Mitigating Space Team Risk		
Division Name:	Human Research		
Program/Discipline:			
Program/Discipline--Element/Subdiscipline:			
Joint Agency Name:		**TechPort:**	Yes
Human Research Program Elements:	(1) **HFBP**:Human Factors & Behavioral Performance (IRP Rev H)		
Human Research Program Risks:	None		
Space Biology Element:	None		
Space Biology Cross-Element Discipline:	None		
Space Biology Special Category:	None		
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Zip Code:	60208-0834	**Congressional District:**	9
Comments:			
Project Type:	Ground	**Solicitation / Funding Source:**	2020 HERO 80JSC019N0001-TEAM: Team Composition-Appendix G
Start Date:	04/15/2021	**End Date:**	09/30/2025
No. of Post Docs:	1	**No. of PhD Degrees:**	0
No. of PhD Candidates:	2	**No. of Master' Degrees:**	0
No. of Master's Candidates:	0	**No. of Bachelor's Degrees:**	1
No. of Bachelor's Candidates:	6	**Monitoring Center:**	NASA JSC
Contact Monitor:	Whitmire, Alexandra	**Contact Phone:**	
Contact Email:	alexandra.m.whitmire@nasa.gov		
Flight Program:			
Flight Assignment:	NOTE: End date changed to 9/30/2025 per NSSC info and NASA-JSC (Ed., 9/10/24) NOTE: End date changed to 4/14/2025 per NSSC info via V. Lehman/JSC Grants Office (Ed., 4/17/24) NOTE: End date changed to 4/14/2024 per NSSC info via L. Barnes-Moten/JSC (Ed., 7/16/21)		
Key Personnel Changes/Previous PI:			
COI Name (Institution):	Bell, Suzanne Ph.D. (NASA Johnson Space Center) DeChurch, Leslie Ph.D. (Northwestern University, Evanston) Lungeanu, Alina Ph.D. (Northwestern University, Evanston) Loerch, Linda M.S. (NASA Johnson Space Center)		
Grant/Contract No.:	80NSSC21K0925		
Performance Goal No.:			
Performance Goal Text:			

Task Description:	As NASA sets its sight on more Earth-independent missions, such as Artemis missions to the Moon and on to Mars, team composition becomes a critical leverage point for mitigating risks. NASA has successfully designed crews with “the Right Stuff” for more than fifty years beginning with the Mercury and Apollo programs, then into the Shuttle period, and throughout the Skylab and International Space Station missions requiring highly specialized crews to live and work in space for extended periods of time. The key point of departure for deep space exploration is the complexity of missions and the autonomy with which the crew will work. Communication delays with support teams on Earth will necessitate that a relatively small crew take on greater responsibility for making critical decisions. This increased autonomy will occur despite the additional challenges posed by prolonged isolation and confinement and increased radiation exposure. Whereas the “Right Stuff” (Wolfe, 1979) emphasized the requisite individual characteristics, deep space missions also require the “Right Combination” of team members. With that as a backdrop, this project develops and validates TEAMSTaR (Tool for Evaluating And Mitigating Space Team Risks), a team composition decision support system, that can be used by stakeholders (e.g., schedule decision-makers) to predict how a hypothetical team’s social relations are likely to evolve and influence crew performance over the course of a mission. The TEAMSTaR will enable decision-makers to evaluate composition scenarios for an entire set of teams, for single-member replacements, and/or for subsets of teams. To do this, we first leverage insights and data from recent NASA-funded team composition studies and thoughtfully refine and extend our agent-based models to include relevant input characteristics and their ability to predict team outcomes including team performance. We next conduct virtual experiments and gather stakeholder input to inform the development of TEAMSTaR, a team composition decision support system that utilizes insights from our updated agent-based models (ABMs) to enable real-time (or close to real-time) decision-making. Finally, we validate TEAMSTaR as a decision-making tool in short and long-term isolated, confined, and controlled environments. This project accomplishes five aims. Aim 1) Refine agent-based models looking at relevant input characteristics and their ability to predict team outcomes, including team performance. Aim 2) Identify and elaborate the scientific rationale for attributes used within the model, identifying factors known to affect crew functioning, crew member behavior, emergent characteristics that arise during team task completion. Aim 3) Develop and validate a Team Composition decision support system and user interface. Aim 4) Validate the refined model using a software prototype in at least one extended duration, isolated, and confined analog. Aim 5) Provide modeling and software prototypes that meet NASA Standard 7009a. With an eye toward the future of deep space exploration, this project leverages, and indeed advances, state of the art computational techniques to predict crew performance and to identify points of leverage in terms of team composition and task scheduling to optimize individual and team performance. Reference: Wolfe, T. (1979). The Right Stuff. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
Rationale for HRP Directed Research:	
Research Impact/Earth Benefits:	With an eye toward the future of deep space exploration, this project leverages and advances state of the art computational techniques to predict crew performance and to identify points of leverage in terms of team composition and task scheduling to optimize individual and team performance. Even though TEAMSTaR decision support system will be tested in space analog missions, it can be applied to teams operating on Earth in isolated and confined environments (ICE), such as expedition and science teams in the Arctic and Antarctic. The general framework of team composition and the analytic strategies developed in this project can be applied to Earth teams more generally.
Task Progress:	We have completed the third year of the project. During this past year, (1) We have refined the agent-based models by looking at relevant input characteristics and their ability to predict team outcomes, including team performance (Aim 1) (2) We have created surveys and test case scenarios for crew and mission control using the TEAMSTaR dashboard to be implemented in Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA) C7 (Aim 2) (3) We have finalized the development of the TEAMSTaR Dashboard (Aim 3) (4) We are in the process of validating the TEAMSTaR dashboard in HERA C7M1 (Aim 4).
Bibliography Type:	Description: (Last Updated: 03/29/2024)
Abstracts for Journals and Proceedings	Contractor NS, Lungeanu A, DeChurch LA, Bell S, Chan M, Javalagi A. "Supporting resilient teams to go the distance." 2024 NASA Human Research Program Investigators' Workshop, Galveston, Texas, February 13-16, 2024. Abstracts. 2024 NASA Human Research Program Investigators' Workshop, Galveston, Texas, February 13-16, 2024. , Feb-2024
Abstracts for Journals and Proceedings	Shah M, Chan M, Youn H, DeChurch L, Contractor N. "Uncovering effective sequences of dialog acts in high-performance multiteam systems." Organizational Communication Mini Conference, New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 6-8, 2023. Abstracts. Organizational Communication Mini Conference, New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 6-8, 2023. , Oct-2023
Abstracts for Journals and Proceedings	Chan M, DeChurch L, Contractor N. "The leadership signatures of effective multiteam systems." 83rd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Boston, Massachusetts, August 4-8, 2023. Abstracts. 83rd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Boston, Massachusetts, August 4-8, 2023. , Aug-2023
Abstracts for Journals and Proceedings	Chan M, DeChurch L, Contractor N. "Characterizing configurations of effective teams in multiteam system networks." INGRoup Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, July 20-22, 2023. Abstracts. INGRoup Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, July 20-22, 2023. , Jul-2023

Abstracts for Journals and Proceedings	Chan, M., DeChurch, L, Contractor N. "A network modeling framework for predicting effective individuals, teams, and multiteam systems." Sunbelt International Network for Social Network Analysis, Portland, Oregon, June 27-July 1, 2023. Abstracts. Sunbelt International Network for Social Network Analysis, Portland, Oregon, June 27-July 1, 2023. , Jul-2023
Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals	Lungeanu A, DeChurch LA, Contractor NS. "A tale of three teams: Effect of long-term isolation in SIRIUS-21 on crew interpersonal networks." Acta Astronaut. 2023 Nov;212:617-23. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actaastro.2023.08.015 , Nov-2023
Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals	DeChurch LA, Lungeanu A, Contractor NS. "Think like a team: Shared mental models predict creativity and problem-solving in space analogs." Acta Astronaut. 2023 Oct 13. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actaastro.2023.10.022 , Oct-2023