



**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
National Institutes of Health

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Intent between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Institutes of Health

This letter is intended to serve as a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) and the NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) (each a “Party” and collectively, the “Parties”) for the purposes of setting out the Parties’ intent to find opportunities to engage in space and Earth-related biomedical research that benefits health on Earth and enables space exploration.

The purpose of this MOU is to set forth the intent of the Parties to establish a framework of cooperation to encourage interaction between NIH and NASA research communities to facilitate space-related research and to integrate results from that research into an improved understanding of human physiology and health. Additionally, the Parties intend to seek opportunities for the exchange of information and ideas arising from their respective research efforts, the development of biomedical research approaches and clinical technologies for use on Earth and in space, and finally for research in Earth-based and space-based facilities that could improve human health on Earth and in space.

NIH intends to look for opportunities to do the following:

- Publicize, to the intramural and extramural communities, NASA biomedical and technology research and human health risk reduction strategy for spaceflight, how the International Space Station is and can be used as a research environment.
- Consider well-developed, investigator-initiated extramural applications and potential intramural activities to partner with NASA to address NASA’s exploration biomedical goals using space-related health research that also increases medical knowledge for benefits on Earth.

NASA intends to look for opportunities to do the following:

- Advise its investigators on the utilization of already-funded NIH projects that would enhance their biomedical risk reduction exploration research.

The Parties intend to look for opportunities to do the following:

- Encourage space-related health research through the exchange of expertise, scientific and technical information, data, and publications.

- Discuss providing technical expertise for planning, performance, or review in areas of mutual interest, subject to program priorities and availability of funds and personnel.
- Facilitate and enhance research and development activities by either agency.
- Coordinate publicity of mutually reinforcing activities, publications, and research results.
- Include representatives from each agency in workshops, working groups, seminars, and other related activities.
- Review this MOU, on an annual basis, to evaluate progress and achievement of mutual goals and objectives consistent with the roles set forth above.

Furthermore, this MOU will be effective upon the date of the last signature below and shall remain in effect for five years. At the conclusion of five years, the Parties will consider the development of a new MOU.

This MOU is strictly for internal management purposes for each of the Parties. This MOU does not support an obligation of funds, nor does it constitute a binding commitment upon either Party or create any legal rights or obligations for either Party. Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting, superseding, or otherwise affecting a Party from conducting normal operations or making decisions in carrying out its mission and duties. This MOU does not limit or restrict the Parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities. Each Party shall be responsible for any and all expenses incurred by that Party relating to this MOU, and neither Party will be responsible for any expense incurred by the other Party unless specifically agreed to in a writing separate from and independent of this MOU. In the event the Parties wish to conduct additional activities under this MOU, or enter into binding obligations in connection with the activities described in this MOU, the Parties will negotiate and enter into separate agreements fully independent of this MOU and in accordance with law and the respective Parties' policies and processes. Either Party may unilaterally terminate this MOU by providing a 90-day written notice to the other Party.

**SEEN AND AGREED**



Dava J. Newman, Ph.D.  
Deputy Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

12 JAN 17

Date



Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director  
National Institutes of Health

JAN 13 2017

Date

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