




Mapping astronauts' clonal hematopoiesis and stem cell dynamics to prepare for Mars missions



Weill Cornell Medicine

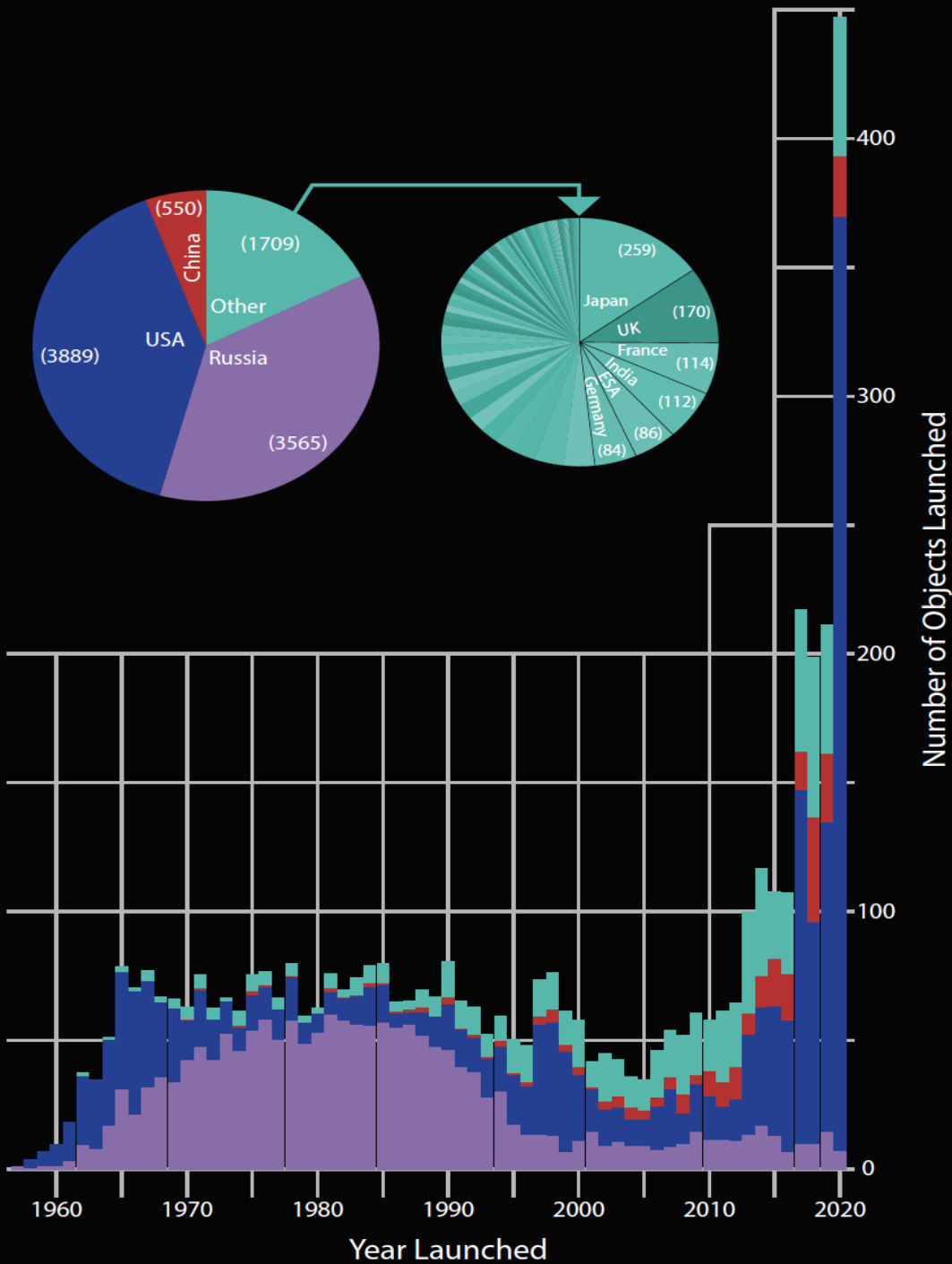
 @mason_lab

Christopher E. Mason, Ph.D.
Professor

Director, WorldQuant Initiative for Quantitative Prediction
Department of Physiology and Biophysics &
The Institute for Computational Biomedicine (ICB),
Meyer Cancer Center, Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute,
at Weill Cornell Medicine,
Affiliate, New York Genome Center (NYGC) and Yale Law School

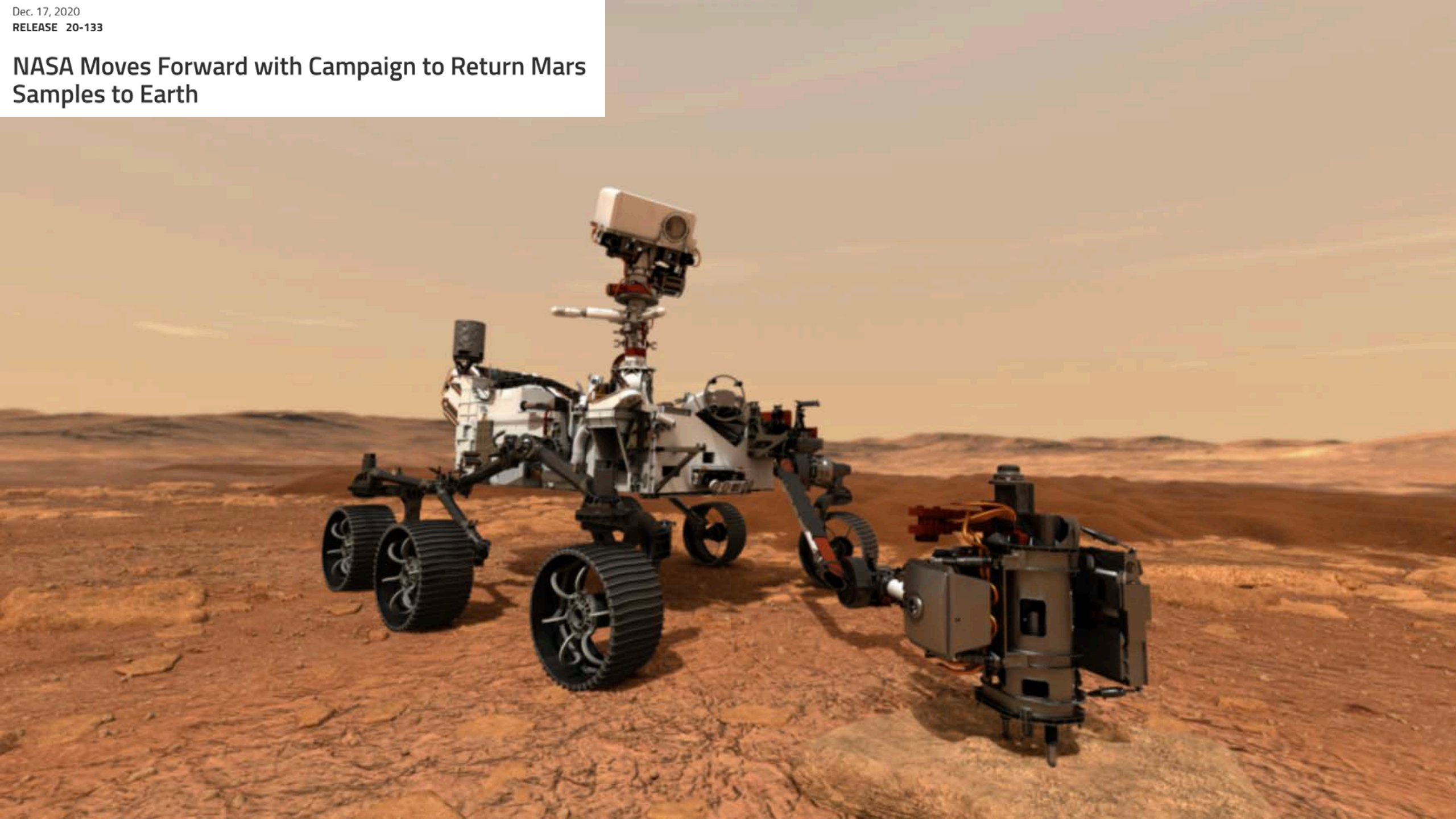
November 16th 2021

More than ever,
we are a
space-faring
species





NASA Moves Forward with Campaign to Return Mars Samples to Earth



Mars Sample Return

MSR

Mars Sample Return is a proposed mission to return samples from the surface of Mars to Earth.

ETA: 2031-2

China is aiming for samples back by 2030

China is planning a complex Mars sample return mission

by Andrew Jones — November 4, 2021



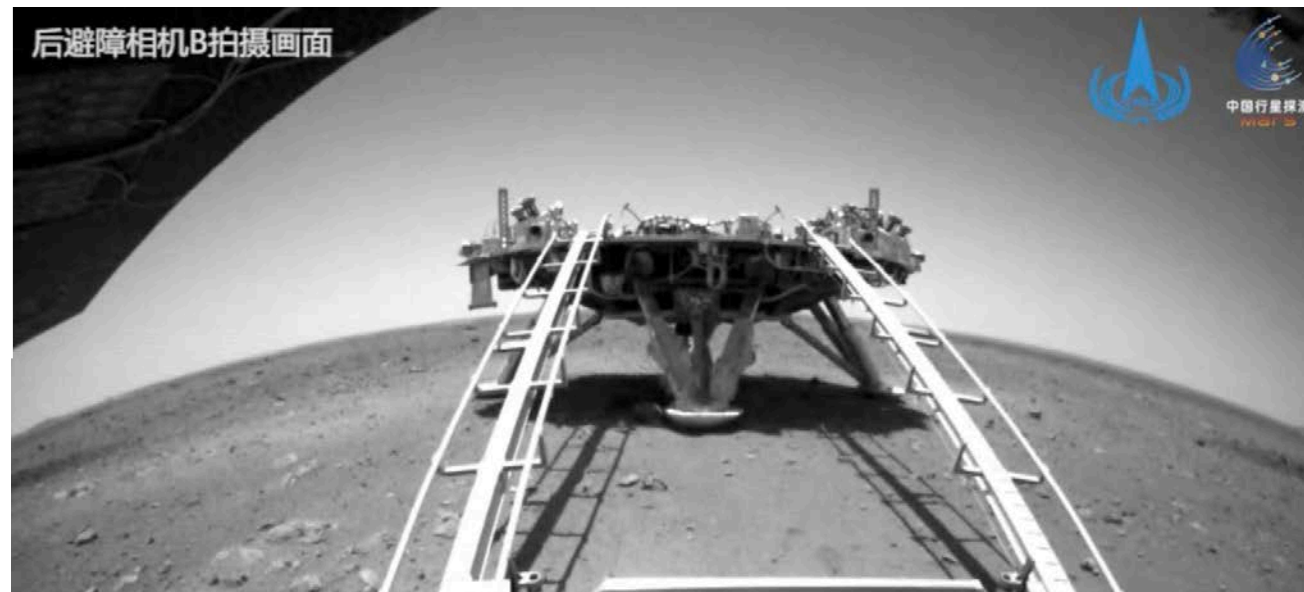
<https://spacenews.com/china-is-planning-a-complex-mars-sample-return-mission/>

And boots on the ground in 2033

June 24, 2021
12:58 AM EDT

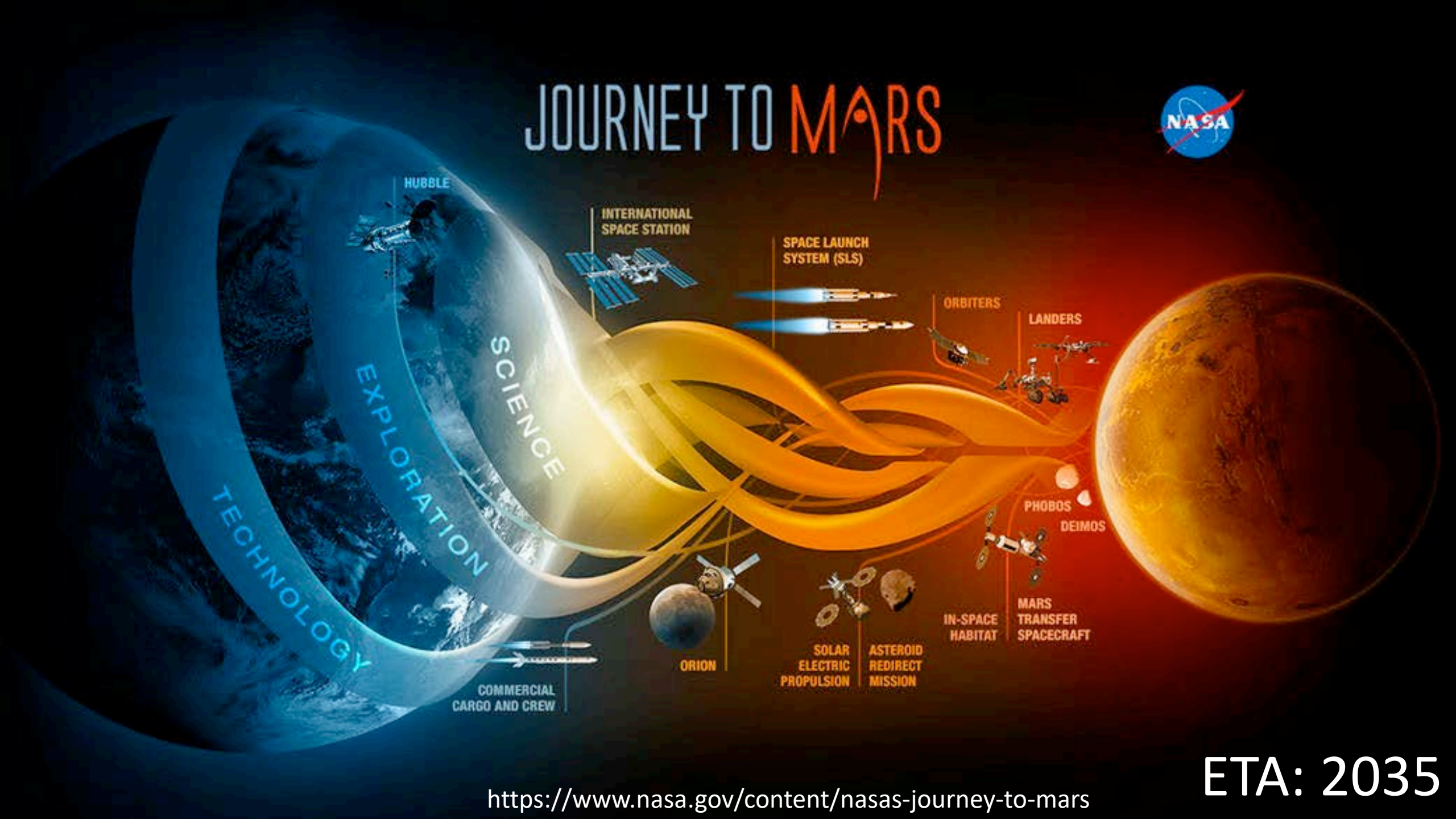
Aerospace & Defense

China plans its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033



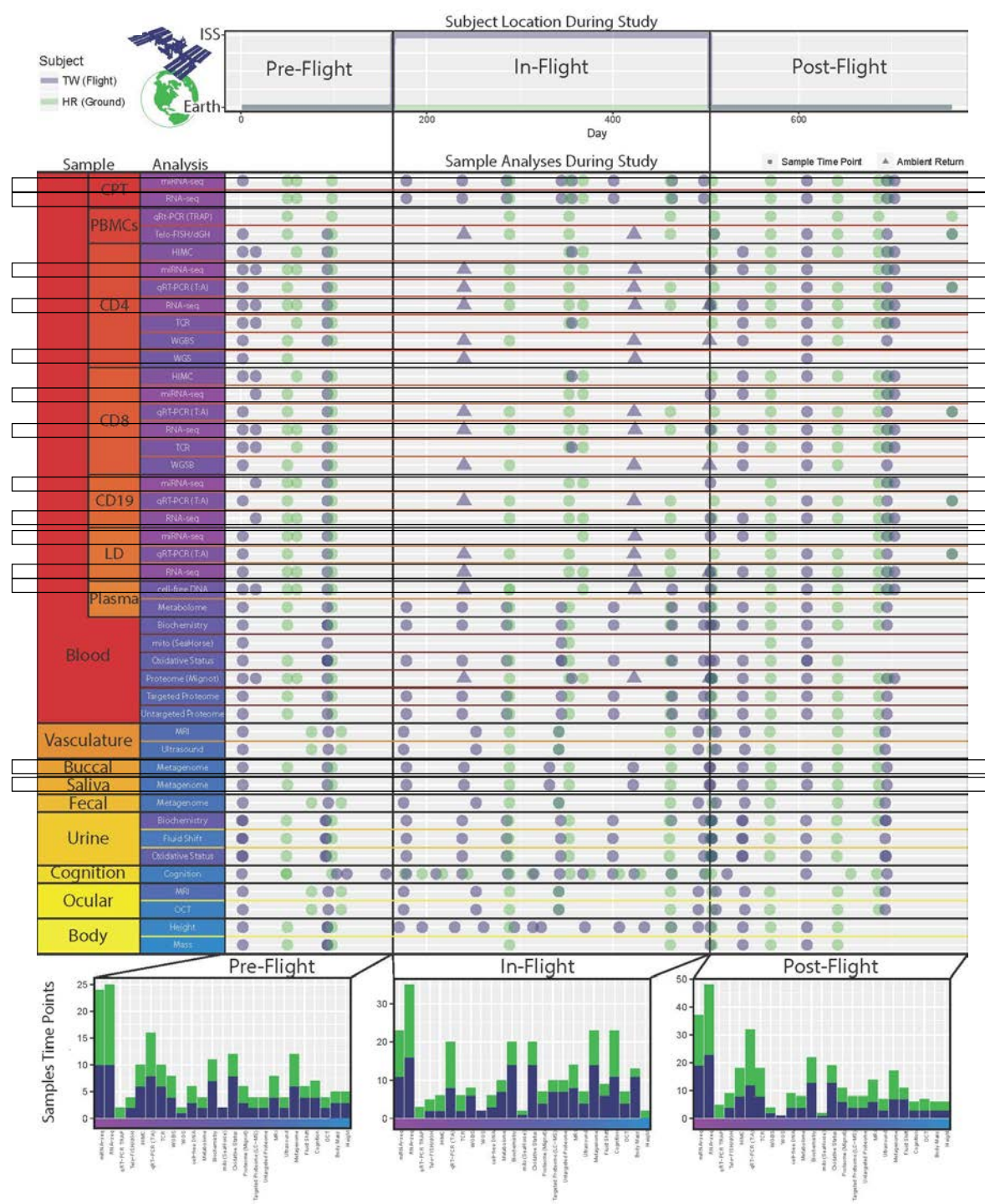
<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/china-plans-its-first-crewed-mission-mars-2033-2021-06-24/>

JOURNEY TO MARS



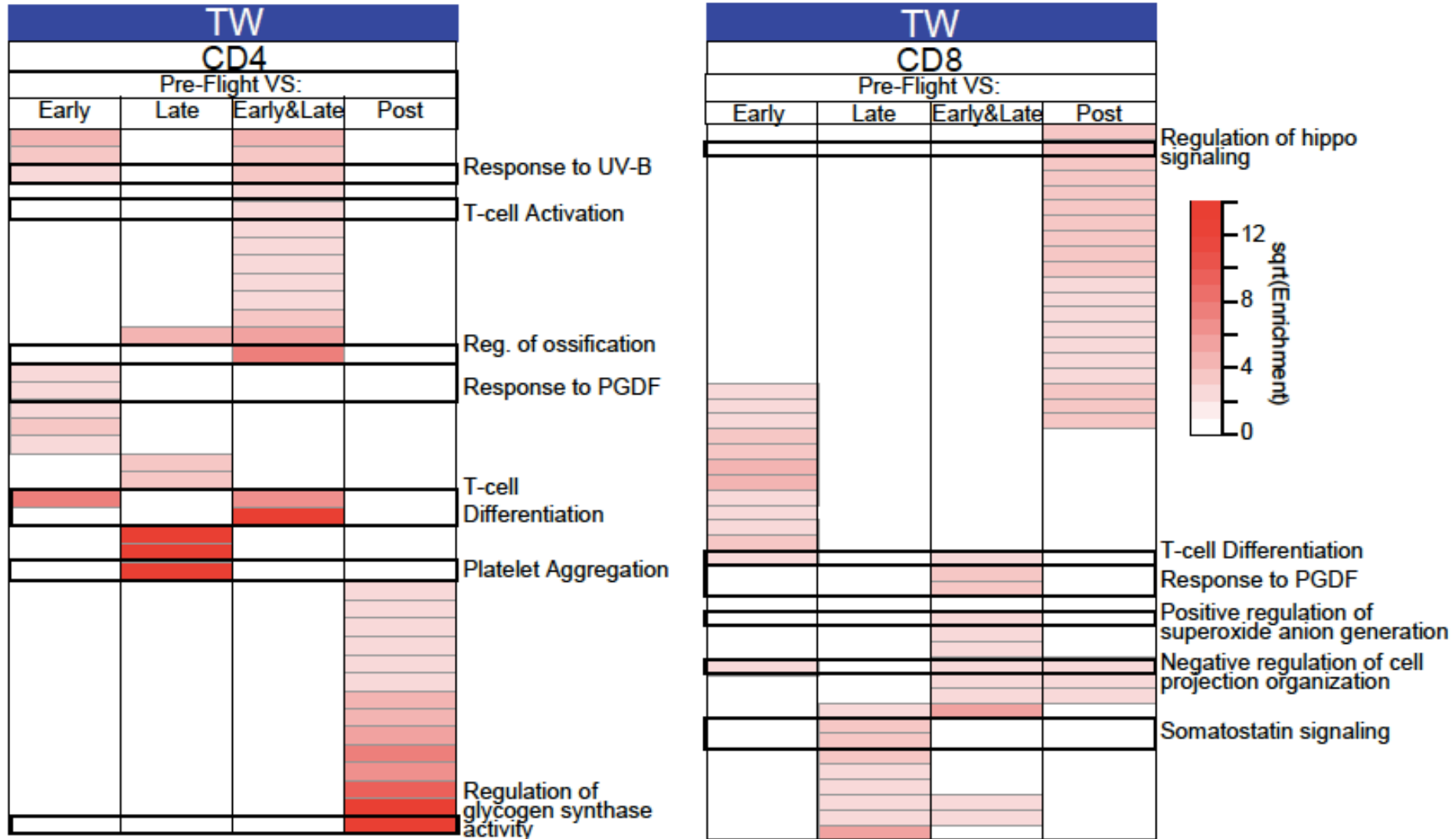
Integrative medicine with twin astronauts (and one Senator)



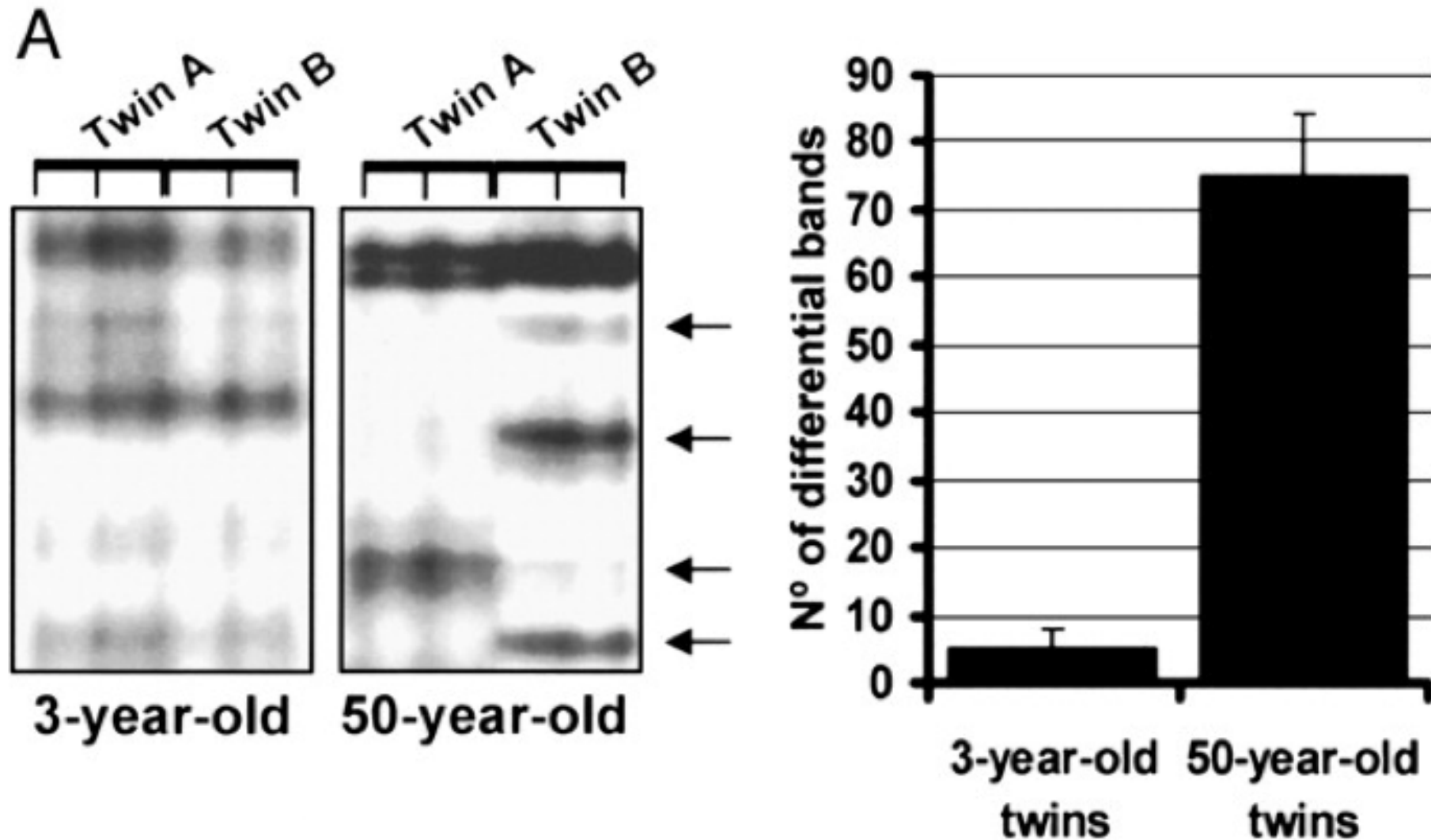


The NASA Twins Study
Garrett-Bakelman *et al.*, 2019

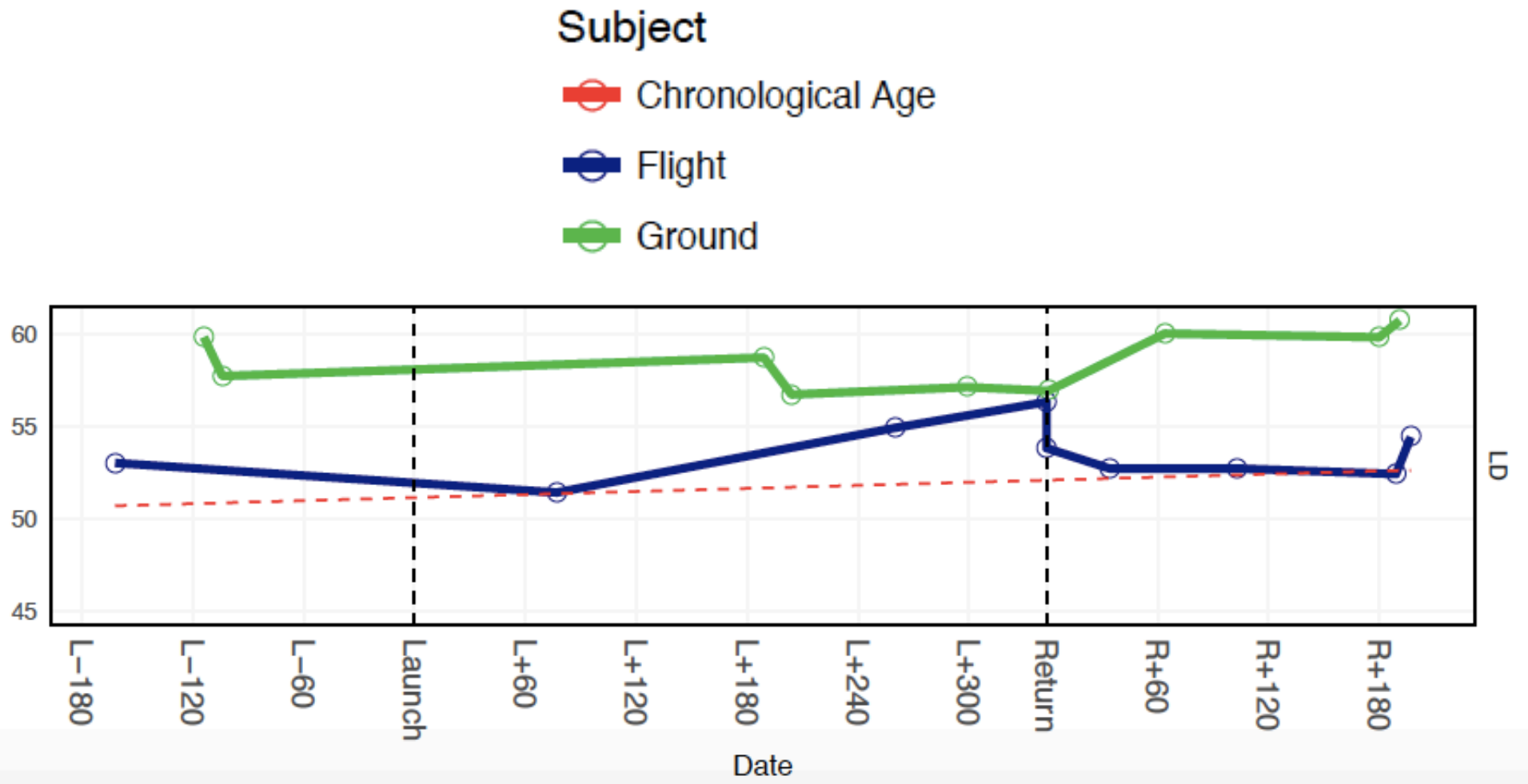
Broad epigenetic changes observed, especially in the immune system

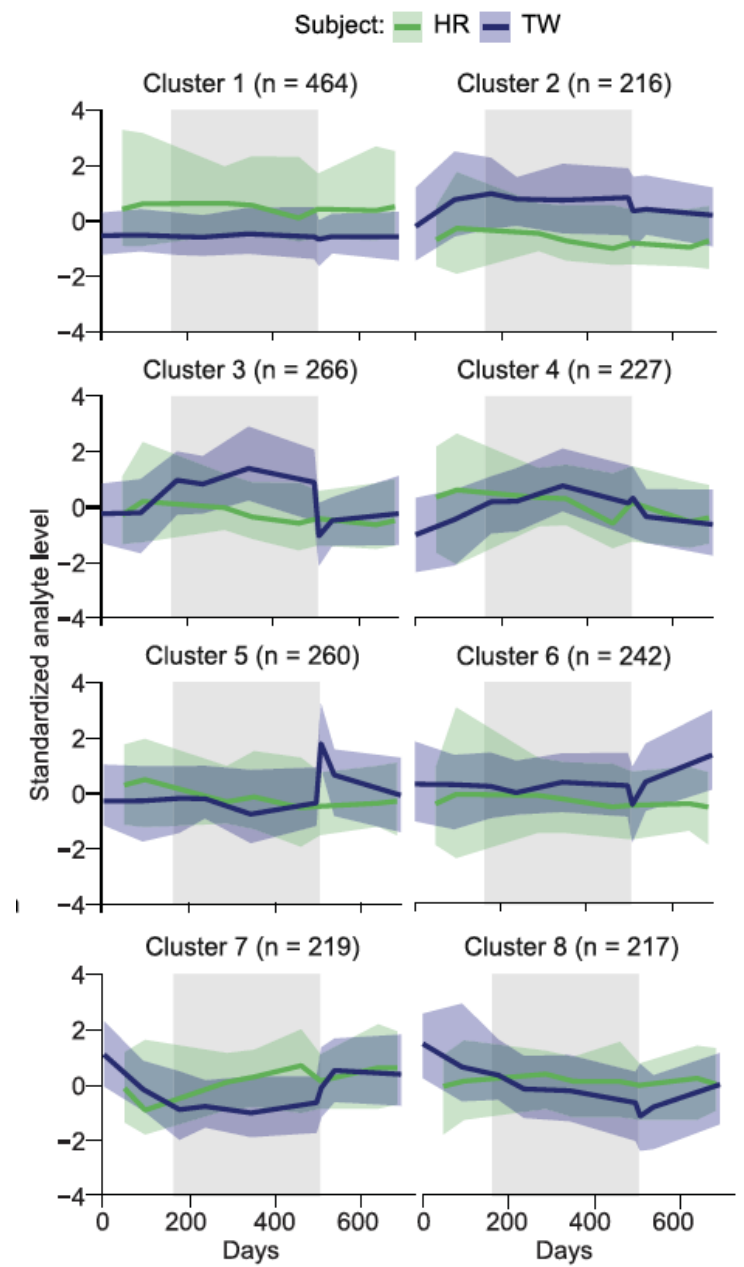
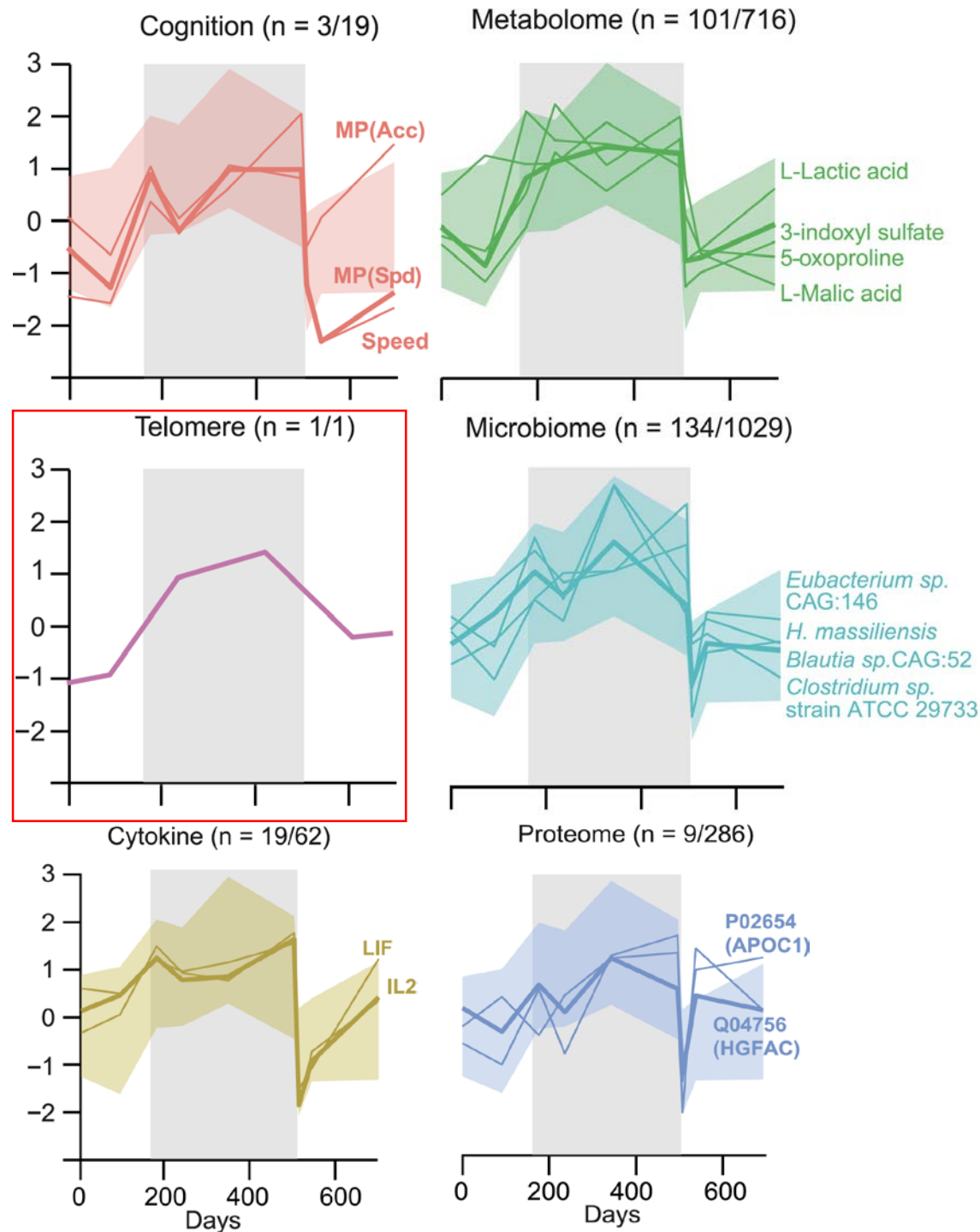


Epigenetic Drift in Twins



Epigenetic age
is almost the same after two years.







PREVIOUS STORY



One cubic foot of coral reef has a cast the size of Game of Thrones

NEXT STORY

House of Cards' fourth season and the meme-ified Frank Underwood

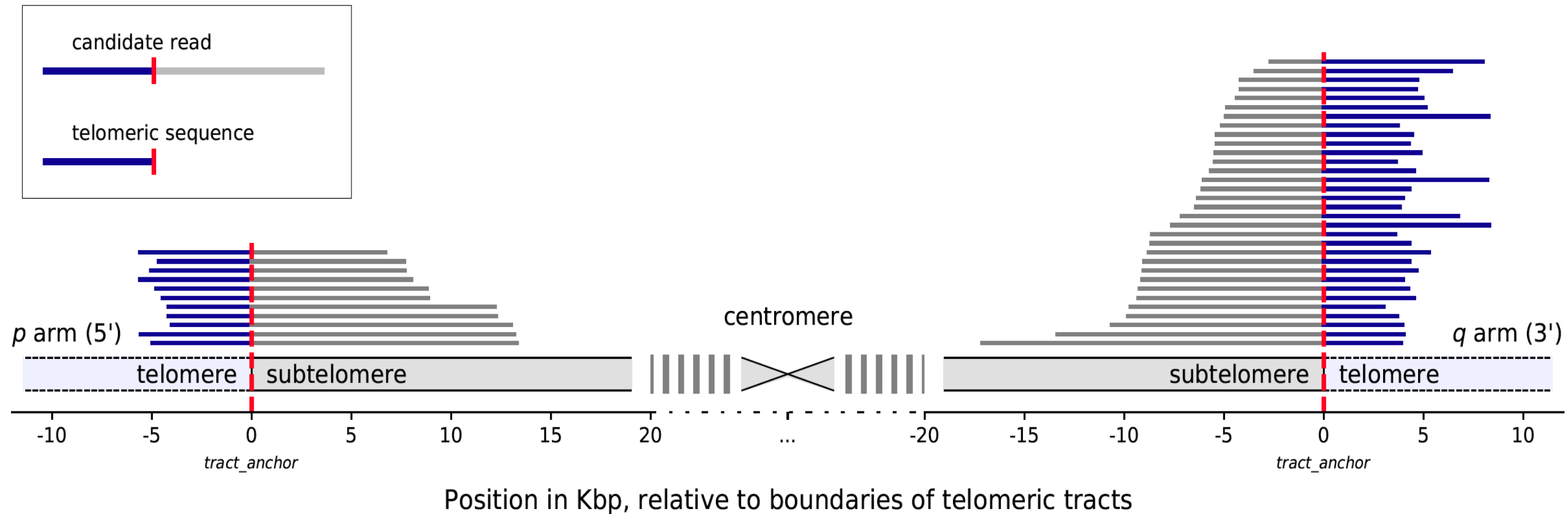
TL;DR

Space made Scott Kelly taller and younger

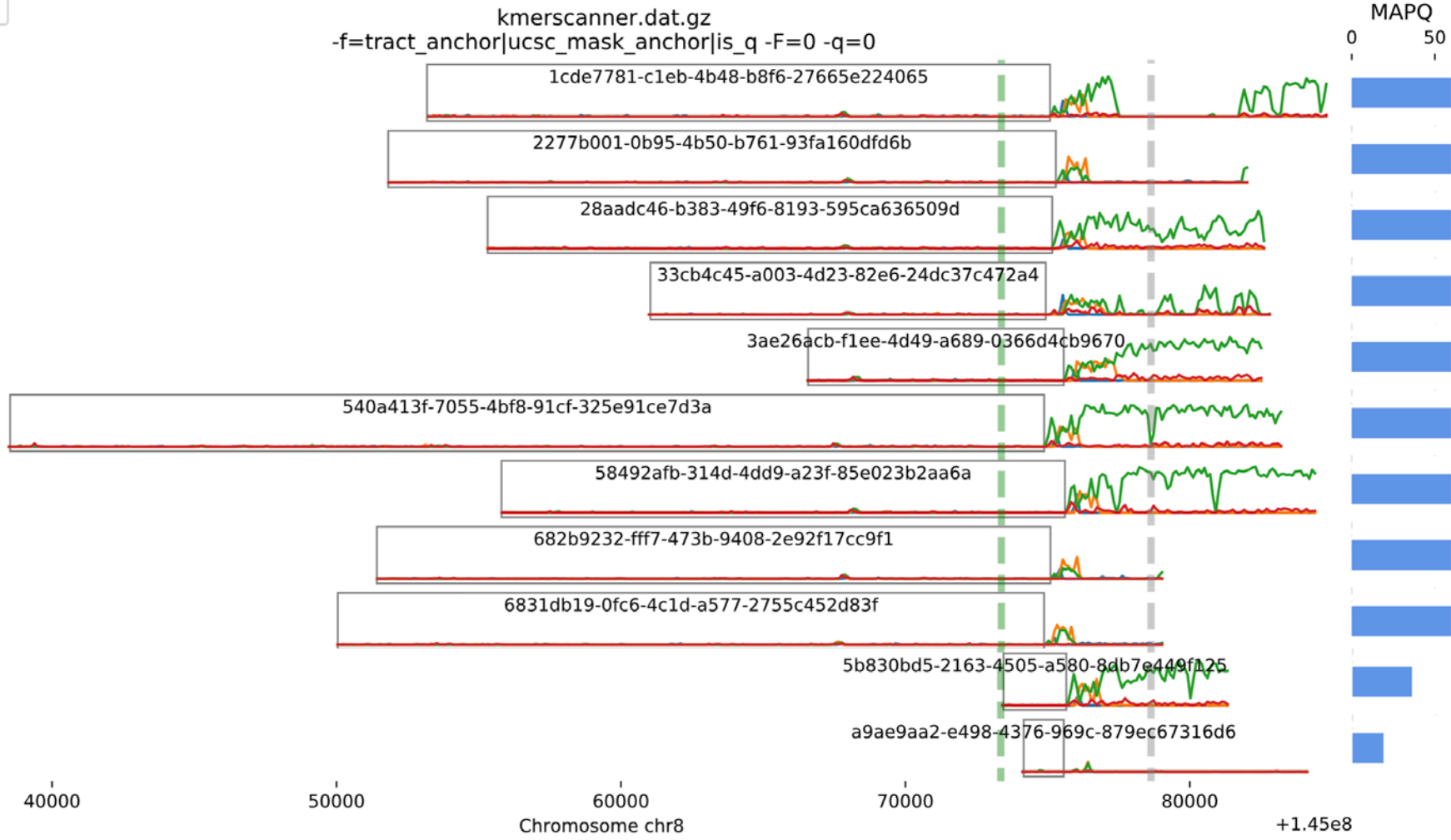
By [Loren Grush](#) on March 3, 2016 03:15 pm [@lorengrush](#)



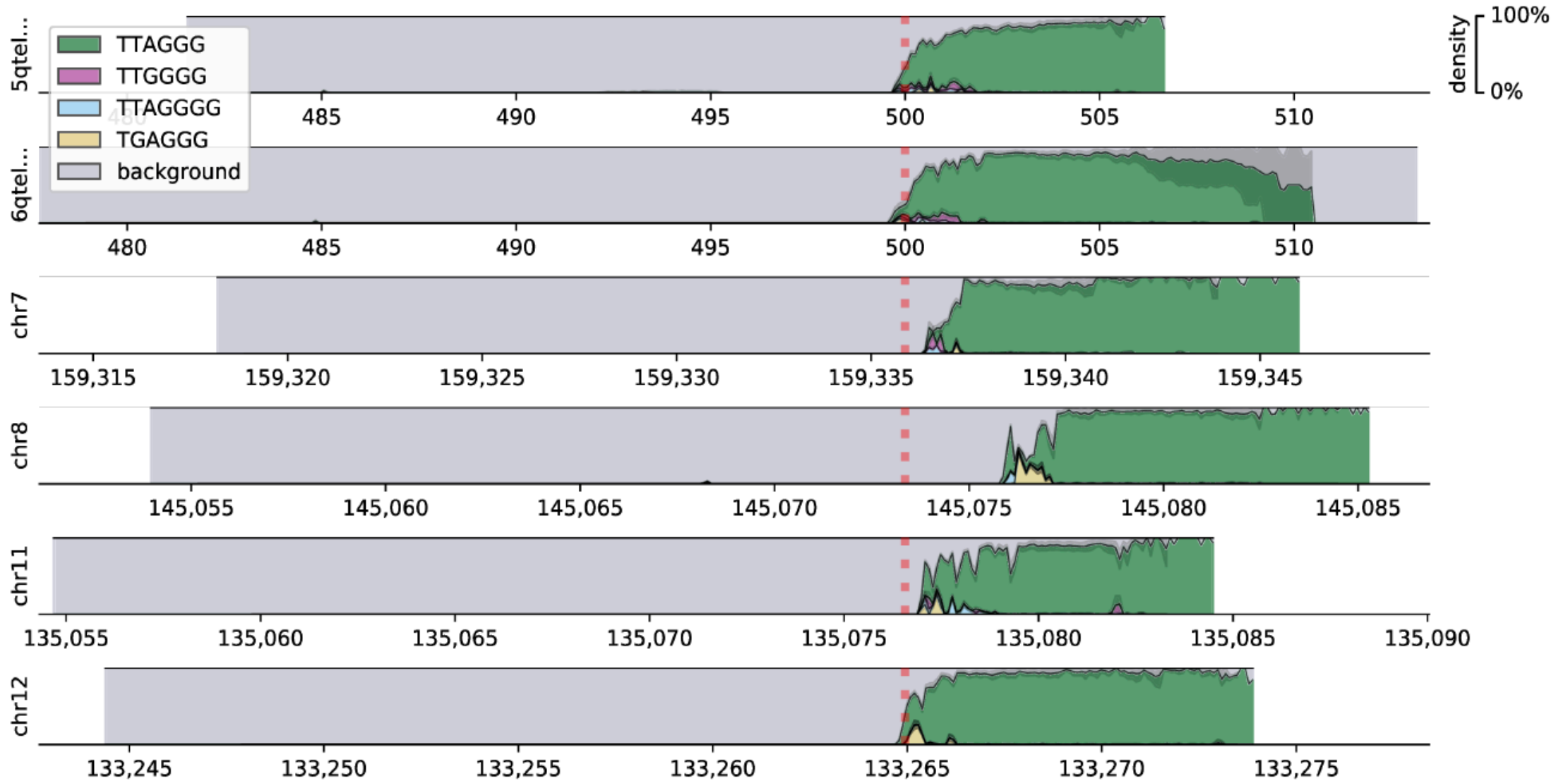
Line up the reads



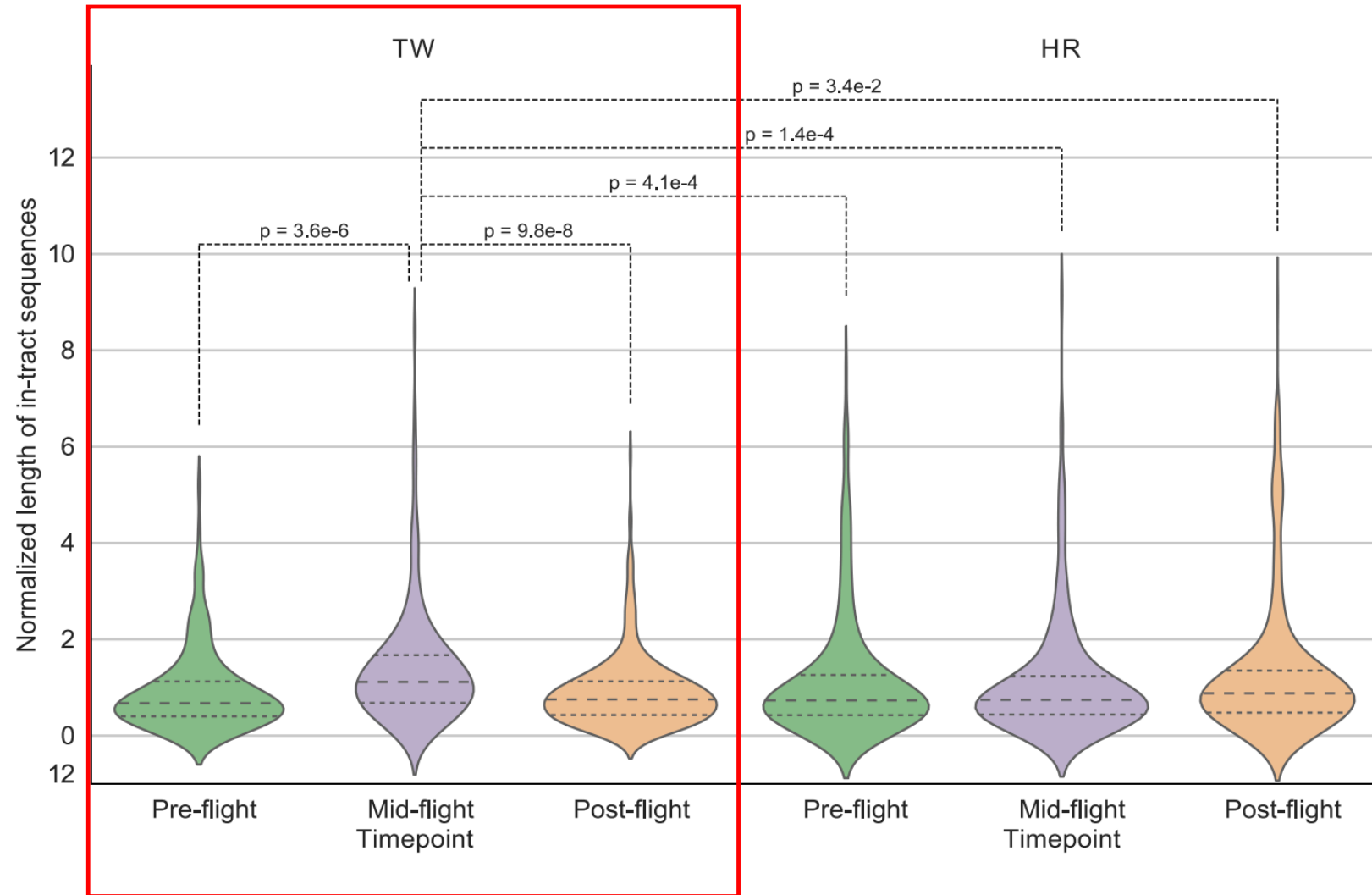
Can see it in nanopore data....



and PacBio HiFi reads



Indeed, the nanopore-based telomeres are longer in flight (TW)



But, telomeres still have many stories to tell...



CSH PRESS GENOME RESEARCH

Uncover more genes and SNPs from single cells

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Haplotype diversity and sequence heterogeneity of human telomeres

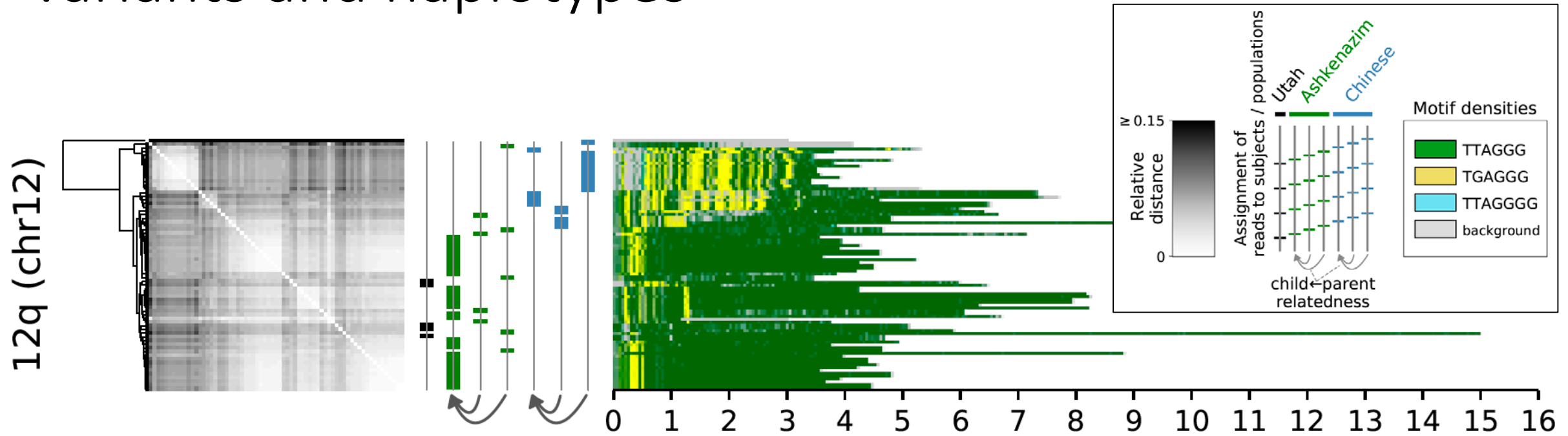
Kirill Grigorev^{1,2,10}, Jonathan Fox^{1,2,3,10}, Daniela Bezdán^{1,2,3,4,5}, Daniel Butler¹, Jared J. Luxton^{6,7}, Jake Reed¹, Miles J. McKenna^{6,7}, Lynn Taylor⁶, Kerry A. George⁸, Cem Meydan^{1,2,3}, Susan M. Bailey^{6,7} and Christopher E. Mason^{1,2,3,9}

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OPEN ACCESS ARTICLE

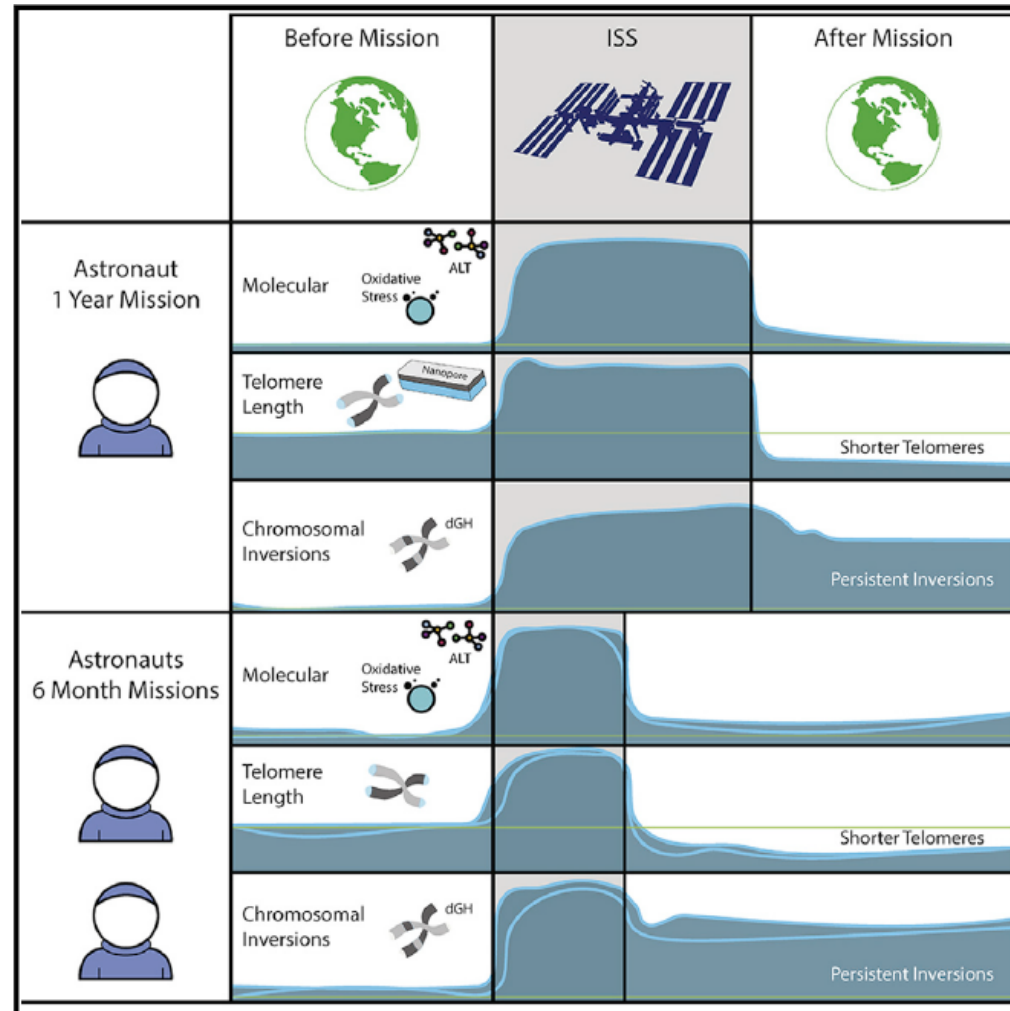
This Article
Published in Advance June 23, 2021, doi: 10.1101/gr.274639.120
Genome Res. 2021. 31: 1269-1279
© 2021 Grigorev et al.; Published

<https://genome.cshlp.org/content/31/7/1269>

Population-specific, non-canonical variants and haplotypes



Telomere elongation validated in two other astronauts



SHARE



817



28



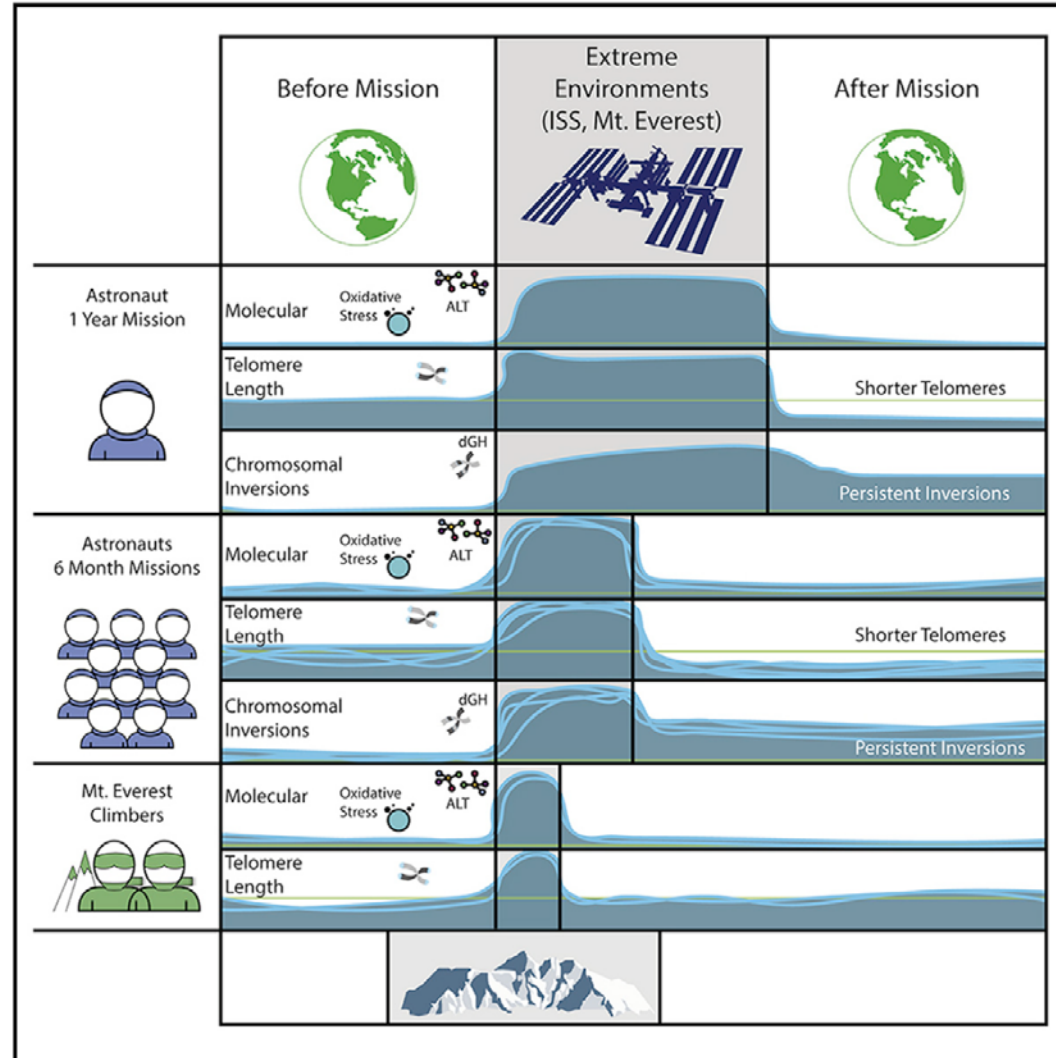
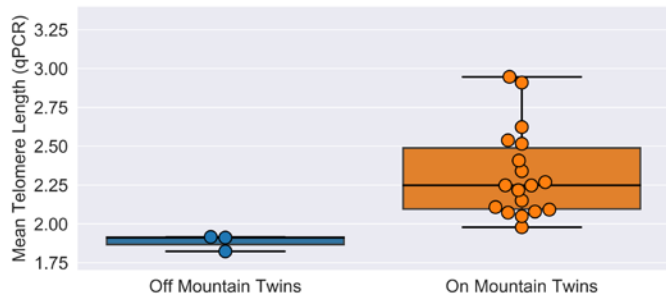
Matt Moniz (right) ascends the world's sixth-tallest peak, Mount Cho Oyu, during a 2014 climb. WILLIE BENEGAS

Two mountaineers are trying to recreate NASA's twin study—on Mount Everest

By [Vedrana Simicevic](#) | May. 4, 2018 , 12:15 PM

NASA's widely publicized twin study—which compared astronaut Scott Kelly's bodily functions to
<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/05/two-mountaineers-are-trying-recreate-nasa-s-twin-study-mount-everest>

Then 11 other astronauts & on Mt. Everest

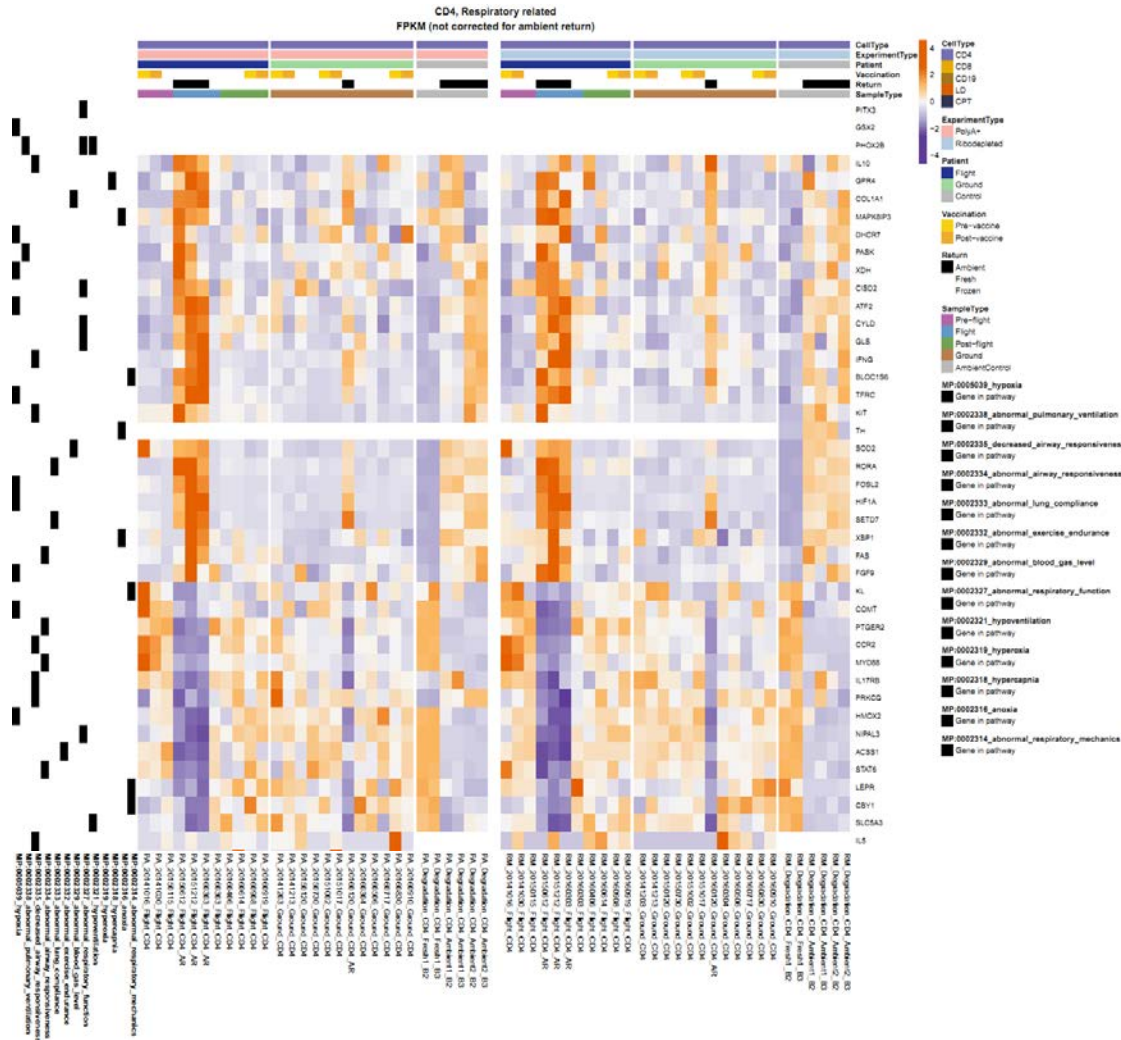


Luxton *et al.*, *Cell Reports*, 2020

[https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247\(20\)31446-7](https://www.cell.com/cell-reports/fulltext/S2211-1247(20)31446-7)

w/ Susan Bailey

Gene expression changes in flight and after: Immune system, DNA repair, and hypercapnia



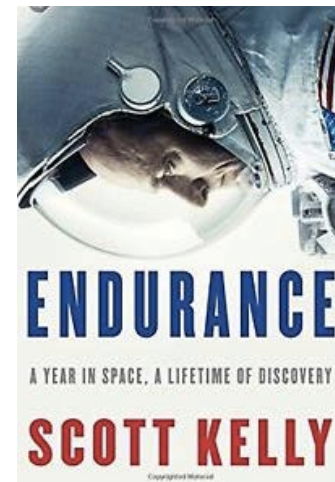
Relationship Between Carbon Dioxide Levels and Reported Headaches on the International Space Station

Jennifer Law, MD, MPH, Mary Van Baalen, MS, Millennia Foy, PhD, Sara S. Mason, BS, Claudia Mendez, MPH, Mary L. Wear, PhD, Valerie E. Meyers, PhD, DABT, and David Alexander, MD

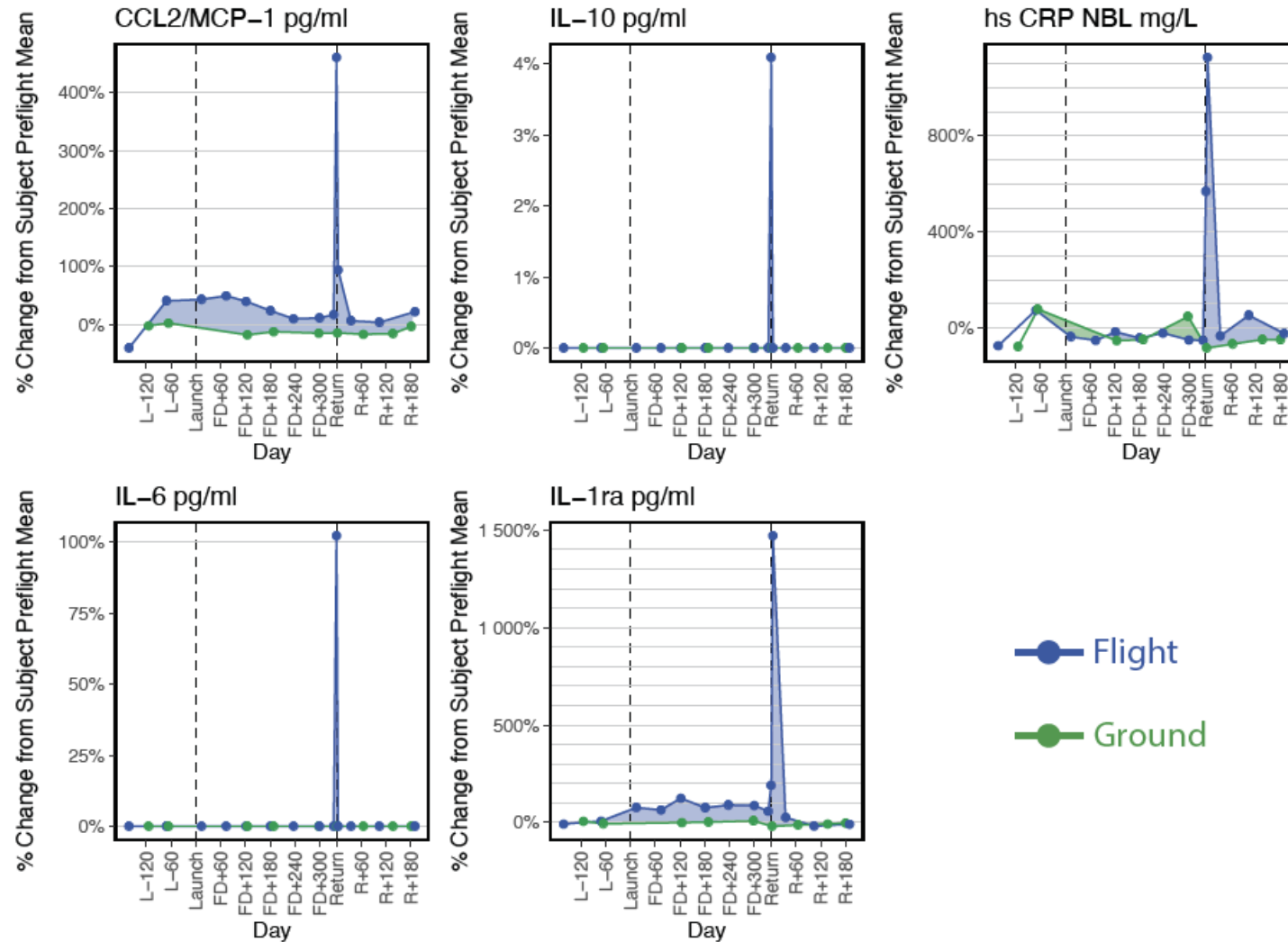
Objective: Because of anecdotal reports of CO₂-related symptoms onboard the International Space Station (ISS), the relationship between CO₂ and in-flight headaches was analyzed. **Methods:** Headache reports and CO₂ measurements were obtained, and arithmetic means and single-point maxima were determined for 24-hour and 7-day periods. Multiple imputation addressed missing data, and logistic regression modeled the relationship between CO₂, headache probability, and covariates. **Results:** CO₂ level, age at launch, time in-flight, and data source were significantly associated with headache. For each 1-mm Hg increase in CO₂, the odds of a crew member reporting a headache doubled. To keep the risk of headache below 1%, average 7-day CO₂ would need to be maintained below 2.5 mm Hg (current ISS range: 1 to 9 mm Hg). **Conclusions:** Although headache incidence was not high, results suggest an increased susceptibility to physiological effects of CO₂ in-flight.

were similar for the two levels of exposure, headache complaints were more frequent during the early days of exposure to the higher level. Furthermore, CBFv increased at days 1 and 5 after discontinuation of hypercapnia. In addition, although CBF and cerebral blood volume (CBV) change similarly during hypercapnia on the Earth,¹¹ CBF and CBV may not have the same relationship in spaceflight because of impaired venous drainage caused by the cephalad fluid shift; therefore, increased flow may increase the volume.

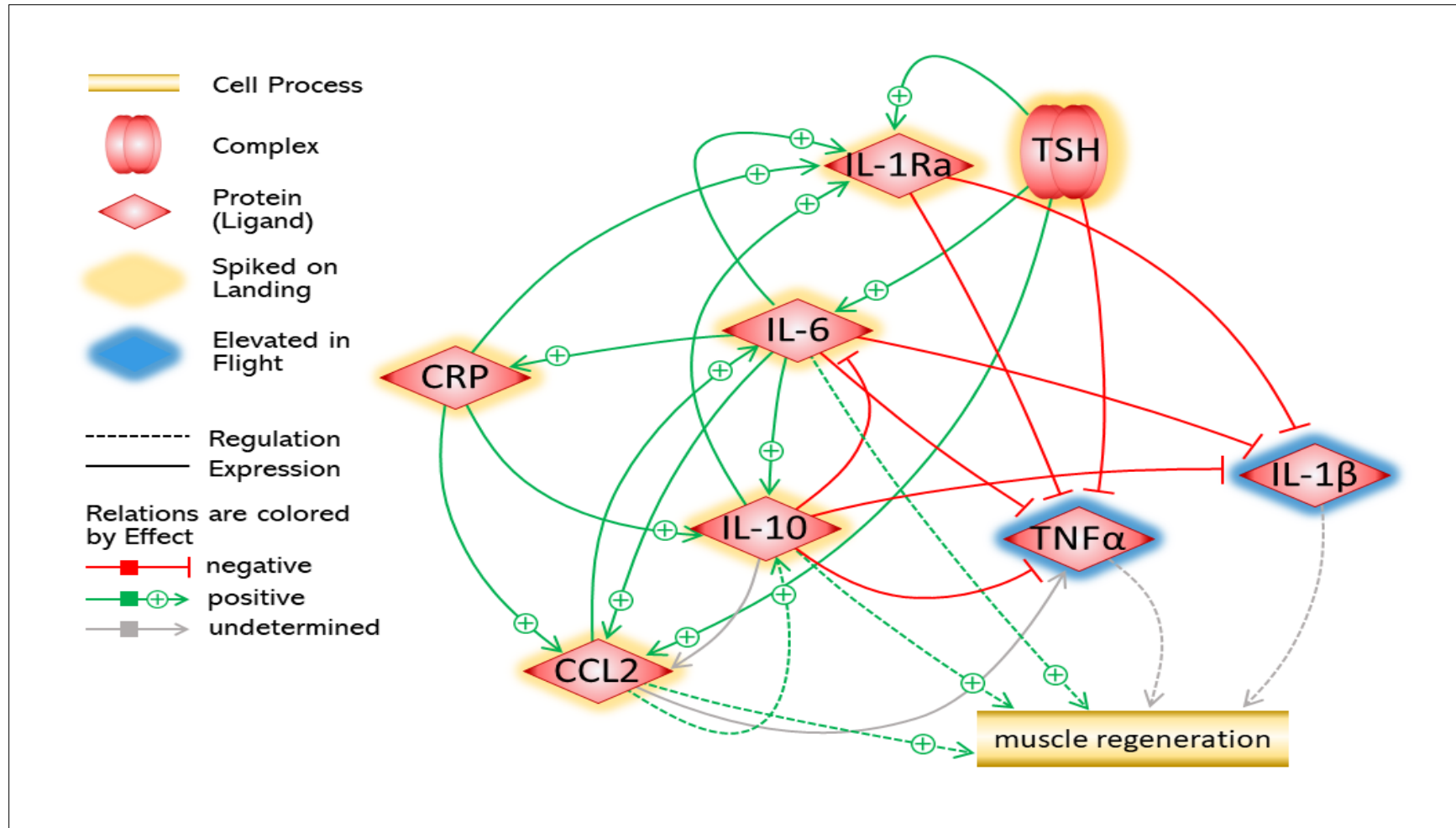
Terrestrially, healthy males can tolerate CO₂ levels below 7.5 mm Hg indefinitely and up to 480 minutes at 11 mm Hg without acute health effects. Individuals begin to experience headache



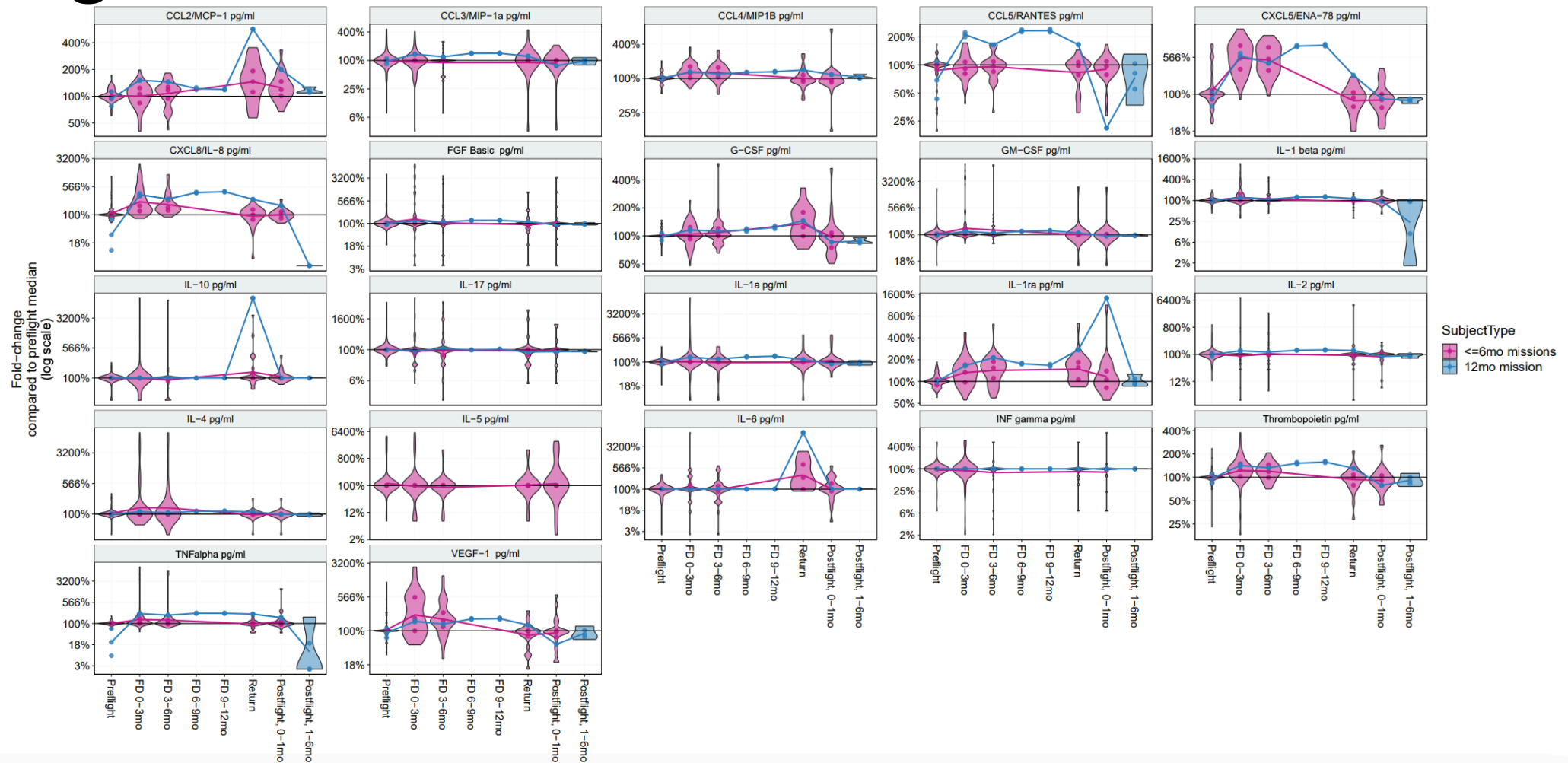
Space is hard; landing is harder



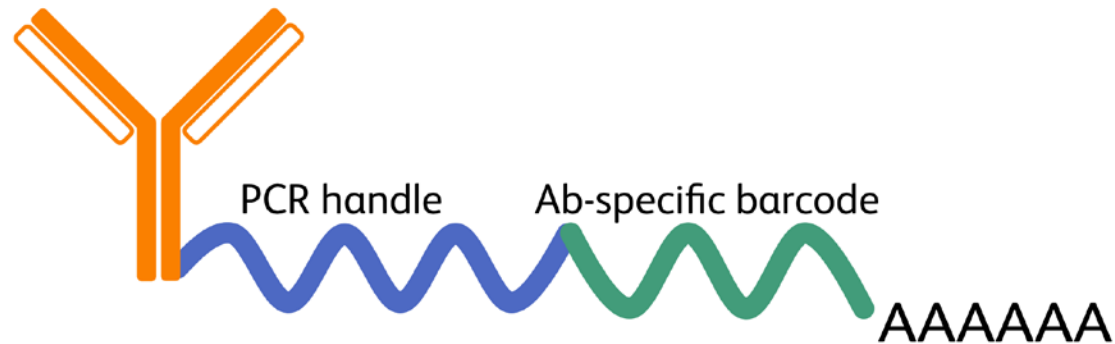
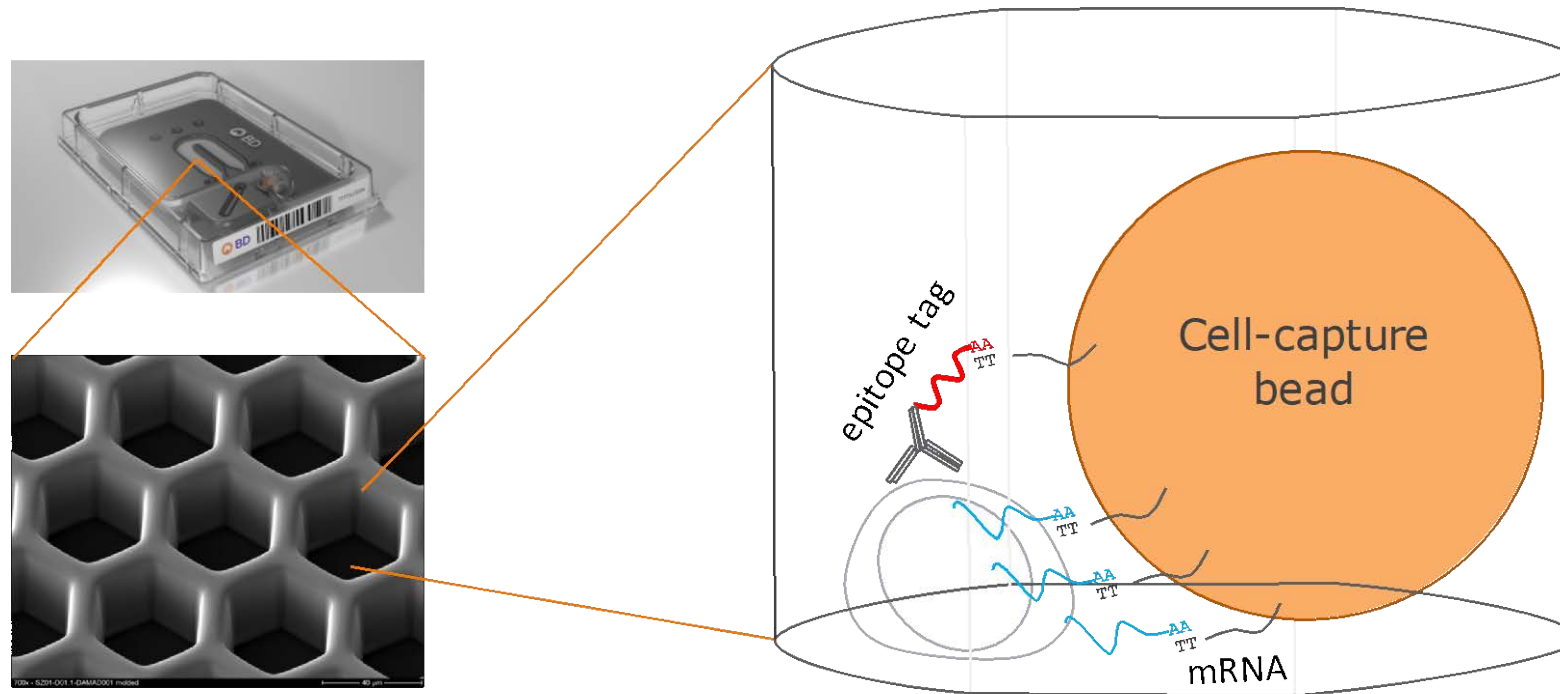
The return of muscles' use



Some differences as a function of mission length

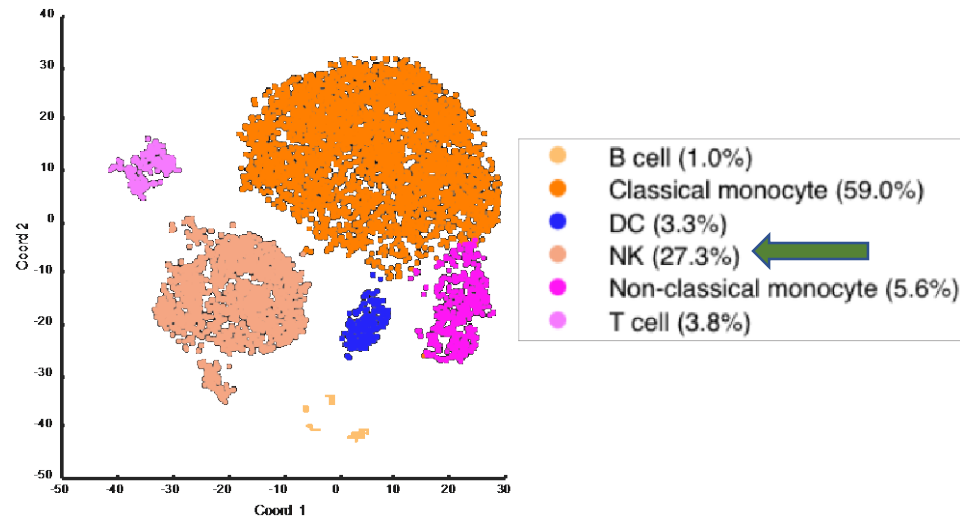


Single-cell expression and 100-plex protein epitope tagging at the same time (BD Rhapsody AbSeq)

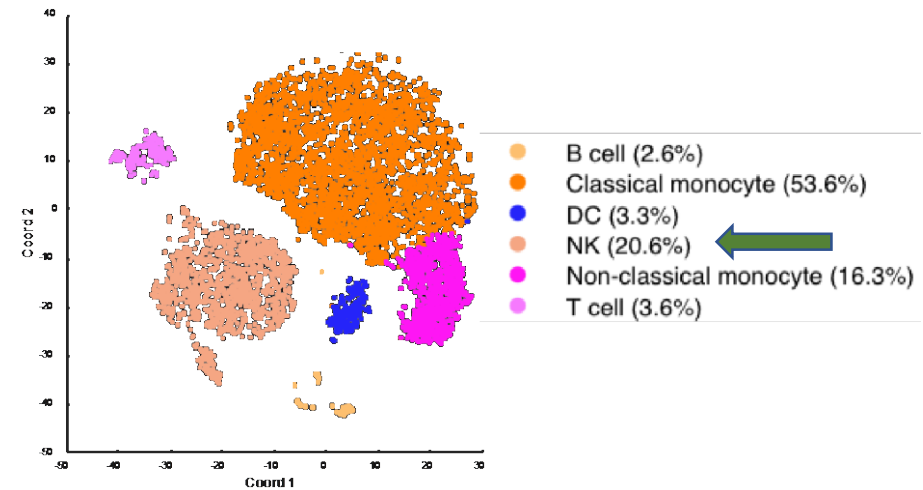


Shifts found in the immune cell types : NK cells, monocytes

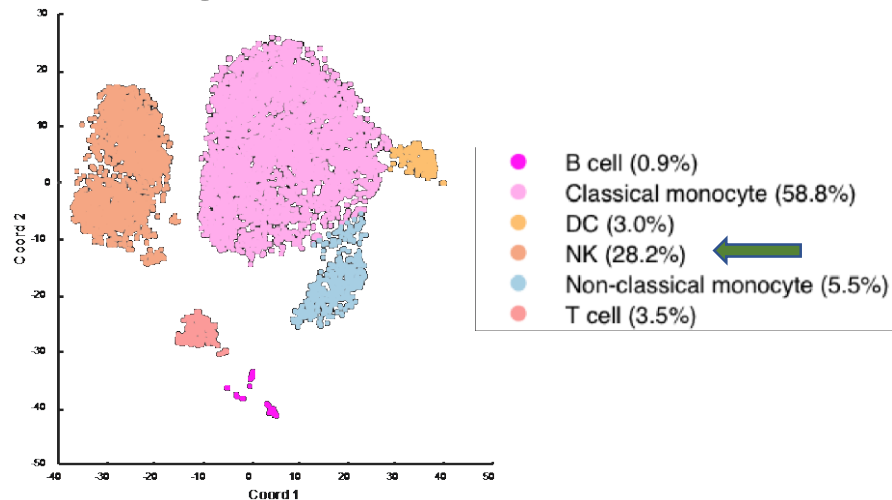
Pre-flight Cells (epitope)



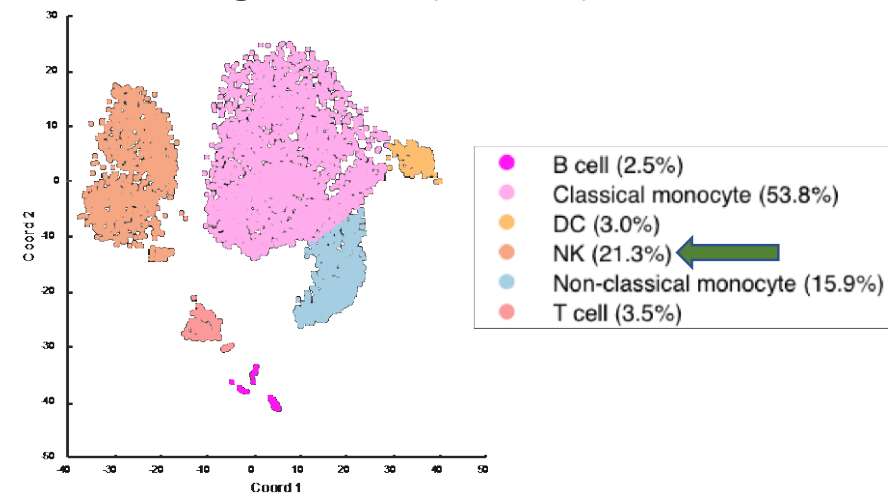
Post-flight Cells (epitope)



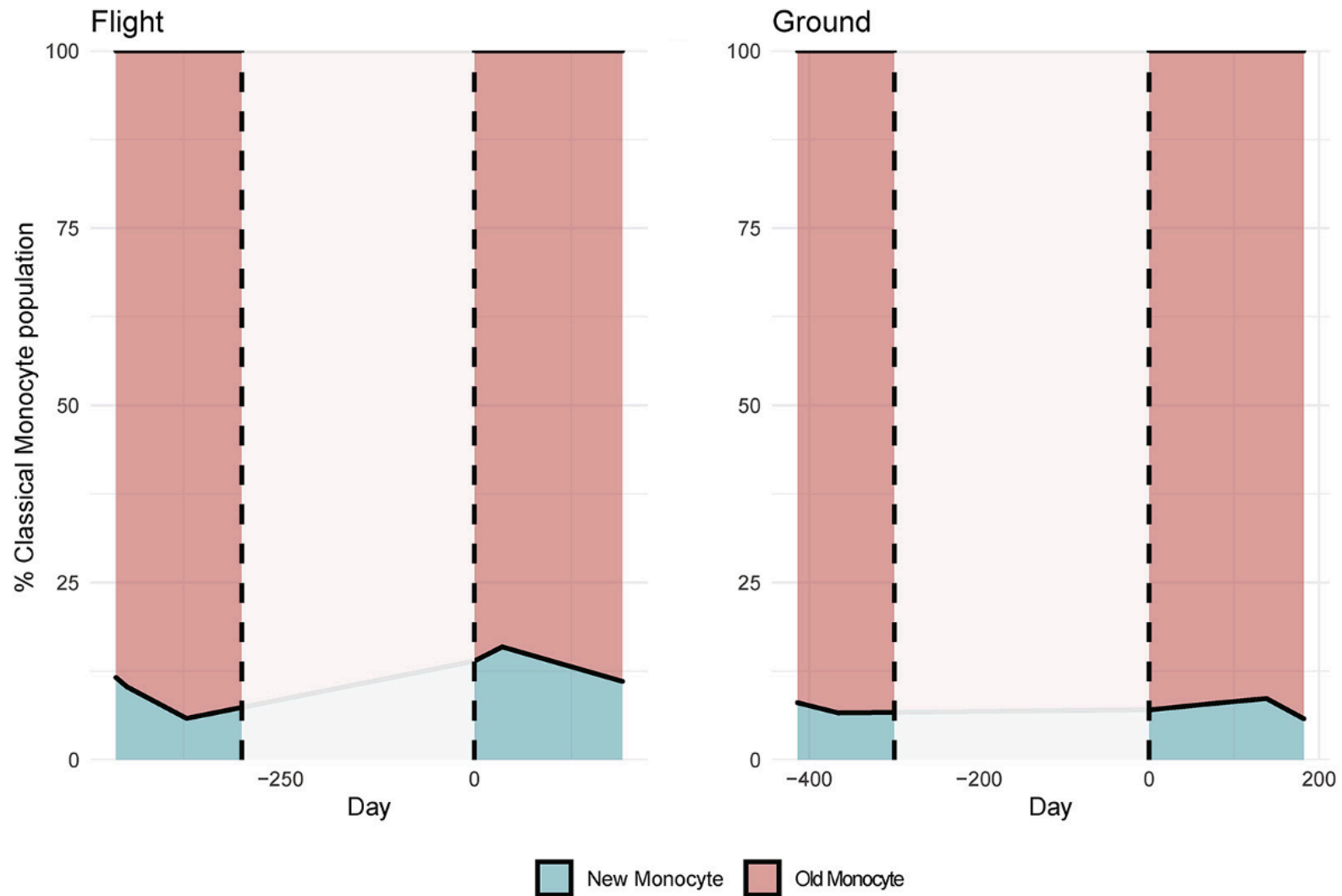
Pre-flight Cells (mRNA)



Post-flight Cells (mRNA)



Increase of monocytes upon landing



Inflammation and aging?

What is Inflammaging?

What is Inflammaging?




Everyone has some mutations...




nature
genetics

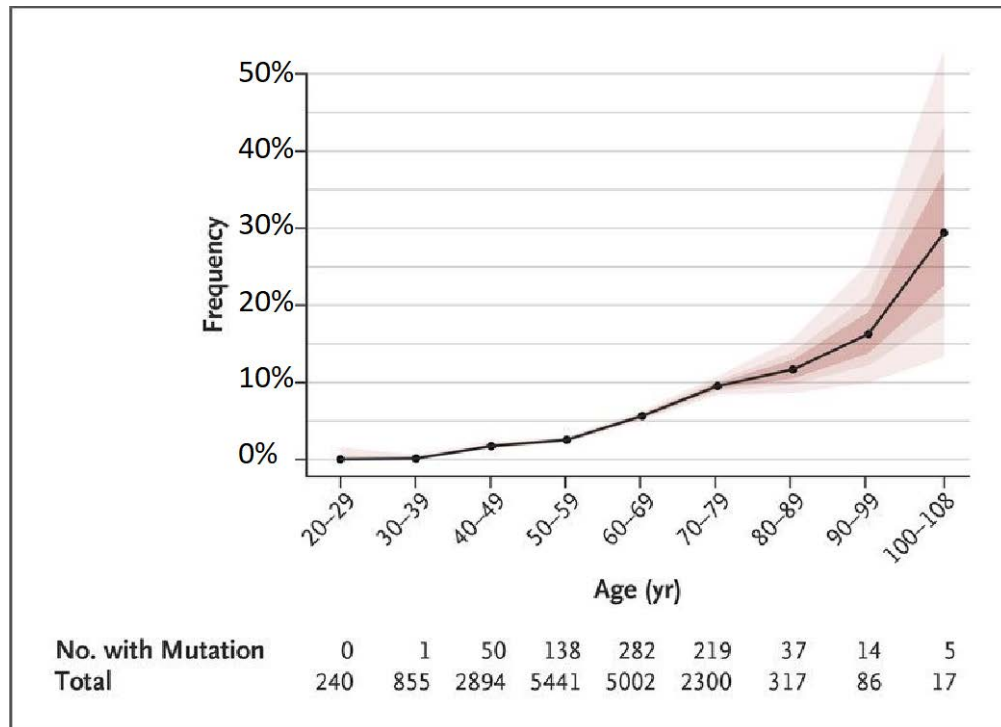
Brief Communication | Published: 23 September 2012

Recurrent somatic *TET2* mutations in normal elderly individuals with clonal hematopoiesis

Lambert Busque , Jay P Patel, Maria E Figueroa, Aparna Vasanthakumar, Sylvie Provost, Zineb Hamilou, Luigina Mollica, Juan Li, Agnes Viale, Adriana Heguy, Maryam Hassimi, Nicholas Socci, Parva K Bhatt, Mithat Gonen, Christopher E Mason, Ari Melnick, Lucy A Godley, Cameron W Brennan, Omar Abdel-Wahab & Ross L Levine 

Nature Genetics **44**, 1179–1181 (2012) | [Download Citation](#) 

Inevitable Mutations? Clonal Hematopoiesis of Indeterminate Potential (CHIP)



nature
medicine

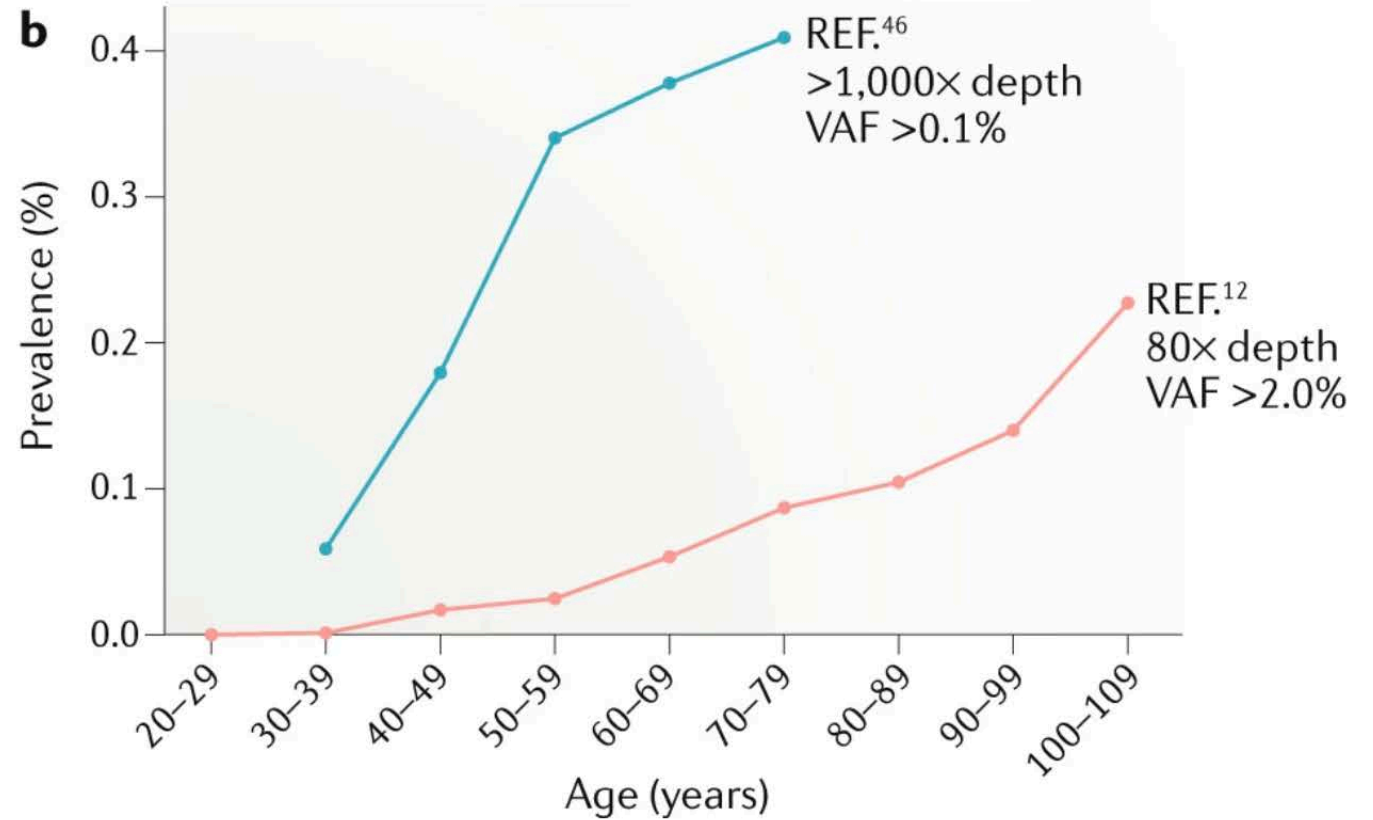
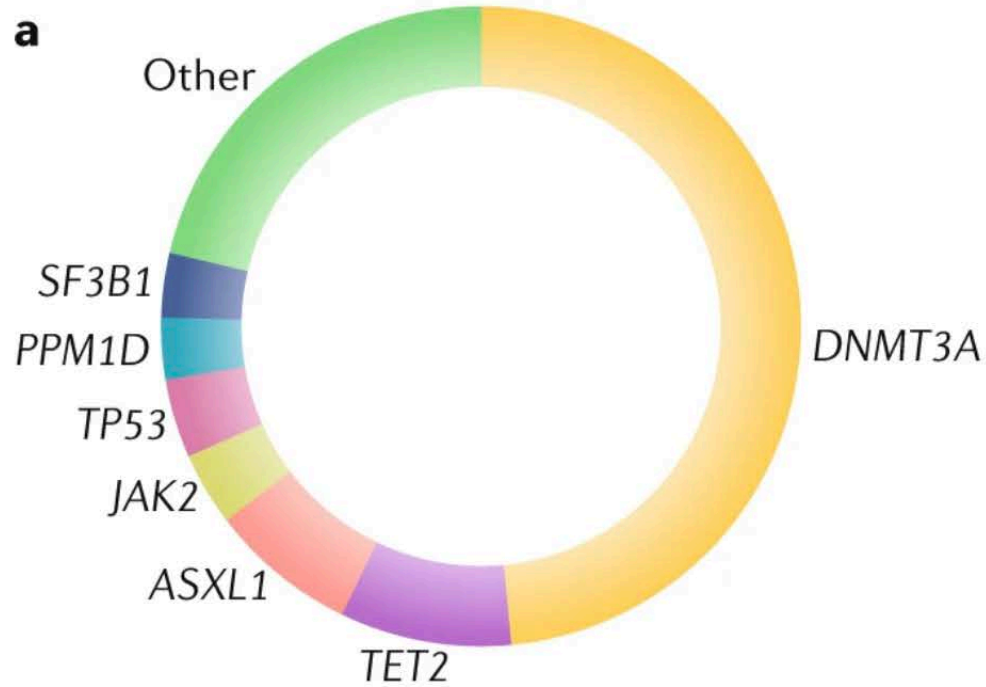
Article | Published: 09 July 2018

Somatic mutations precede acute myeloid leukemia years before diagnosis

Pinkal Desai , Nuria Mencia-Trinchant, Oleksandr Savenkov, Michael S. Simon, Gloria Cheang, Sangmin Lee, Michael Samuel, Ellen K. Ritchie, Monica L. Guzman, Karla V. Ballman, Gail J. Roboz & Duane C. Hassane 

Nature Medicine **24**, 1015–1023 (2018) | [Download Citation](#) ↓

Interaction between the immune system and CHIP; if you sequence deep enough, you find it



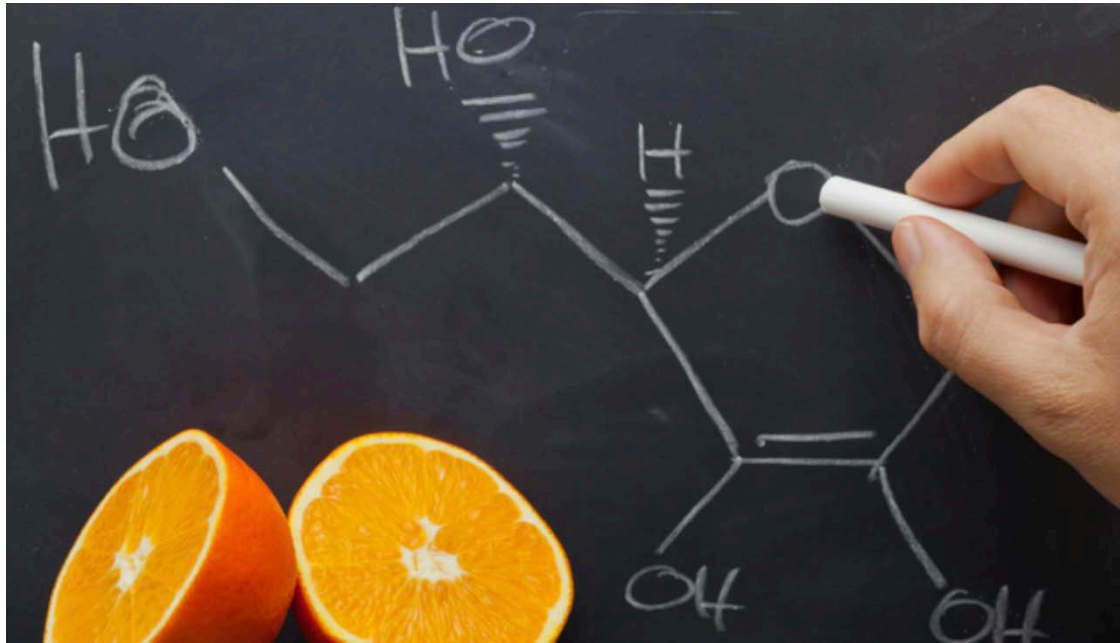
The stem cells encode their own dominance

Resistance to inflammation underlies enhanced fitness in clonal hematopoiesis

[S. AVAGYAN](#) , [J. E. HENNINGER](#) , [W. P. MANNHERZ](#) , [M. MISTRY](#) , [J. YOON](#) , [S. YANG](#) , [M. C. WEBER](#), [J. L. MOORE](#) , AND [L. I. ZON](#)  [Authors Info](#)

clones to expand over time, resulting in clonal dominance. Progenitors in the dominant clone expressed anti-inflammatory factors to resist the inflammatory environment produced by their own mature progeny, leading to a self-perpetuating cycle promoting clonal fitness. Targeting these resistance pathways may be

Maybe some ways to reduce it:
such as Vitamin C (in mice)?



- Vitamin C treatment mimics *Tet2* restoration to block leukemia progression
- Vitamin C treatment in leukemia cells enhances their sensitivity to PARP inhibition

Restoration of TET2 Function Blocks Aberrant Self-Renewal and Leukemia Progression

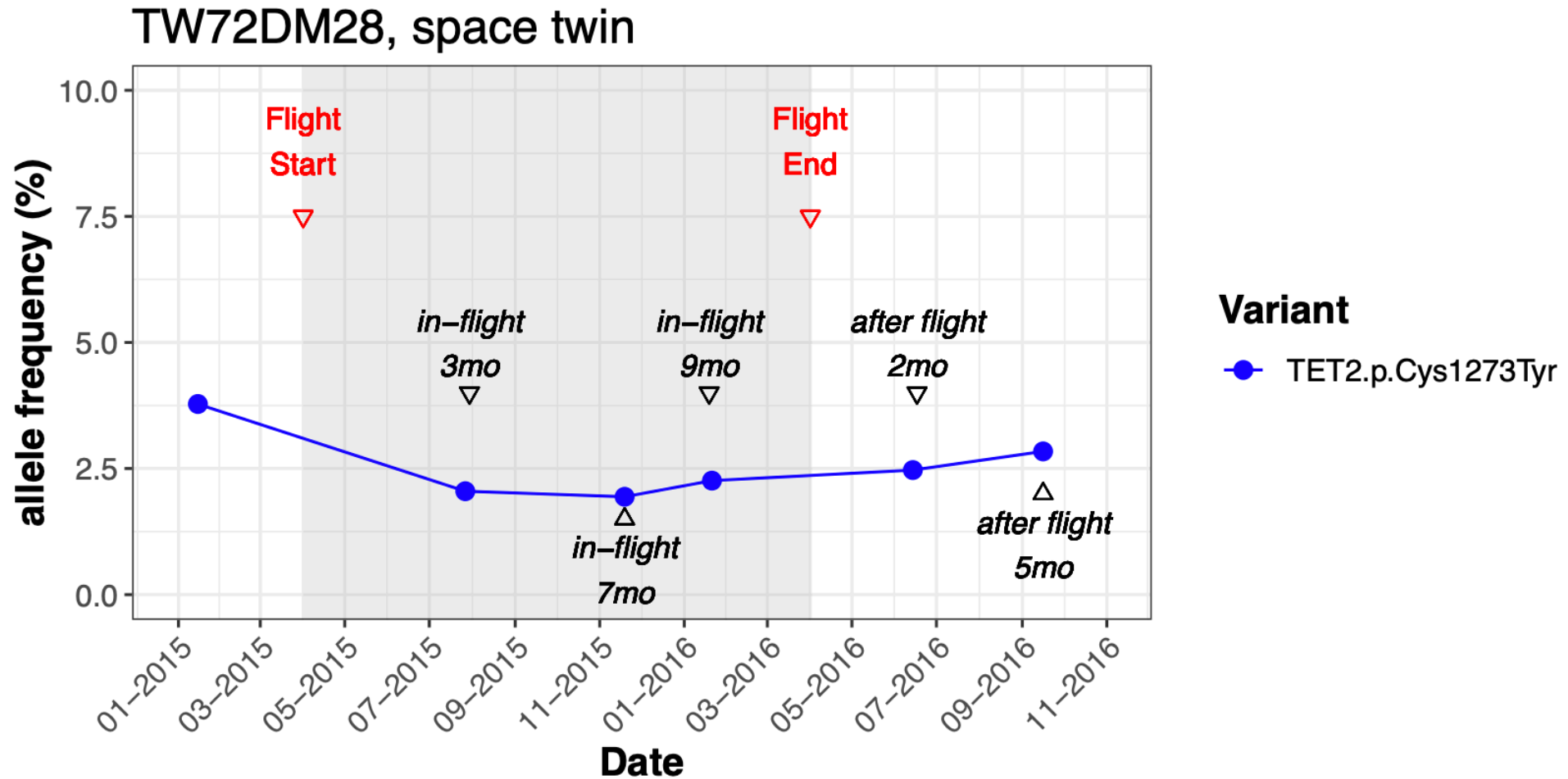
Luisa Cimmino   • Igor Dolgalev • Yubao Wang • ... Aristotelis Tsirigos • Benjamin G. Neel  ⁸ 

Iannis Aifantis  ^{8, 9}  • Show all authors • Show footnotes



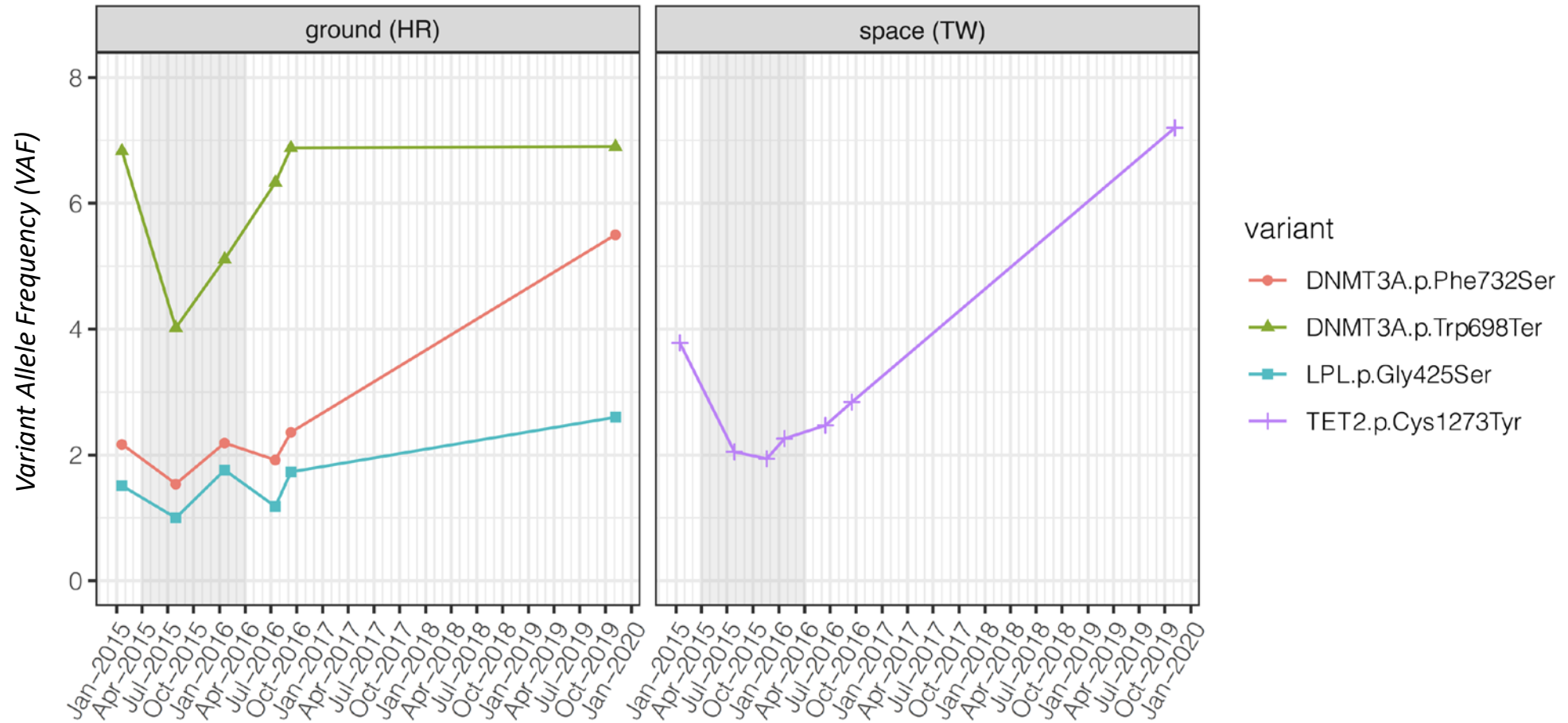
<https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0092867417308681>

And...CHIP gets a little better in space

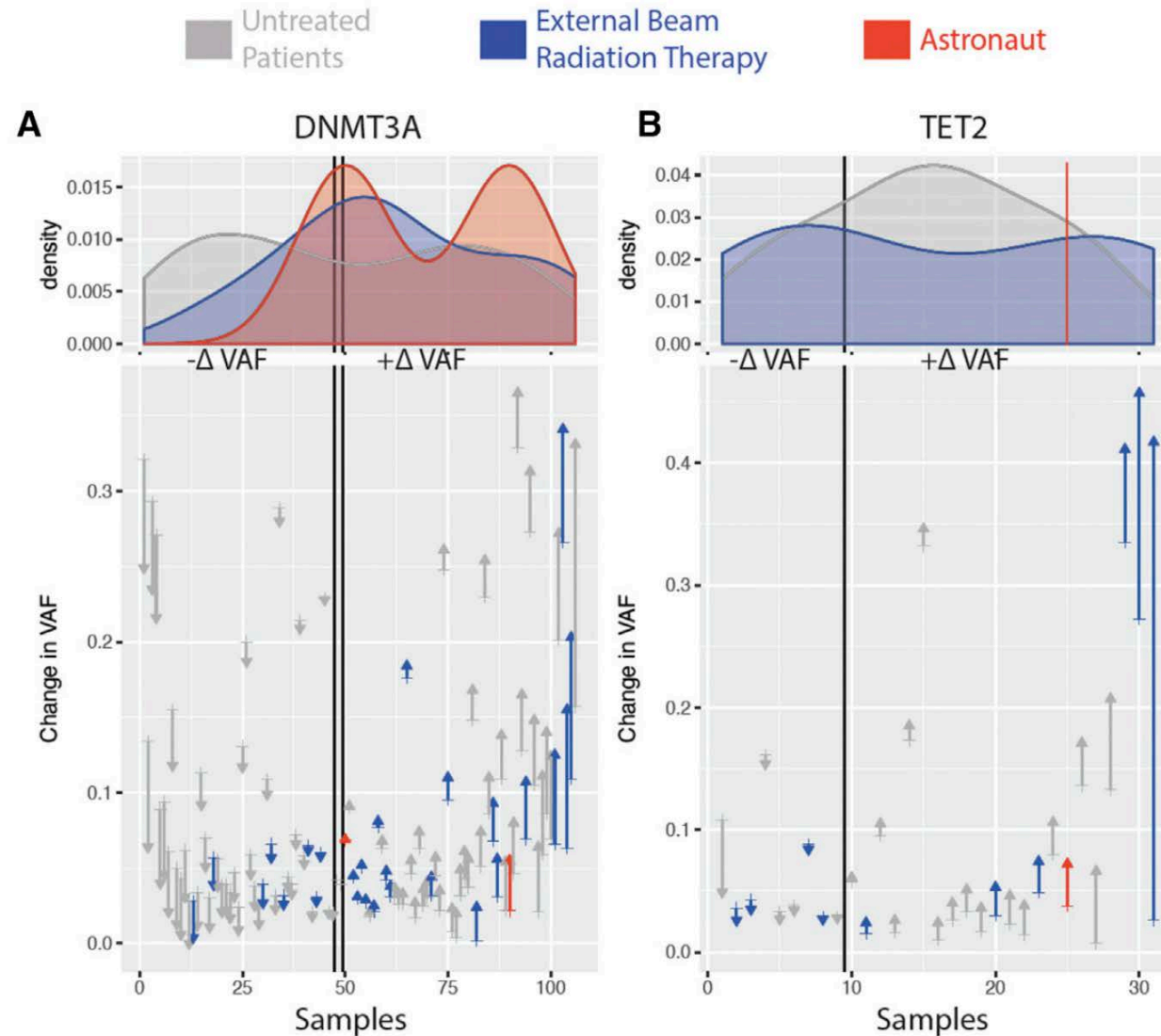


But...

It came back









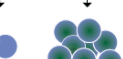

Compared to beam radiation, mid-range VAF changes

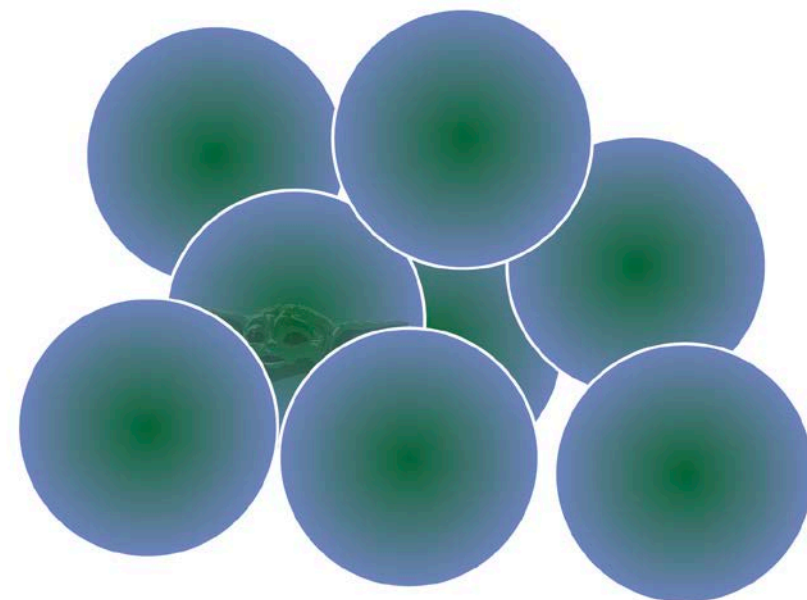
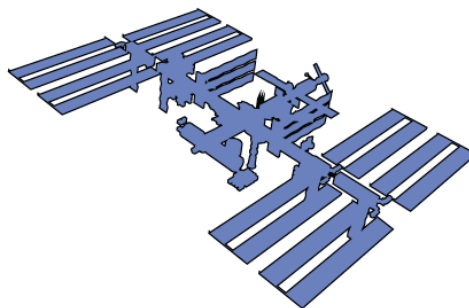





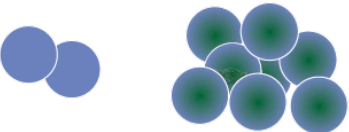
News online Cell Reports

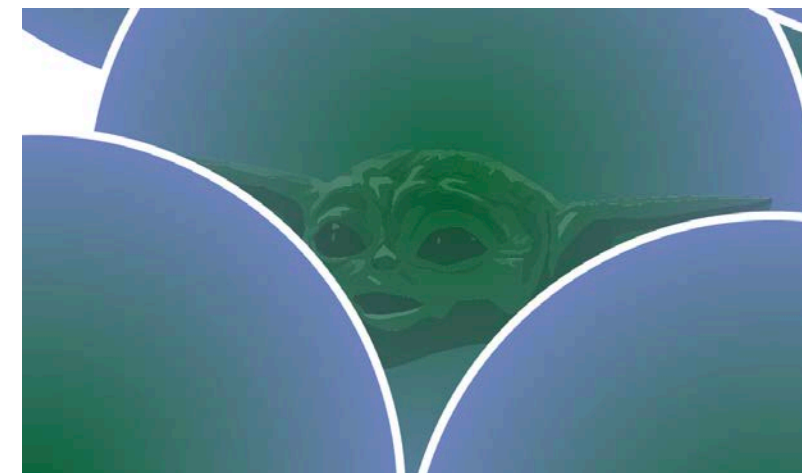
Clonal Hematopoiesis Human Spaceflight

Graphical Abstract

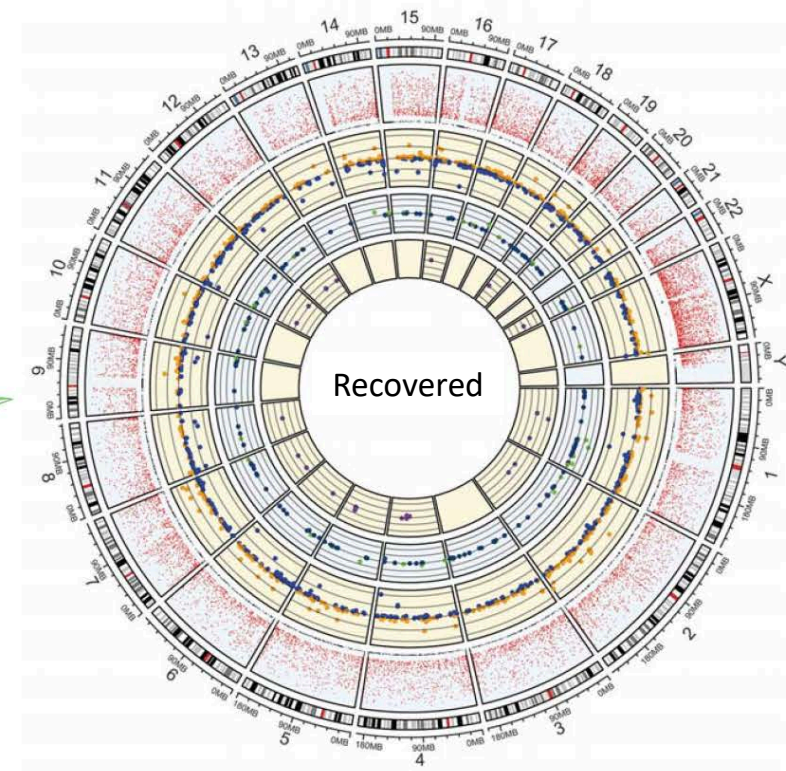
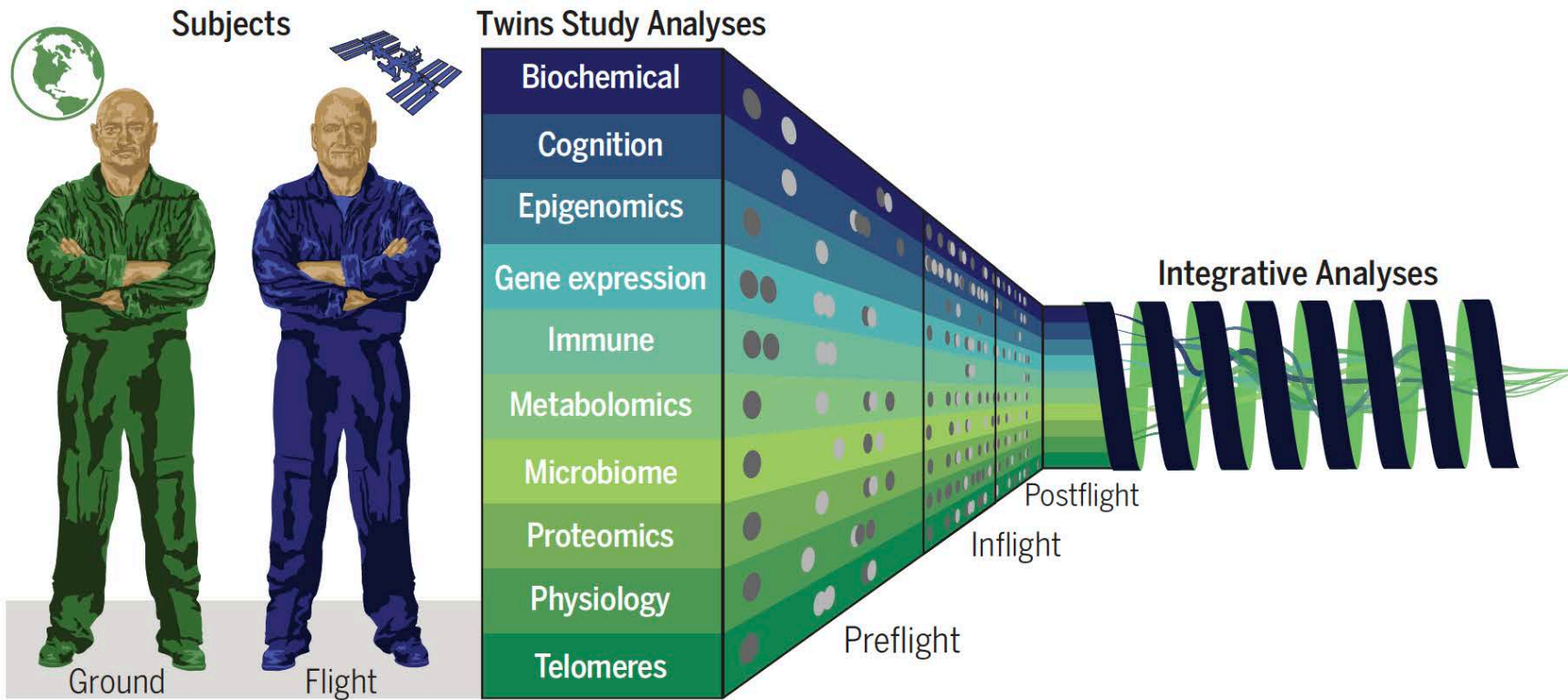
Space		
Sample Time Points	Before (Earth), During (ISS), and After Mission (Earth)	Before and After Treatment
Analyses	RNA & DNA	DNA
Subject	 Astronaut	 Cancer Patient
Original Cell		
Acquired Mutation		
Clonal Reduction/Expansion		
CHIP Genes:	TET2	DNMT3A, TET2, CHEK2, PPM1D, TP53
Potential Health Risks	Cardiovascular Disease Hematologic Malignancy	Therapy Related Neoplasm



Sample Time Points	Before (Earth), During (ISS), and After Mission (Earth)
Analyses	RNA & DNA
Subject	 Astronaut
Original Cell	
Acquired Mutation	 Spaceflight
Clonal Reduction/Expansion	



Overall good news



59 more astronauts' data released in the Aerospace Medicine & Spaceflight Biology Package (30 papers)



Dr. Afshin Beheshti
Dr. Susan Bailey



In-flight photos from Scott Kelly

<https://www.cell.com/c/the-biology-of-spaceflight>

$> N$

Informed Consent Form (ICF) and active IRB



TITLE: Multi-Omics, Physiological, and Clinical Analysis of Human Spaceflight

IRB Protocol #: 21-05023569

Version Date: 05/15/2021

Funding Source(s):

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) 80NSSC20K1841

Status: Active

Principal Investigators: Monica Guzman/Christopher Mason

NASA 80JSC019N0001

Status: Pending

Principal Investigator: Christopher Mason

WorldQuant Initiative for Quantitative Prediction (WQIQP)

Status: Active

Principal Investigator: Christopher Mason

Institutional Review Board at:

(646) 962-8200

1300 York Avenue

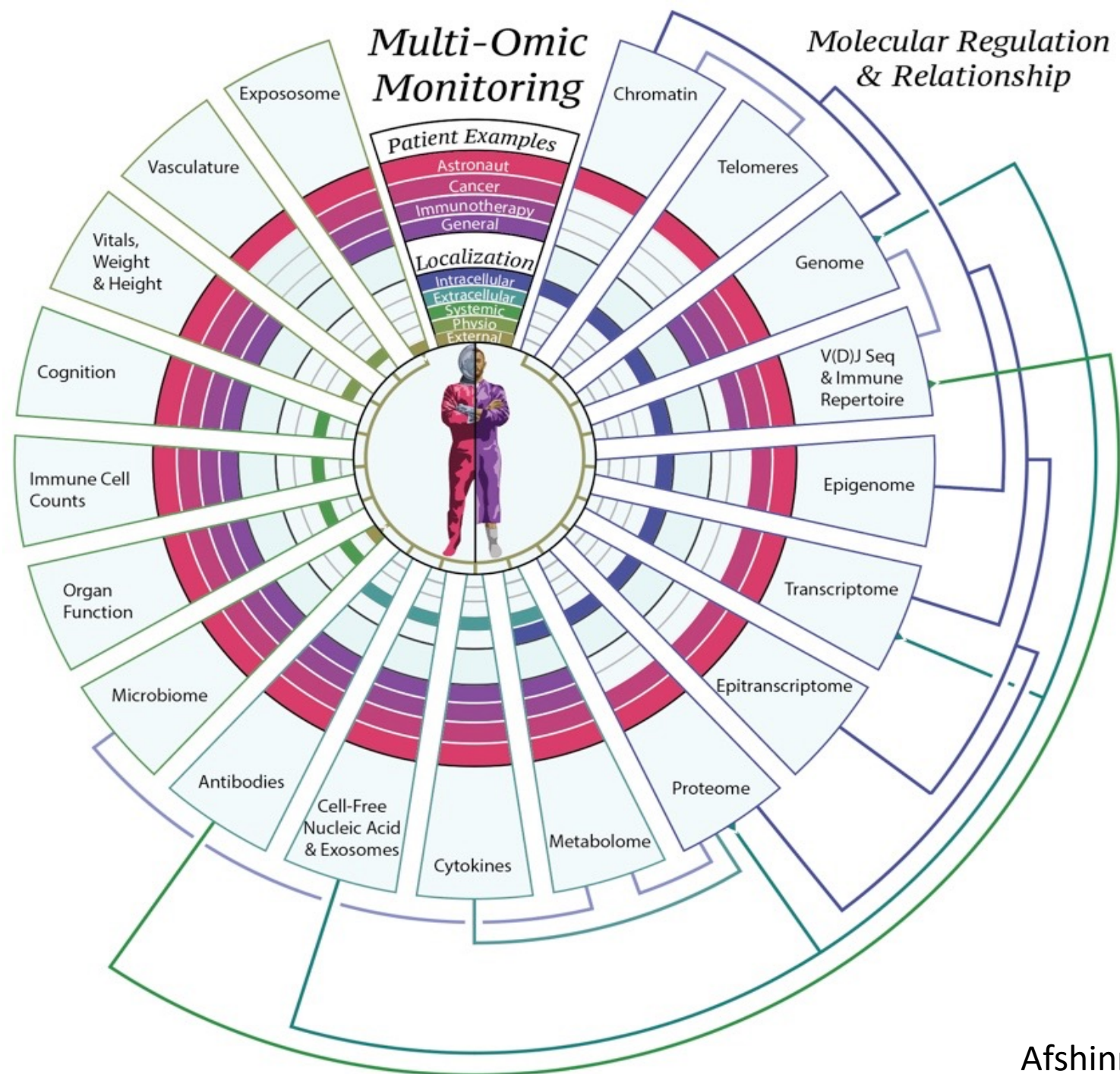
Box 89

New York, New York 10065

8.30.2021

Inspiration4 Crew Will Conduct Health Research to Further Human Exploration of Space

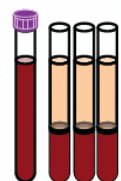
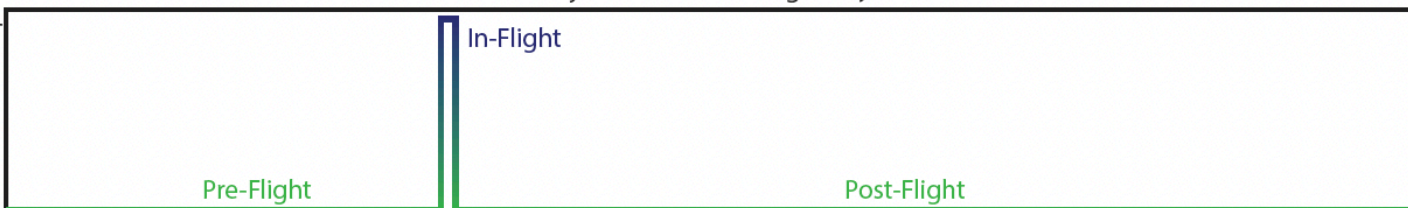




Standard Omics Measures for Astronauts (SOMA)



Subject Location During Study



4 Vials & 1 Card



2 Vials



1 Sample



1 Sample



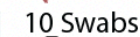
1 Skin Punch
10 Swabs



1 Sample

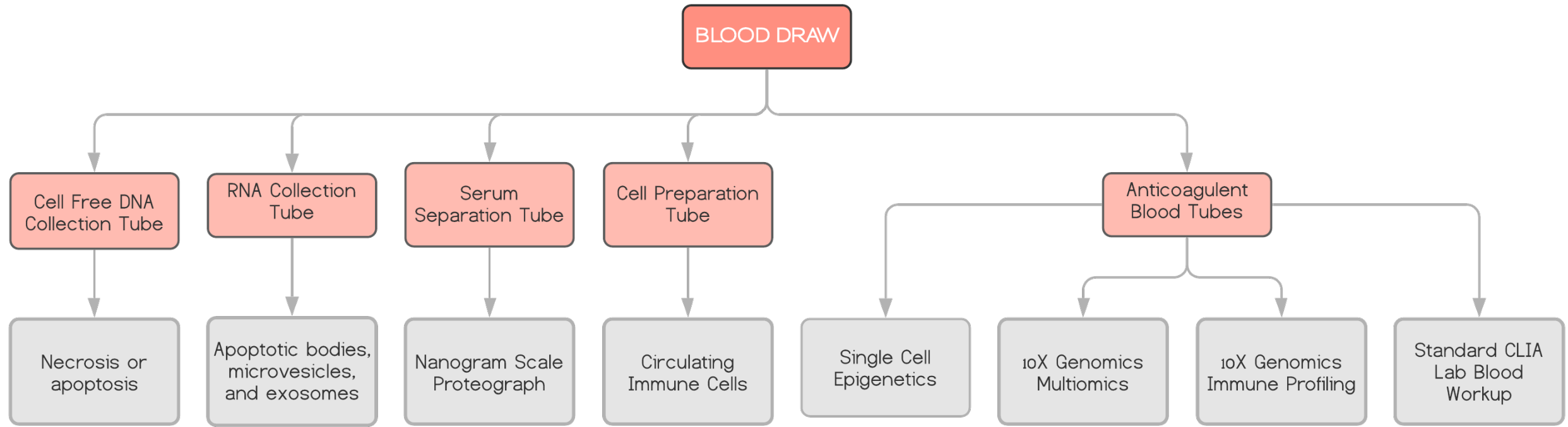


Tests



10 Swabs

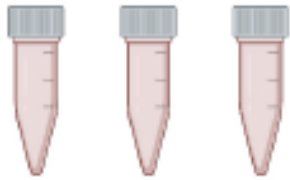
Sample	Analysis	June 14th	July 5th	July 26th	Sept 13th	FD 1-3	R+ 0-7	R+ 14	R+ 30	R+ 6m	R+ 1y	R+ 2y
PBMCs	WGS	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Epigenome	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	scRNA/scATAC	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
Sorted Blood (CD4+, CD8+, CD19+, LD)	Epigenome	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	RNA-seq	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	TCR *	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Telomeres	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
Plasma	Biochemistry **	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Cytokines **	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Metabolomics **	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Proteomics **	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	cfDNA/cfRNA **	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Exosomes	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
Stool	Metagenomics	●	●	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Metabolomics	●	●	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
Urine	Biochemistry	●	●	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	cfDNA	●	●	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Exosomes	●	●	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
Saliva/Buccal	RNA-seq	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Metagenomics	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	PCR	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
Skin	Spatial-Omics	●	○	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Functional	●	○	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	●	○
	Metagenomics ***	●	●	●	○	◆◆◆	●	●	●	○	○	○
Reproductive Tissue	WGS	○	○	○	○	◆◆◆	○	○	○	○	○	○
	WGBS	○	○	○	○	◆◆◆	○	○	○	○	○	○
	RNA-seq	○	○	○	○	◆◆◆	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cognition	Cognition	●	●	●	●	◆◆◆	●	●	●	●	○	○
Environment	Metagenomics				●	◆◆◆	●				○	



Tube Type	Streck cfDNA	PaxGene RNA	Serum Separation	Cell Preparation		K2EDTA	Total
# of Tubes	1	1	1	2		4	9
Volume	10 mL	2.5 mL	7.5 mL	20 mL		16 mL	56 mL

Stool, saliva, urine genomics and metabolomics

A



3 Collection Timepoints

- (1) Morning
- (2) Afternoon
- (3) Evening

Collection Container 5mL Screw-Top Vials	
Collection Amount 1-3mL	
Biospecimen(s) (1) Crude Saliva	Storage Conditions (1) -80°C

C



2 Collection Timepoints

- (1) Morning/Midday
- (2) Evening/Night

Collection Container 120 mL Screw-Top Container	
Collection Amount Full bladder or until cup is filled	
Biospecimen(s) (1) Crude Urine	Storage Conditions (1) -80°C
(2) Urine with preservative conditioning buffer added	(2) -80°C

B



1 Collection Timepoint
Anytime of day

Collection Container Saliva Microbiome Stabilization Kit	
Collection Amount Fill to collection line	
Biospecimen(s) (1) Stabilized Saliva	Storage Conditions (1) -80°C

D



1 Collection Timepoint
Anytime of day

Collection Container Stool Stabilization Kits	
Collection Amount A few grams per tube	
Biospecimen(s) (1) Stool in metabolomic preservative	Storage Conditions (1) -80°C
(2) Stool in microbiome preservative	(2) -80°C









V/SPEED



V/SPEED







Microbiomes can come from unexpected places

SpaceX's private Inspiration4 astronauts had some toilet trouble in space

By Amy Thompson 2 days ago

In space, even basic amenities are difficult.



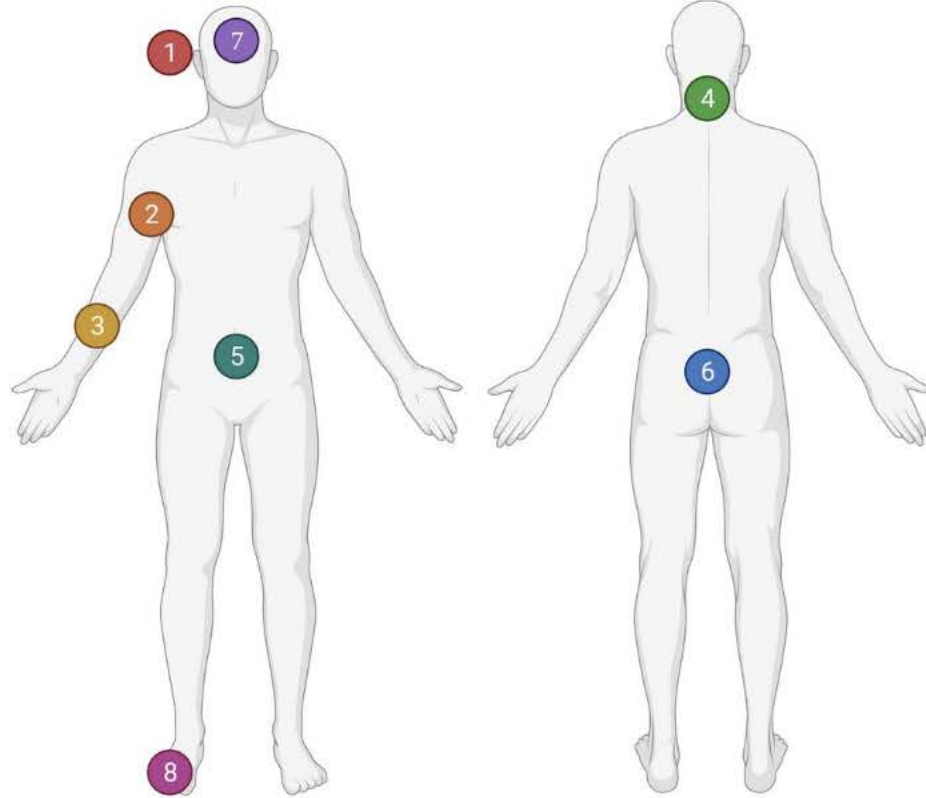
<https://www.space.com/inspiration4-spacex-toilet-trouble-in-space>



A

Wet Swab Locations

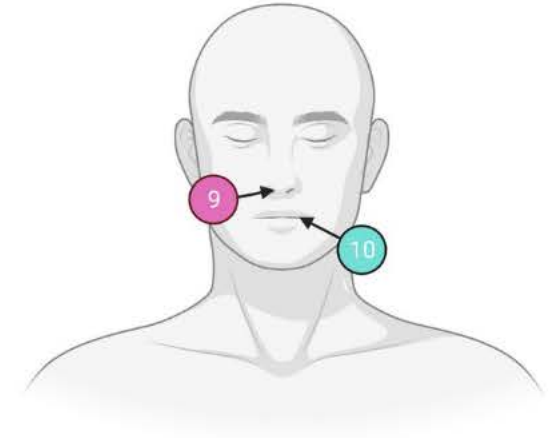
- 1 **Post-Auricular**
Behind the Ear
- 2 **Axillary Vault**
Armpit
- 3 **Volar Forearm**
Underside of Forearm
- 4 **Occiput**
Upper Back/Nape of Neck
- 5 **Umbilicus**
Belly Button
- 6 **Gluteal Crease**
Upper Crack
- 7 **Glabella**
T-Zone
- 8 **Toe Web Space**
Between the Toes



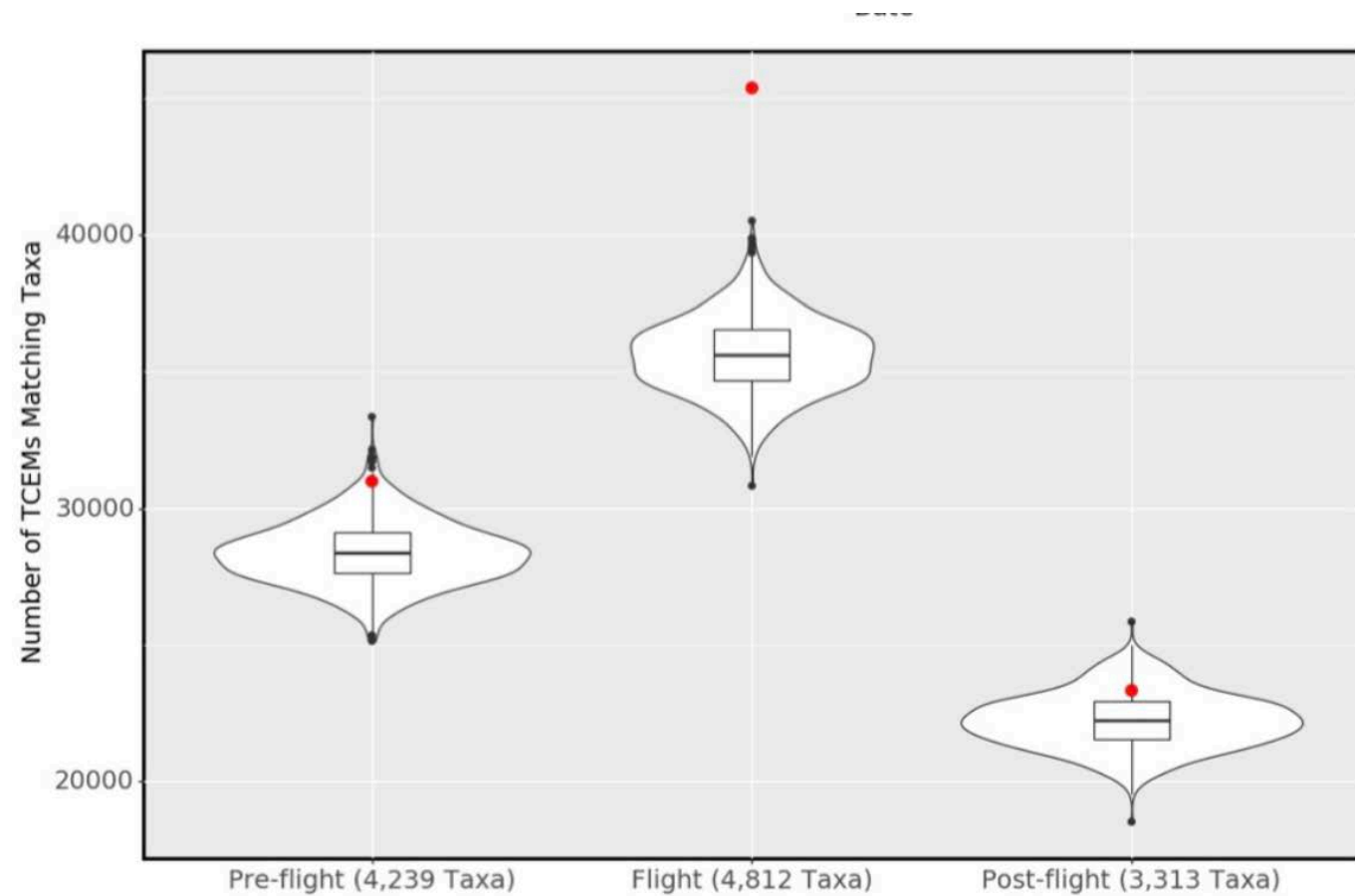
B

Dry Swab Locations

- 9 **Nasal Swab**
Swab Lower Nasal Cavity
- 10 **Oral Swab**
Swab Sides of Cheeks



T-cells' Expressed Motifs (TCEMs) may respond to microbes inside the Dragon capsule, just like Scott Kelly's did to the walls of the ISS

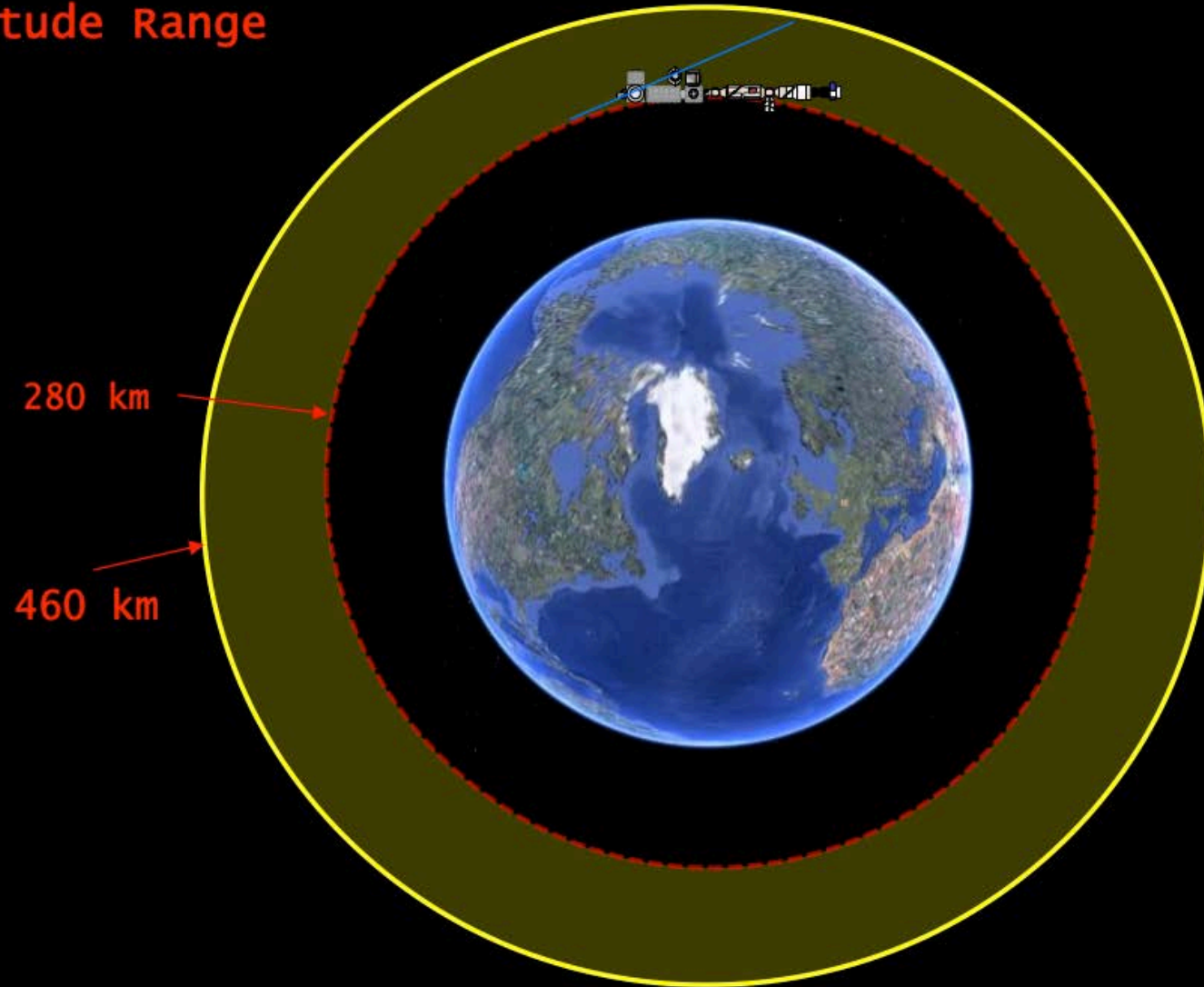


Danko et al., 2021

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.10.376954v2>

Radiation impact of 575km vs. 400km

Altitude Range



Up Next...

Compare to model organisms: GeneLab



Open Science for Life in Space

[Home](#)

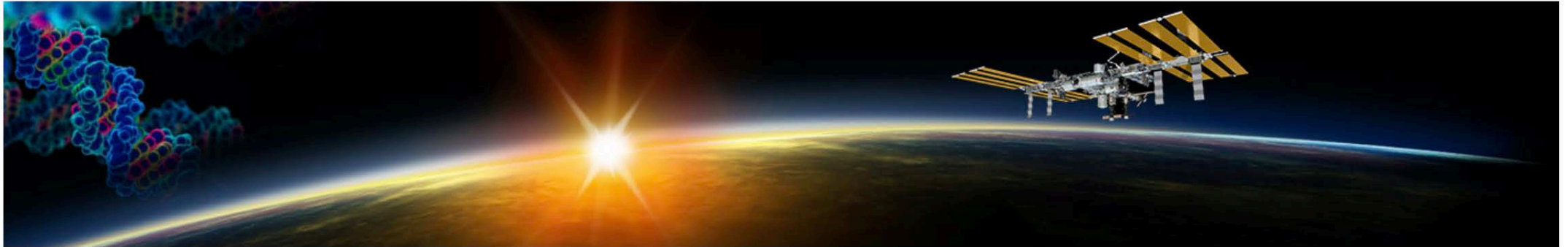
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Welcome to NASA GeneLab - the first comprehensive space-related omics database; users can upload, download, share, store, and analyze spaceflight and spaceflight-relevant data from experiments using model organisms.



Data Repository

Search and upload spaceflight datasets



Analyze Data

Perform large-scale analysis of biological omics data



Environmental Data

Radiation data collected during experiments conducted in space



Collaborative Workspace

Share, organize and store files



Submit Data

Have space-relevant data to submit to GeneLab?



Visualize Data

Interact with GeneLab processed data

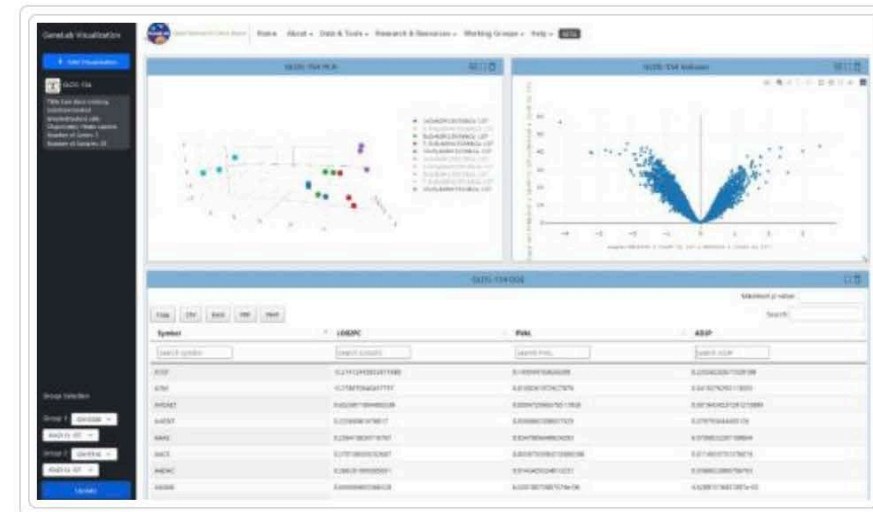
<https://genelab.nasa.gov/>

New Visualization Portal is Here

GeneLab's latest software release includes a new [visualization portal](#) to interact with gene expression data from space-related omics experiments. The enhanced portal includes a new search interface, new plots and layout, and advanced settings to customize the plots.

The tools in this latest version include:

- **Gene Expression query table**
 - This table provides the normalized gene expression values for microarray datasets and normalized count values for RNA-seq datasets for each sample in the dataset.
- **Pair plot**
 - This plot allows a user to compare overall gene expression data between two samples from that dataset.
- **Volcano plot**
 - This is a scatter plot that compares the significance (i.e. p-values) vs the log fold-change values for the genes. This plot allows for a quick view of the most significantly regulated genes for each dataset.
- **Heatmap**
 - This is a graphical representation of the individual samples displaying how the overall genes are up- and down-regulated across all samples in the dataset. Clustering of both the genes and the samples are also



This release also includes updates to the [GeneLab Open API](#) wrapper and an interactive user interface to parse metadata and data. The API wrapper was developed by [Kirill Grigorev](#). To query the GeneLab database, click [here](#).

Ax1 Mission - Feb 2022



Michael Lopez-Alegria
Ax1 Commander



Larry Connor
Ax1 Pilot



Eytan Stibbe
Ax1 Mission Specialist



Mark Pathy
Ax1 Mission Specialist



Axiom 2 Mission, then 3 & 4, maybe 5...



Axiom Space Ax-2 Commander Peggy Whitson and Pilot John Shoffner. (Download)

<https://www.axiomspace.com/press-release/ax2>

A 500-day mission in space; planned for 2025

Beginning a New Twin Study

We are now in the genomic era. Numerous changes were observed from NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly's comprehensive and molecular genetic data during his 340 consecutive days in space.¹⁷ Ninety-one percent (91%) of the gene expression changes returned to normal within six months of returning to Earth. Yet, there was still a "molecular echo" from his time in space, wherein the cells in his body could be seen actively working to maintain DNA stability. Some genes were still disrupted in their expression while adapting to life back on Earth. Numerous indicators gave us a guide as to which genes may need to be accelerated, decelerated, or otherwise altered to help response to spaceflight in future astronauts. Limitations on our scientific progress towards the stars is no longer a matter of laboratory investigation and research. We need more samples, and that begins with additional sets of identical siblings. A second pathfinder twins study is the logical and essential next step.

Paradigm Shifts in Astronaut Monitoring and Countermeasures

A second Twins Study will begin a new era in monitoring and addressing real-time astronaut health conditions. There are groundbreaking improvements for inflight data and sample collection strategies (while in orbit). We have the technology to perform continual genetic-based monitoring of twins at the

Below: Identical twins, Drs. Brad (left) and Brent West (right).



Thanks to Funding from:



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

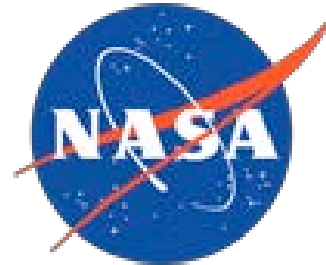


WORLDQUANT™

NIH DIRECTOR'S



*Translational Research
Award*



STARR CANCER
CONSORTIUM



Deep Gratitude to Many People:

Mason Lab

Ebrahim Afshinnekoo
Yared Bayleyen
Chandrima
Bhattacharya
Daniel Butler
Chris Chin
Rafael Colon
David Danko
Namita Damle
Ceyda Durmaz
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Kirill Grigorev
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Krista Ryon
Maria Sierra
Braden Tierney
Delia Tomoiaga
Craig Westover

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FDA/SEQC/Fudan.

Leming Shi

ABRF/Vermont

Scott Tighe
Don Baldwin

EXPLORERS WANTED:

“Hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold,
long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful.
Honour and recognition in case of success.”

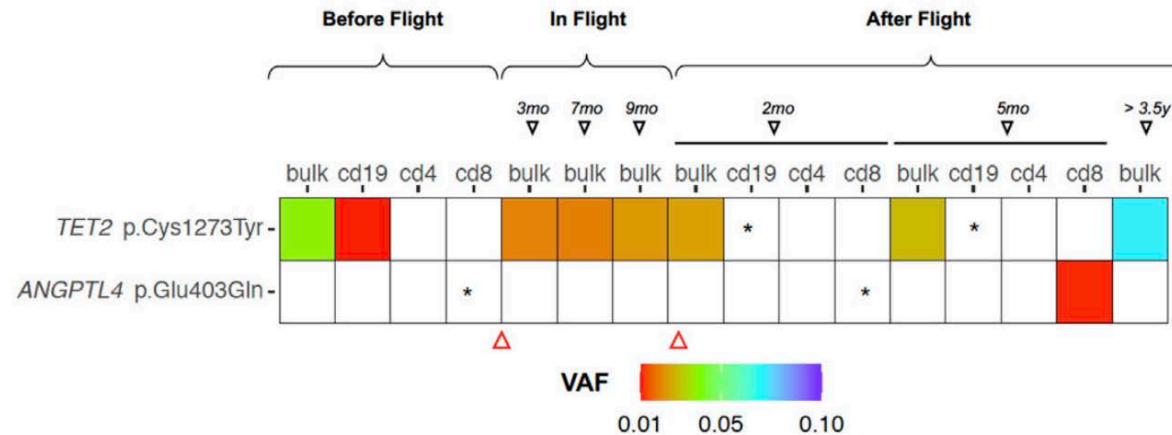
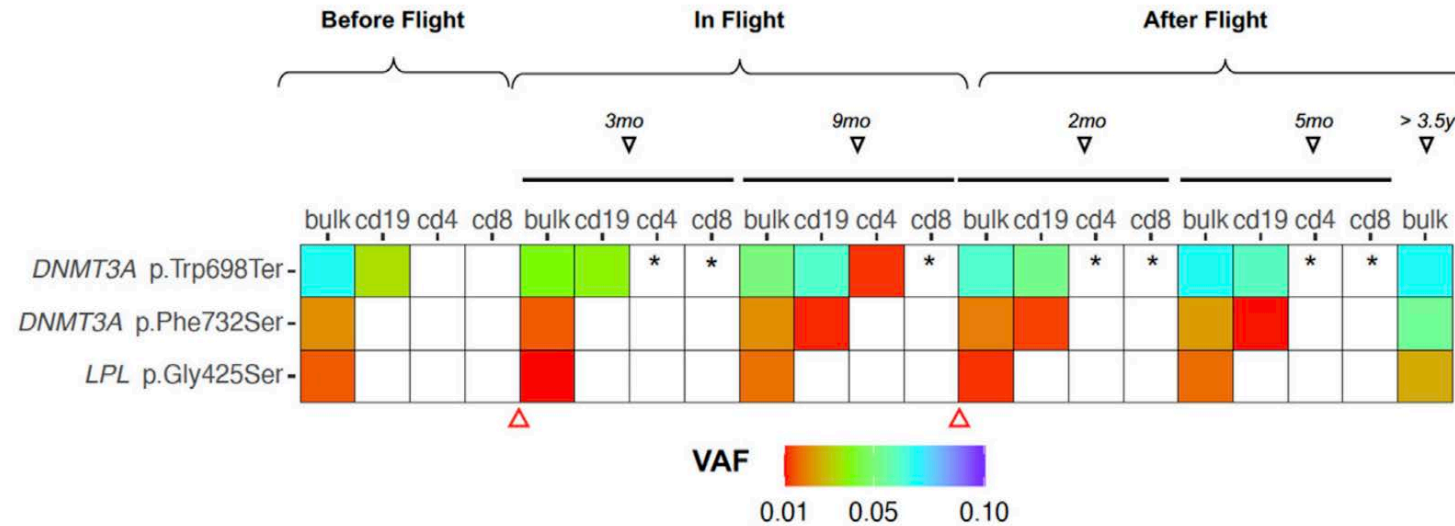
E. H. Shackleton

Ernest Shackleton
Antarctic Explorer
1914

Kennedy Space Center, Florida



Found in most cell types



1950 '60 '70 '80 '90 '91 2000 2010 2020 2021 2050 2100

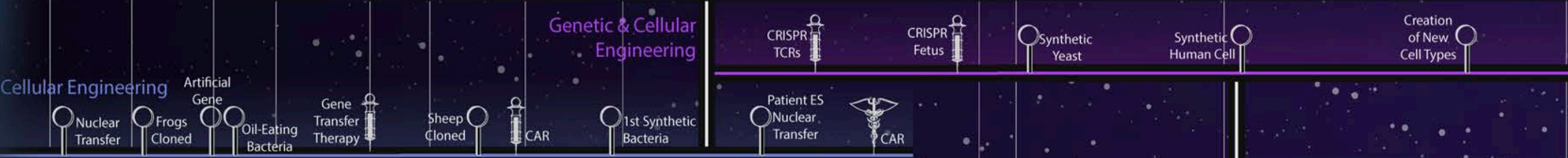
Evolution & Adaptation



(Epi-)Genetic Technologies



Cellular Engineering



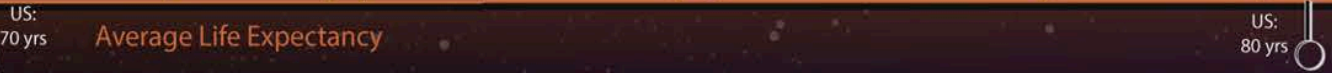
Transplantations



Developmental Biology



Society



New Finding
 First Time in Clinic
 Approved
 New Finding
 First Time in Clinic
 Approved

