



# Medical risks during the journey to Mars and its benefits on Earth

Baylor  
College of  
Medicine

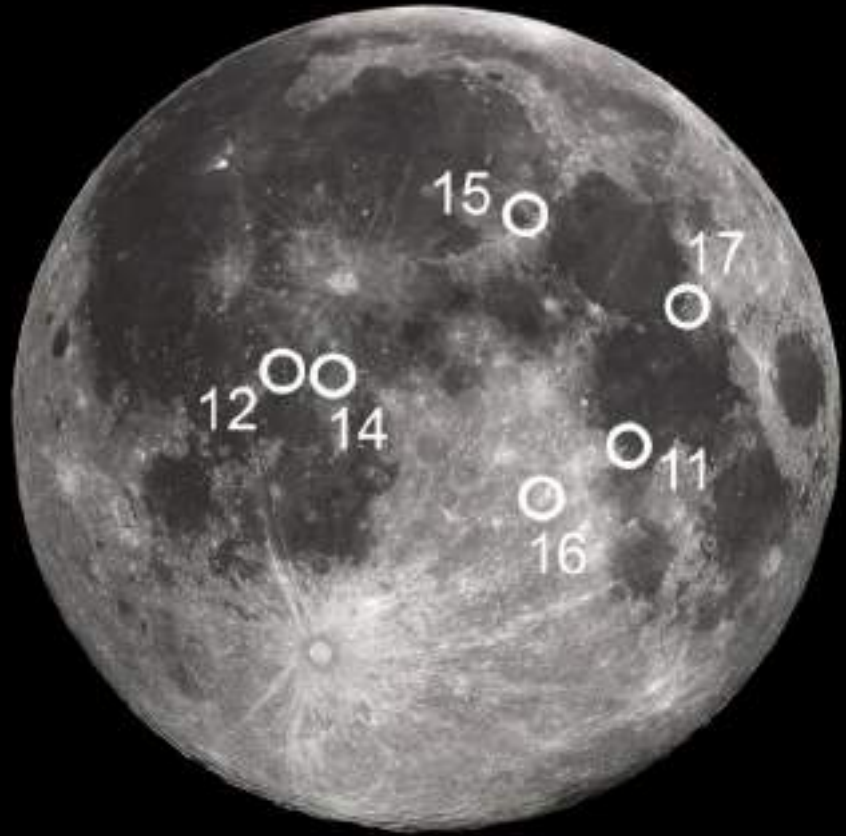
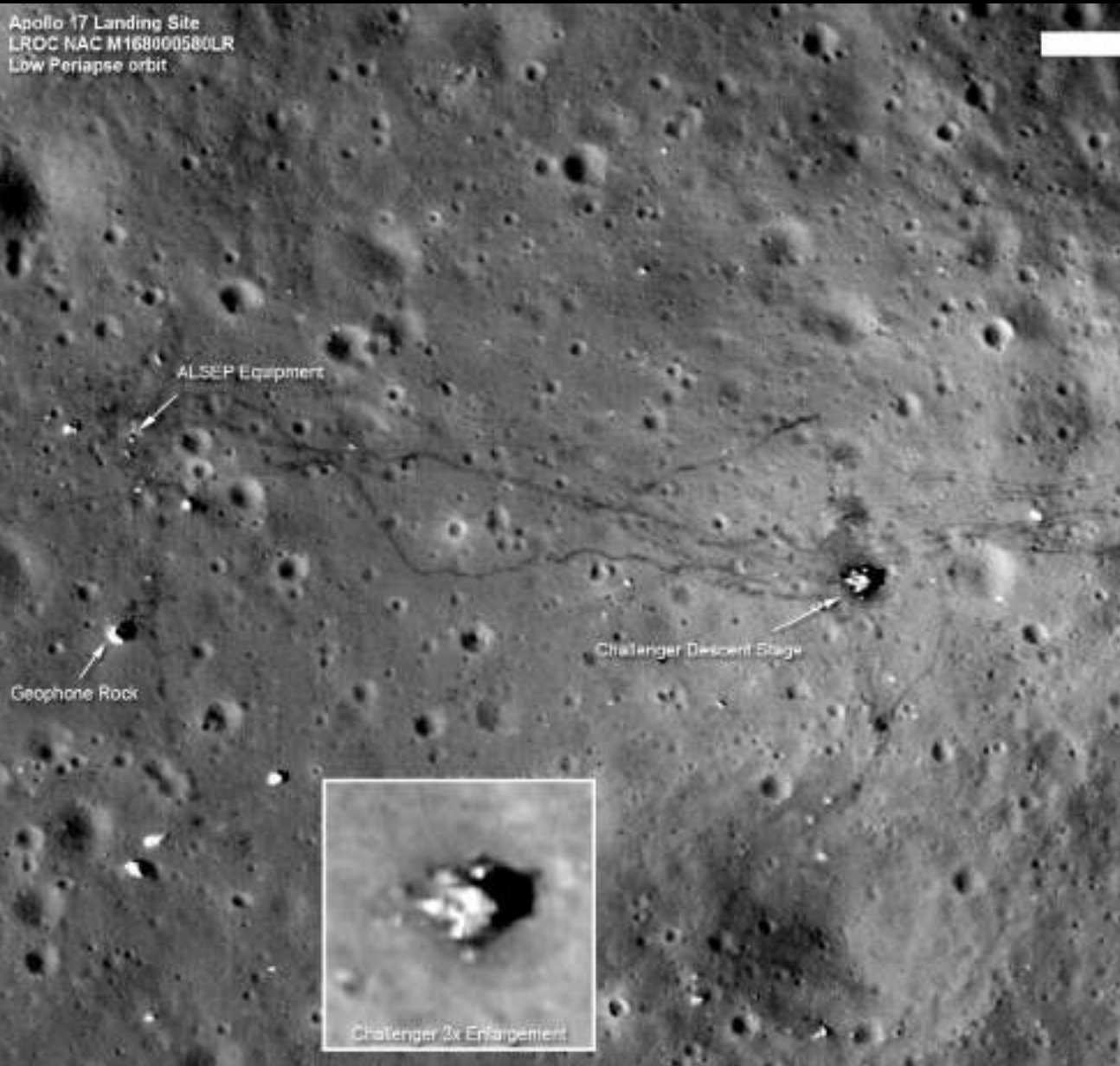
Emmanuel Urquieta, M.D., M.S.  
Senior Research Portfolio Manager  
NASA funded Translational Research Institute for  
Space Health



TRANSLATIONAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR  
**SPACE HEALTH**

Apollo 17 Landing Site  
LROC NAC M168000580LR  
Low Periapse orbit

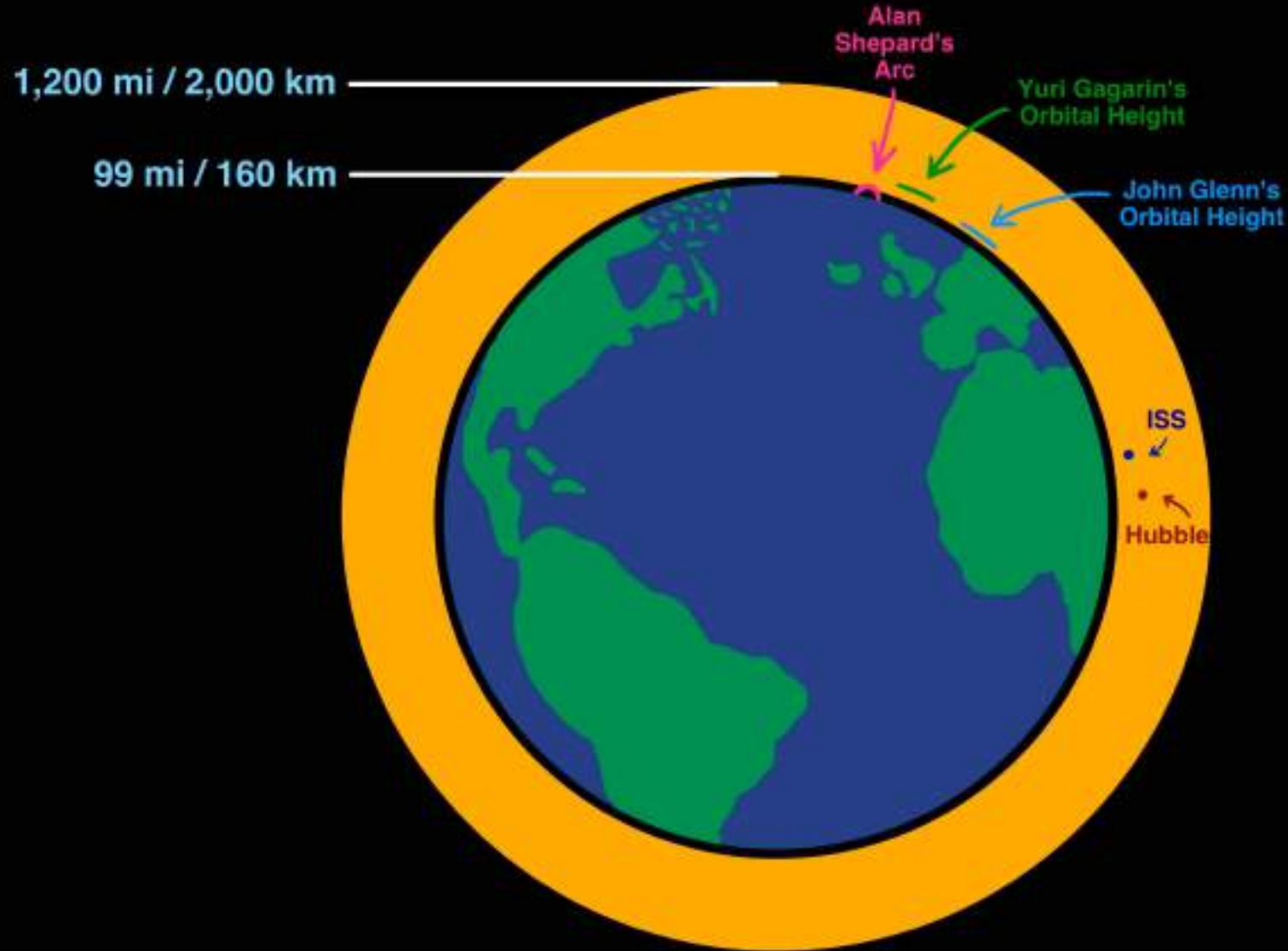
100 meters

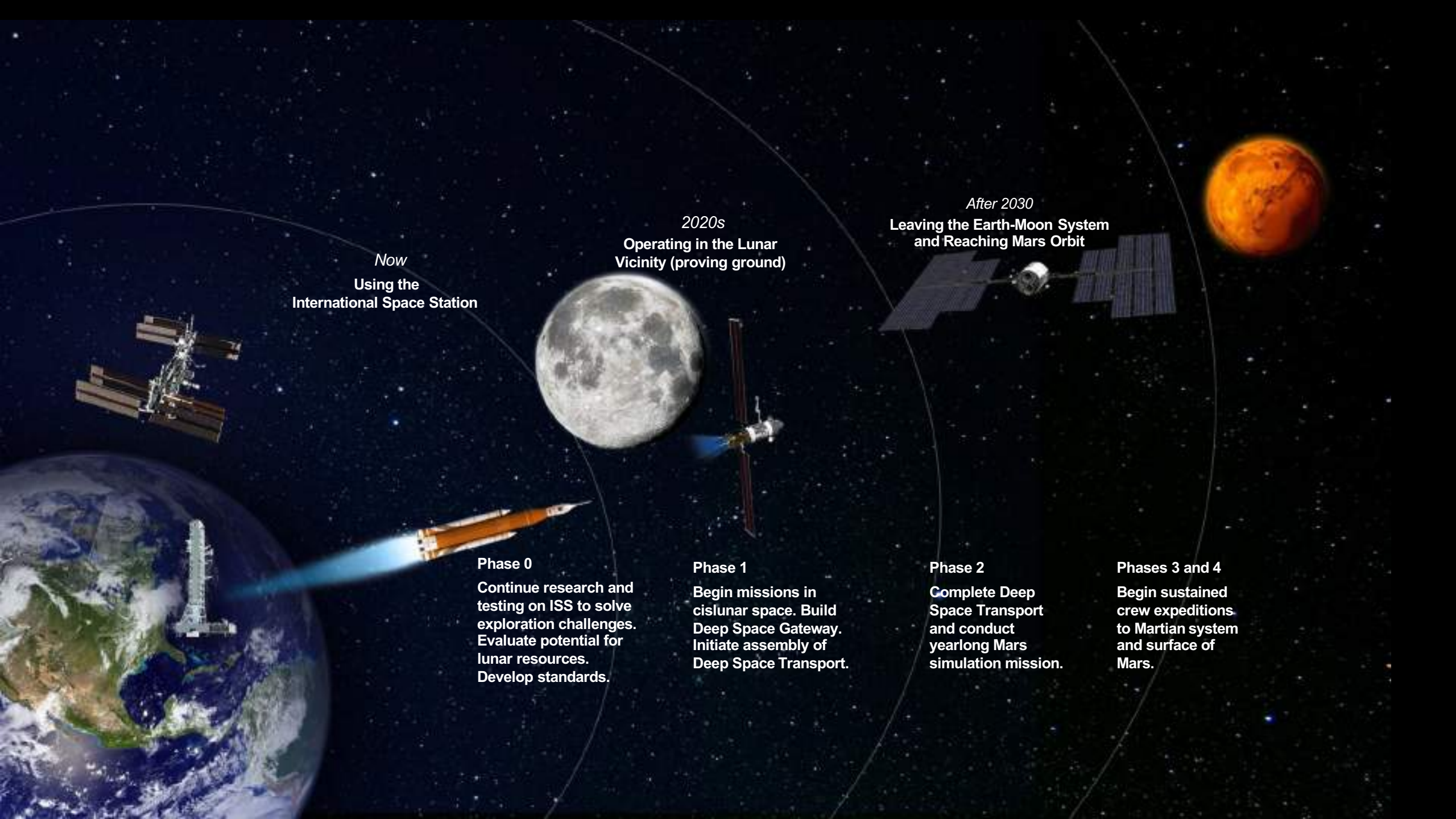


**Apollo 17**  
Last Moon landing  
(December 1972)

# Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

All sizes to scale





*Now*  
**Using the  
International Space Station**

*2020s*  
**Operating in the Lunar  
Vicinity (proving ground)**

*After 2030*  
**Leaving the Earth-Moon System  
and Reaching Mars Orbit**

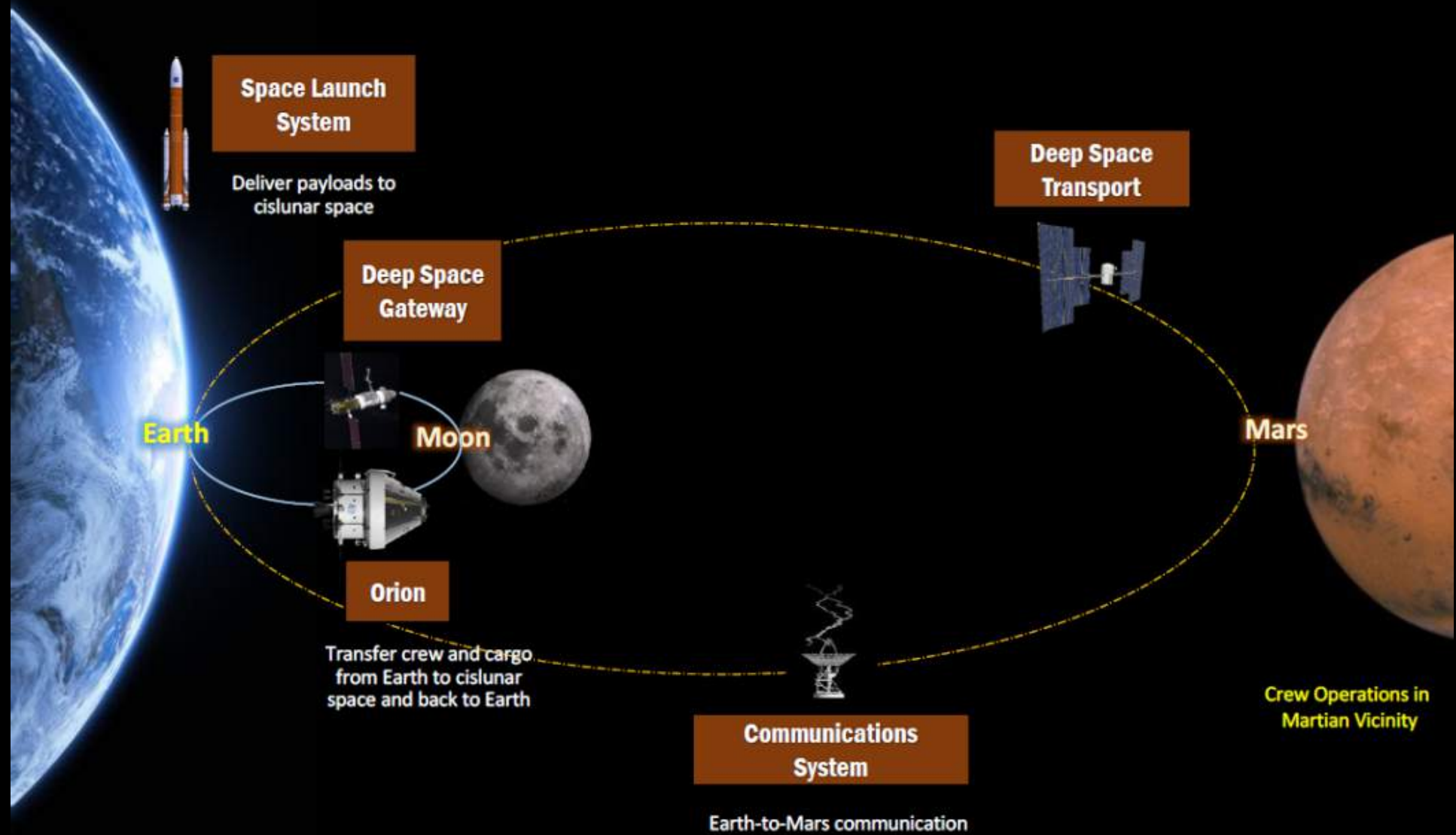
**Phase 0**  
Continue research and testing on ISS to solve exploration challenges. Evaluate potential for lunar resources. Develop standards.

**Phase 1**  
Begin missions in cislunar space. Build Deep Space Gateway. Initiate assembly of Deep Space Transport.

**Phase 2**  
Complete Deep Space Transport and conduct yearlong Mars simulation mission.

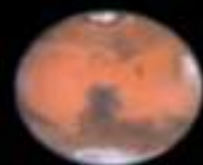
**Phases 3 and 4**  
Begin sustained crew expeditions to Martian system and surface of Mars.

# Example Phase 3 Mission Elements

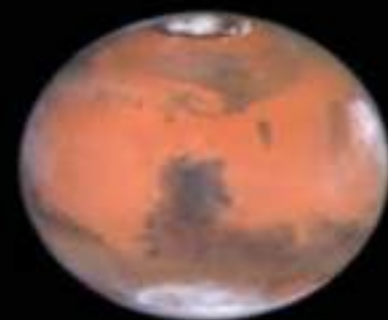




# Compare Going to Mars to Where We Are Today with ISS



228,000,000 kilometers



~1 - 3 years transit time

Communications (up to 42 minutes)

~ 2 days transit time

Communications (near real-time)

Crew exchanges

Crew supplies and logistics

Crew and atmosphere samples

Modified hardware

Emergency Crew Return

Trash

" recreate living on Earth capability "

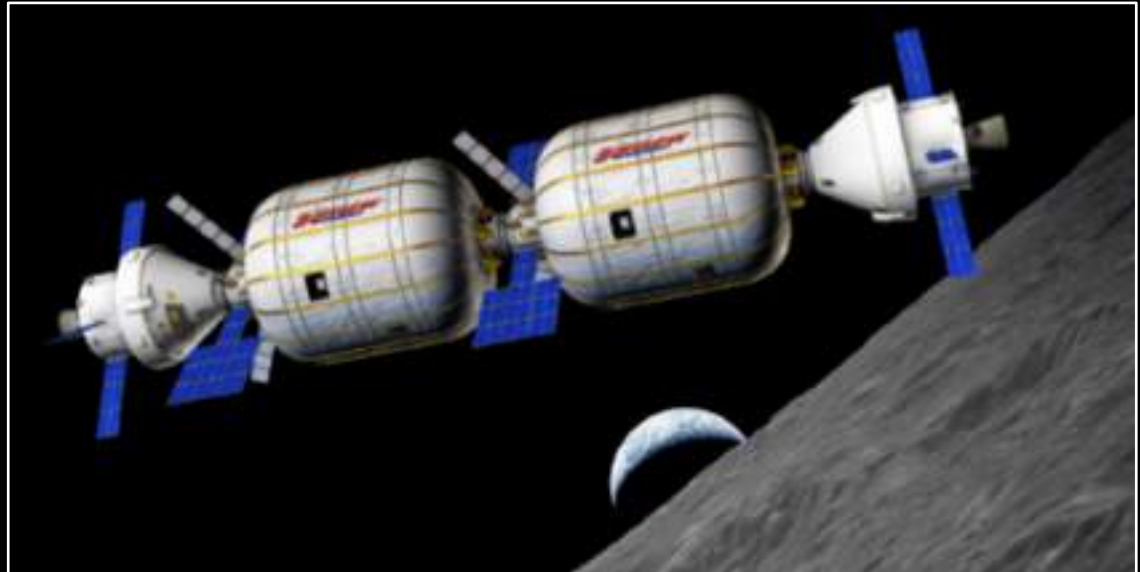
390 kilometers



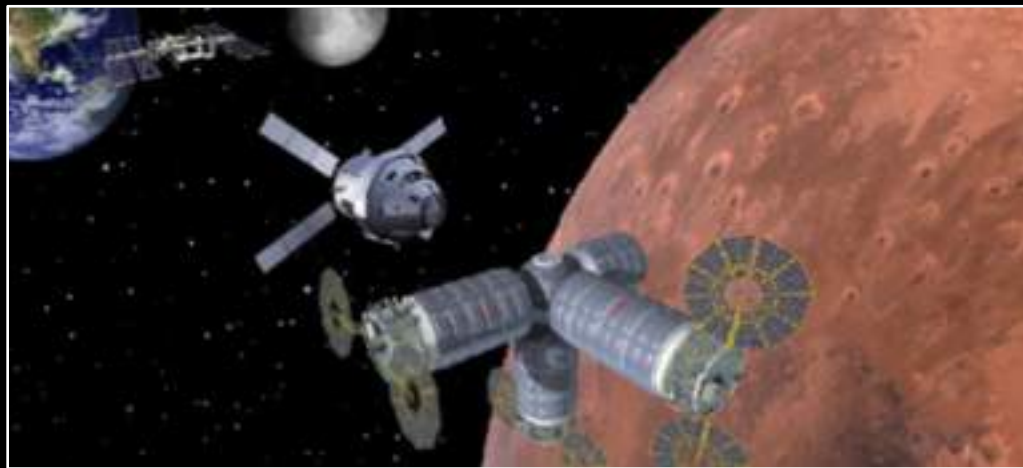
" extreme car camping in space "



**Lockheed Martin | Denver, CO**



**Bigelow Aerospace LLC | Las Vegas, NV**



**Orbital ATK | Dulles, VA**

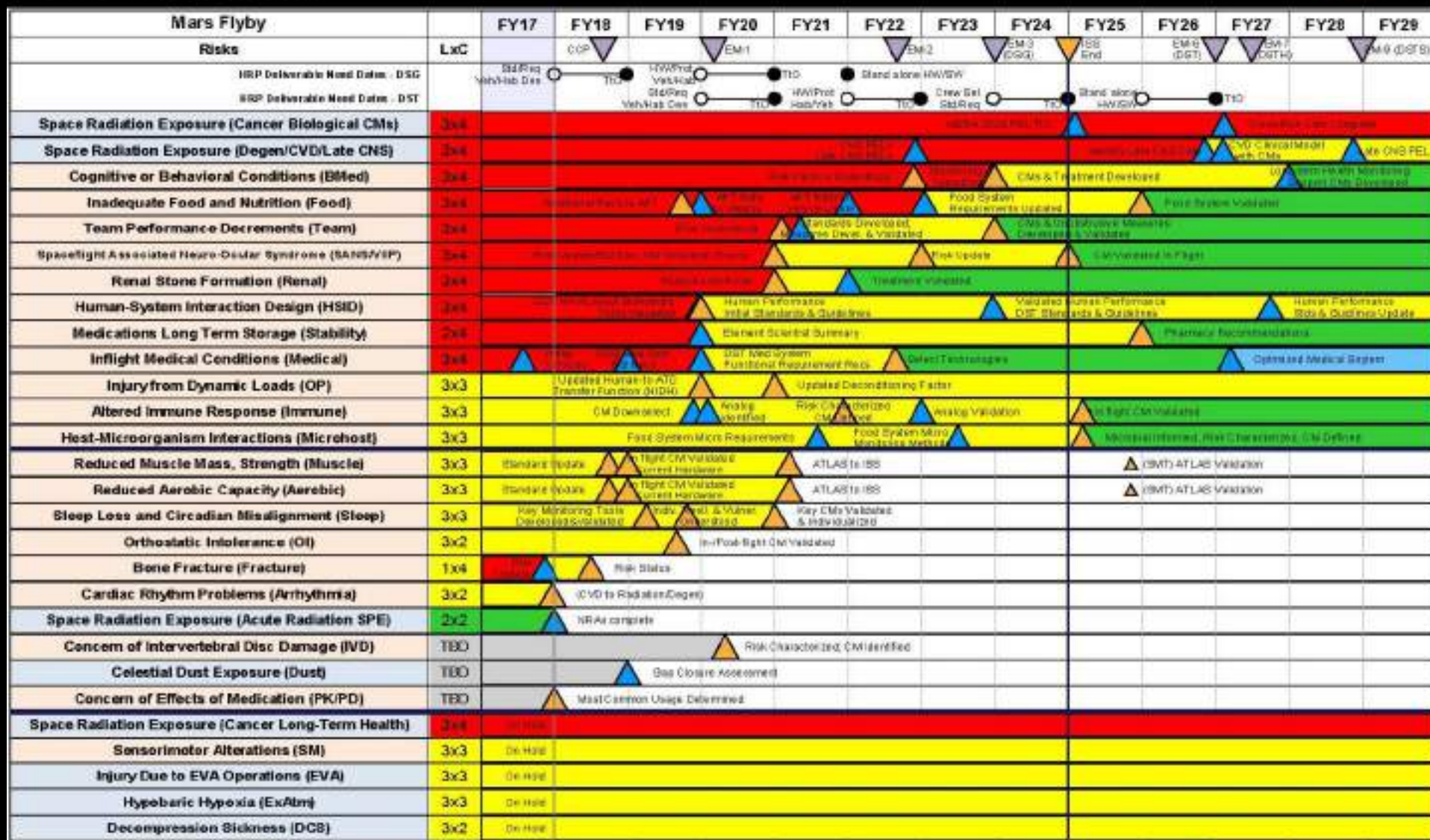


**Boeing | Houston, TX**



# HRP Integrated Path to Risk Reduction

## PPBE19 Baseline



ISS Required    
  Milestone Requires ISS    
  ISS Mission Milestone    
 Planning only  
 ISS Not Required    
  Ground-based Milestone    
  Exploration Mission Milestone    
 DST - Deep Space Gateway  
 High LxC    
  Mid LxC: Requires Mitigation    
  Low LxC    
  Optimized    
  Insufficient Data    
 DSTH - DST HAB  
 DSTS - DST Shutdown

End ISS

**PPBE19 Baseline**  
 HRP-CB-approved  
 20 December 2017

# Autonomous Clinical Care



## Crew Health Care Facility

- non-invasive diagnostic capabilities for medical/surgical care
  - “smart” systems
  - non-invasive imaging systems
- definitive surgical therapy including robotic surgical assist devices and surgical simulators
- blood replacement therapy
- laboratory support

## Telemedicine

- preventive health care
- diagnostic/therapeutic capabilities from ground-based consultants

# Mars Surface Stay Requirements

## Autonomous facilities



### Crew health care

- ➔ Radiation Protection
- ➔ Medical Surgical care
- ➔ Nutrition - Food Supply
- ➔ Psychological support
  - ➔ meaningful work
    - ◆ surface science
      - planetary
      - biomedical
    - ◆ simulations of Mars launch, trans-Earth injection, and contingencies
    - ◆ progressive debriefs, sample processing, etc.
    - ◆ housekeeping
  - ➔ communications capability



### Habitat

- ➔ Maintenance/housekeeping
  - workshop with HRET capabilities
- ➔ Exercise supplemental to Mars surface activities
- ➔ Recreation
- ➔ Privacy

# Rodent Research Contributes to Osteoporosis Treatments



**Ames Research Center**

**Amgen Inc.  
Thousand Oaks, California**

## NASA Technology

- ◆ NASA needs to learn how to protect bone density and muscle strength in astronauts while in space
- ◆ The Commercial Biomedical Testing Module (CBMT) developed at Ames houses mice for experimentation in microgravity to study the problem



## Technology Transfer

- ◆ Amgen, through BioServe Space Technologies, arranged to test three treatments for maintaining bone health and density on mice aboard space shuttles
- ◆ Experiments traveled aboard missions in 2001, 2007, and 2011, yielding promising results

## Benefits

- ◆ One of the three treatments is now available as Prolia, an osteoporosis treatment, and a second is in clinical trials
- ◆ Prolia is shown to increase bone density and significantly reduce risk of bone fractures

# Pressure Garments Save New Mothers' Lives



**Ames Research Center**

**Safe Motherhood  
San Francisco, California**

## NASA Technology

- ◆ G-suits are worn by aviators and astronauts to prevent pooling of blood in lower body during extreme acceleration and reentry from orbit
- ◆ NASA discovered that similar compression garments can be used to treat women who experience severe bleeding after giving birth



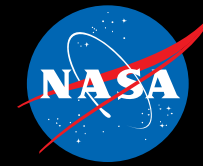
## Technology Transfer

- ◆ In the 1990s, the company ZOEX utilized NASA's research to develop the Non-Inflatable Anti-Shock Garment
- ◆ Later, an obstetrics professor designed a similar garment, the Non-Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (NASG), to stabilize women suffering from post-natal bleeding until they can receive medical care

## Benefits

- ◆ The NASG is backed by the World Health Organization and used in 20 countries.
- ◆ Mortality rate among women suffering obstetric hemorrhaging reduced by 50 percent in studies conducted in Egypt, Nigeria
- ◆ Garment can be used at least 70 times, which comes out to less than a dollar per application.

# Tool Kit Simplifies Development of High-Affinity Molecules



*Johnson Space Center*

*AM Biotechnologies LLC  
Houston, Texas*

## NASA Technology

- ◆ NASA will need new diagnostic capabilities to monitor astronauts' health as they travel to Mars
- ◆ Antibodies, commonly used to detect biomarkers, degrade when exposed to radiation and are only viable for a few months



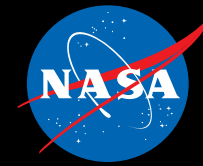
## Technology Transfer

- ◆ Short strands of DNA and RNA can fold themselves into three-dimensional structures called aptamers, which can be used for diagnostics, are impervious to radiation, and don't degrade
- ◆ After securing an SBIR contract, AM Biotechnologies developed a new method to rapidly create precise diagnostic aptamers using micro-beads that aptamers stick to

## Benefits

- ◆ X-Aptamer Selection Kit, already being used by universities and industry, takes days, not weeks, to create the desired aptamers
- ◆ X-Aptamers could be used to target drug treatments for cancer, other diseases
- ◆ One aptamer, Pegaptanib, approved by the FDA as a treatment for macular degeneration

# Space-Ready Spectrometer Offers Terrestrial Advantages



*Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

*Brimrose Corporation  
Sparks, Maryland*

## NASA Technology

- ◆ In the 1990s, NASA was looking for a rugged spectrometer for a lander to be carried by the European Space Agency's Rosetta comet orbiter
- ◆ Chemical composition analysis was to be conducted by spectroscopy in the near-infrared and visible light spectra



## Partnership

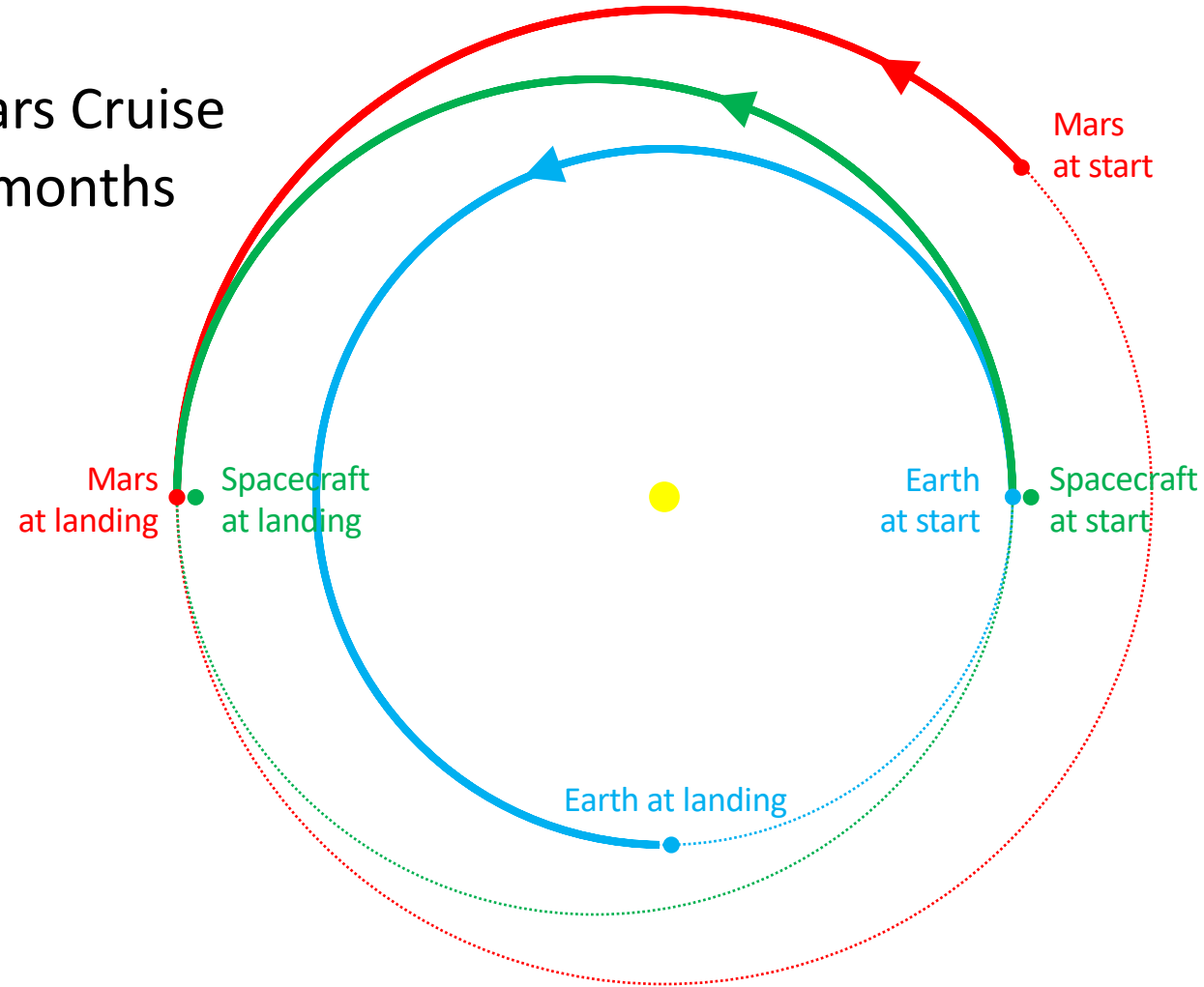
- ◆ Brimrose secured two SBIR contracts to make a space-ready acousto-optic tunable filter (AOTF) spectrometer, but NASA pulled out of the lander project
- ◆ Spectrometer made to be lightweight, energy-efficient, and able to withstand extreme temperatures and radiation exposure

## Benefits

- ◆ Brimrose's Luminar AOTF analyzers now widely used by pharmaceutical industry, agriculture, healthcare, material science, oil companies
- ◆ New versions include touchscreens, longer battery life, and Linux compatibility
- ◆ Company uses AOTF in other applications, including acousto-optic modulator flown on ISS

Access to the Deep Space Network for the vehicle may be as limited as 1 hour in a 24 hour period.

Trans-Mars Cruise  
About 9 months



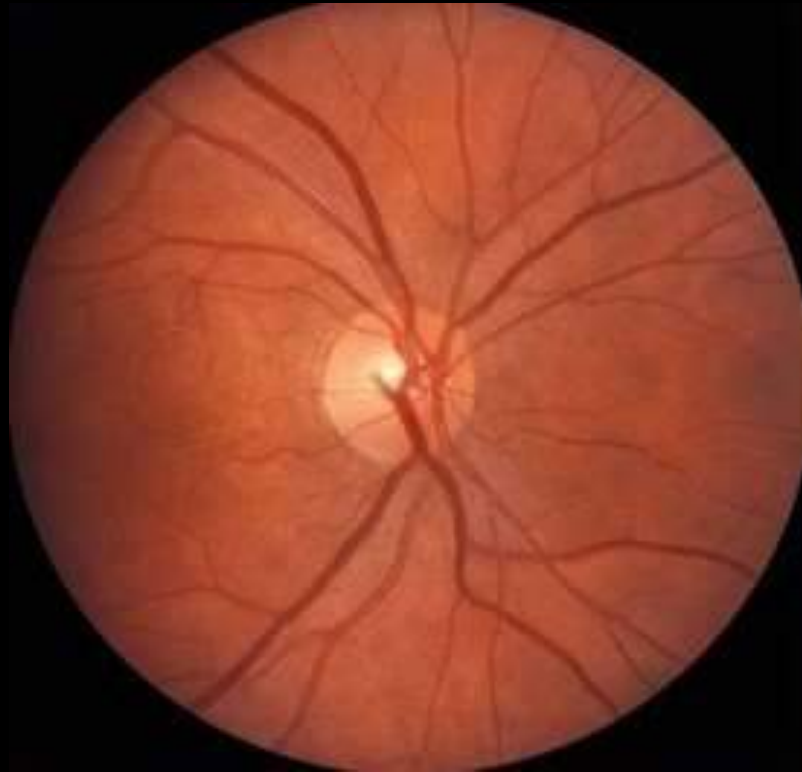
A Mars mission cannot use the current operational medical approach because that approach is totally dependent on real-time communication with the ground.



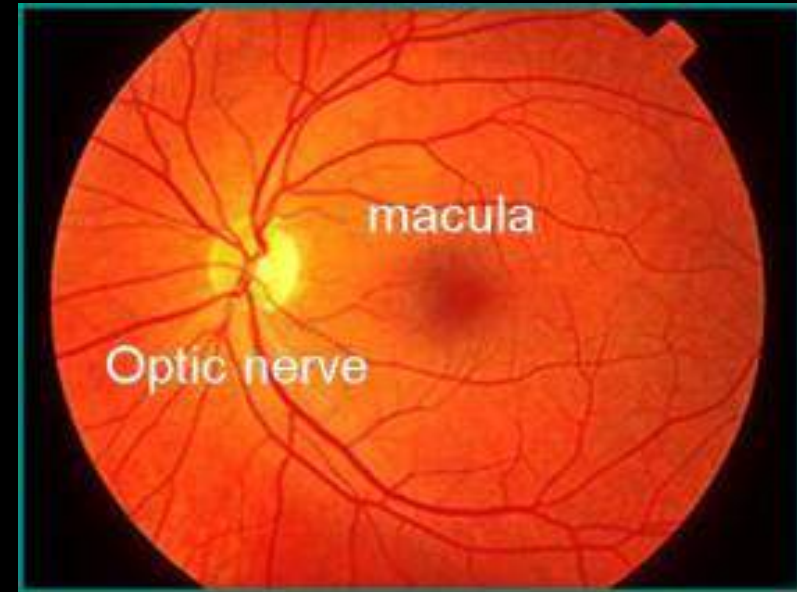
# Spaceflight Associated Neuro Ocular Syndrome (SANS)

- SANS case definition:

- Diagnosis: Papilledema Frisen grade 1 or more through fundoscopy.



# Self-Imaging, Wide Angle, High Resolution Retinal Imaging System



Bob Main, ABOM  
SeeCare Technologies LLC



### What it does

- Helps to obtain lymphatic flow images
- Software will be able to estimate flow

### Why it's cutting edge

- New technology using a NIRF (infrared) camera
- Uses minimal amounts of injected dye
- FDA approved

### How it can be used

- Could help to explain what causes SANS (Spaceflight Associated Neuro-Ocular Syndrome)

# Lymphatic Imaging Device

Eva Sevick, Ph.D.  
U.T. Health Sciences

Time= 0.00 s  
cm



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