

# ESA's Life Sciences programme

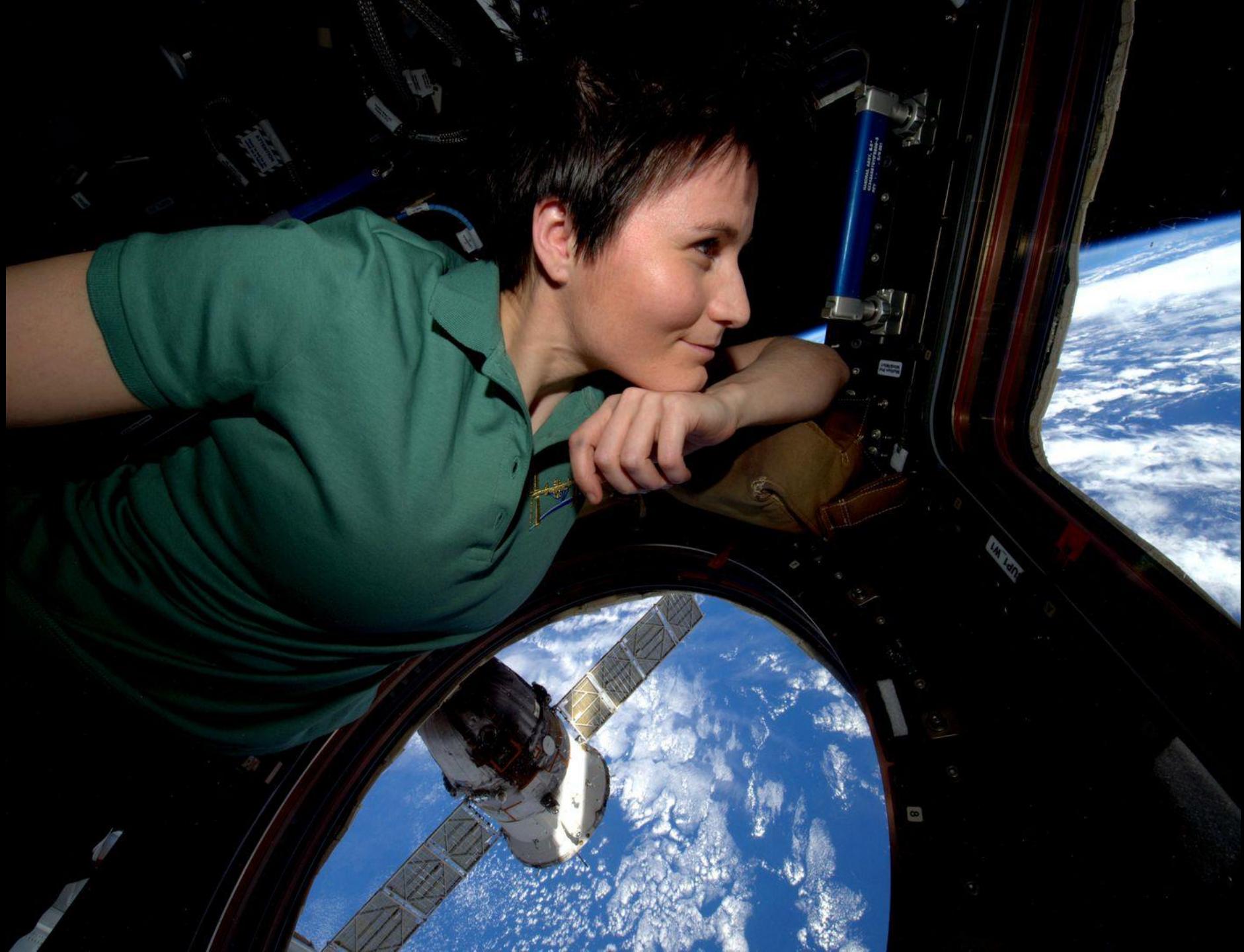
## *Space Exploration Research*

19 April 2023

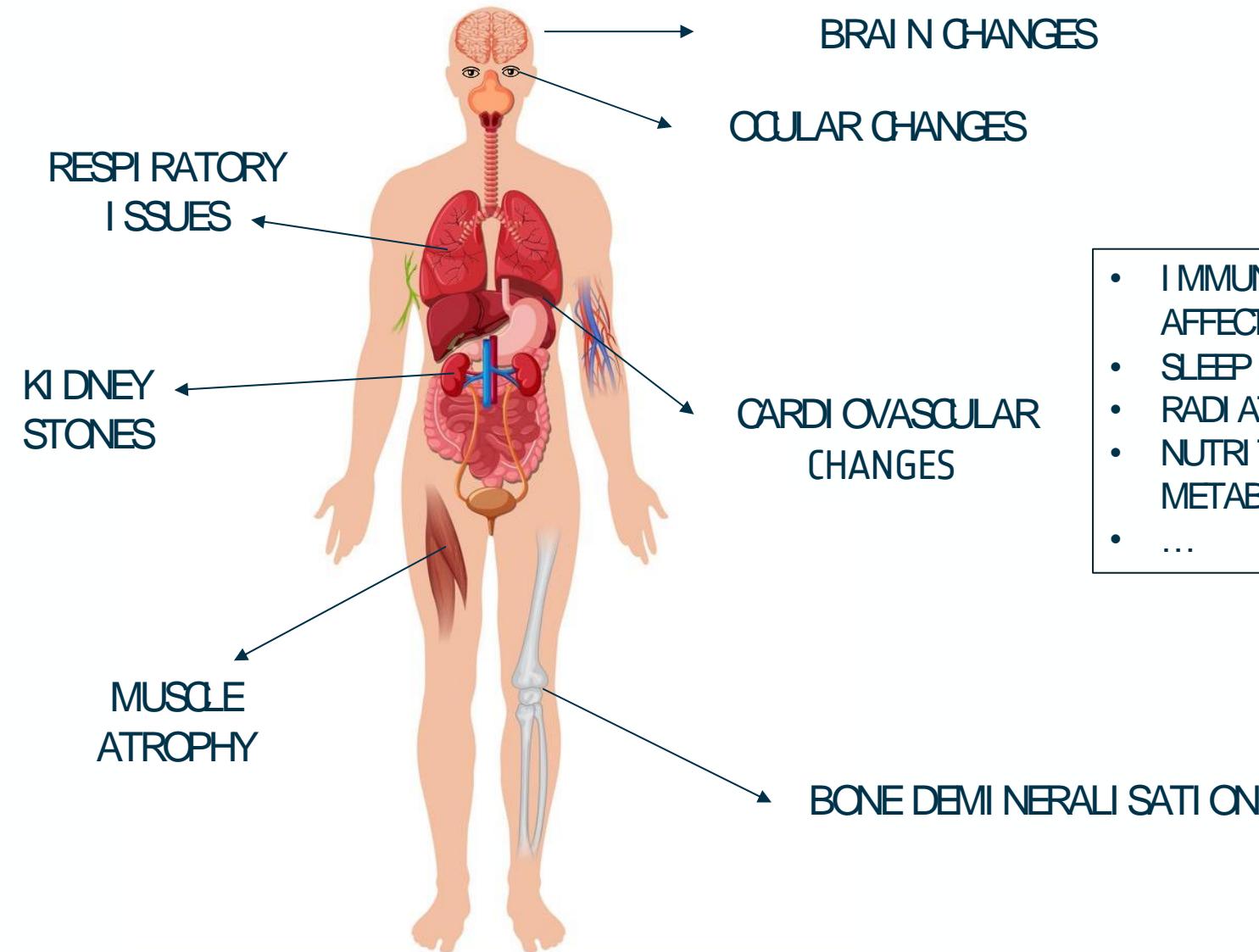
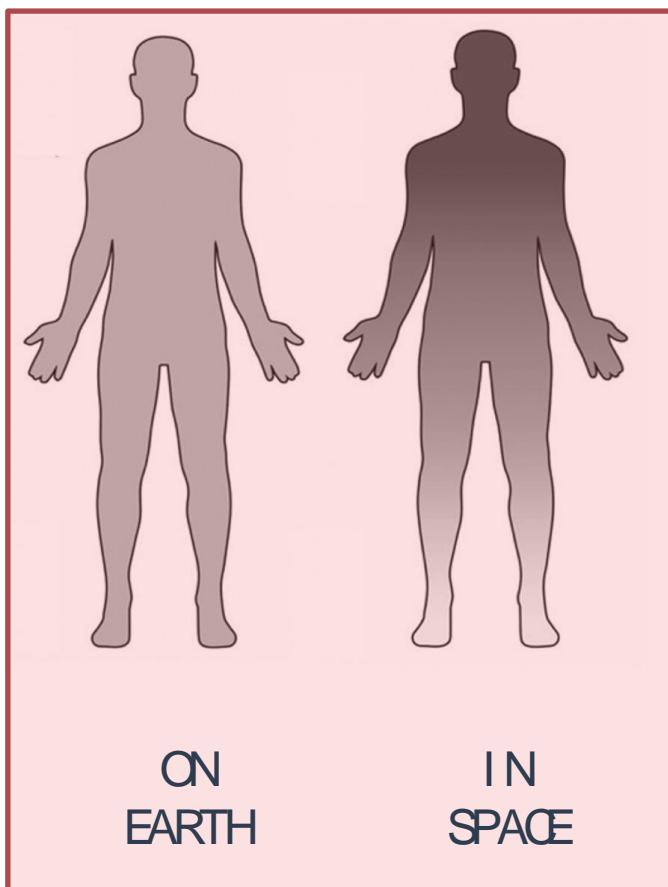
Dr. Angelique Van Ombergen

Discipline Lead for Life Sciences

SciSpacE Team, HRE



# WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BODY IN SPACE?



- IMMUNE SYSTEM AFFECTED
- SLEEP DISTURBANCES
- RADIATION EXPOSURE
- NUTRITION AND METABOLISM
- ...

## What

SciSpacE delivers the science for the exploration programme.

## Why

SciSpacE returns practical benefits to society back on Earth, and helps us understand how space affects fundamental physical and biological processes, and to find ways to explore and live sustainably in space.

## Where

International Space Station, ground analogues of space, the Moon, and Mars.

# GAINING KNOWLEDGE AND CLOSING GAPS



SciSpacE

**Earth, Moon and Mars sciences**  
Ex. Atmosphere space interaction

**Physical sciences**  
Ex. Fluids

**Physical sciences**  
Ex. Plasma physics

**Life sciences**  
Ex. Human physiology

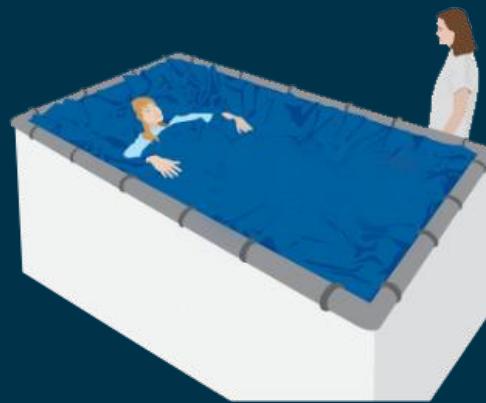


→ THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

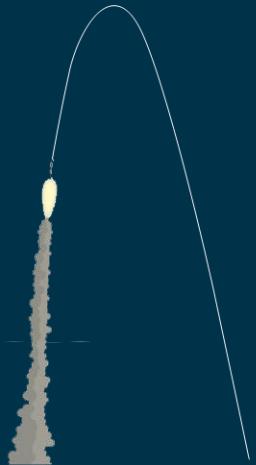
# SciSpacE - Research Ground Platforms



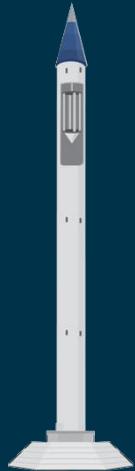
**Bedrest**



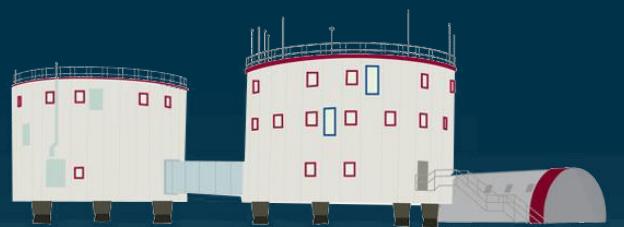
**Dry  
Immersion**



**Sounding Rocket**



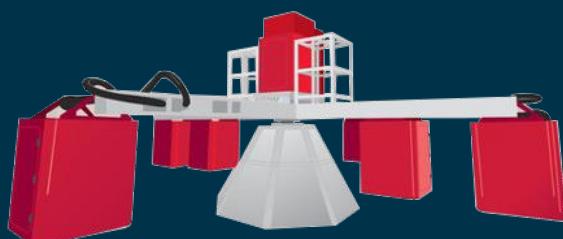
**Drop Tower**



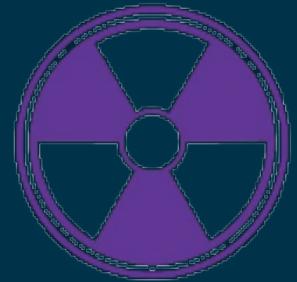
**Concordia, Antarctica  
Isolation and Confinement**



**Parabolic Flight**

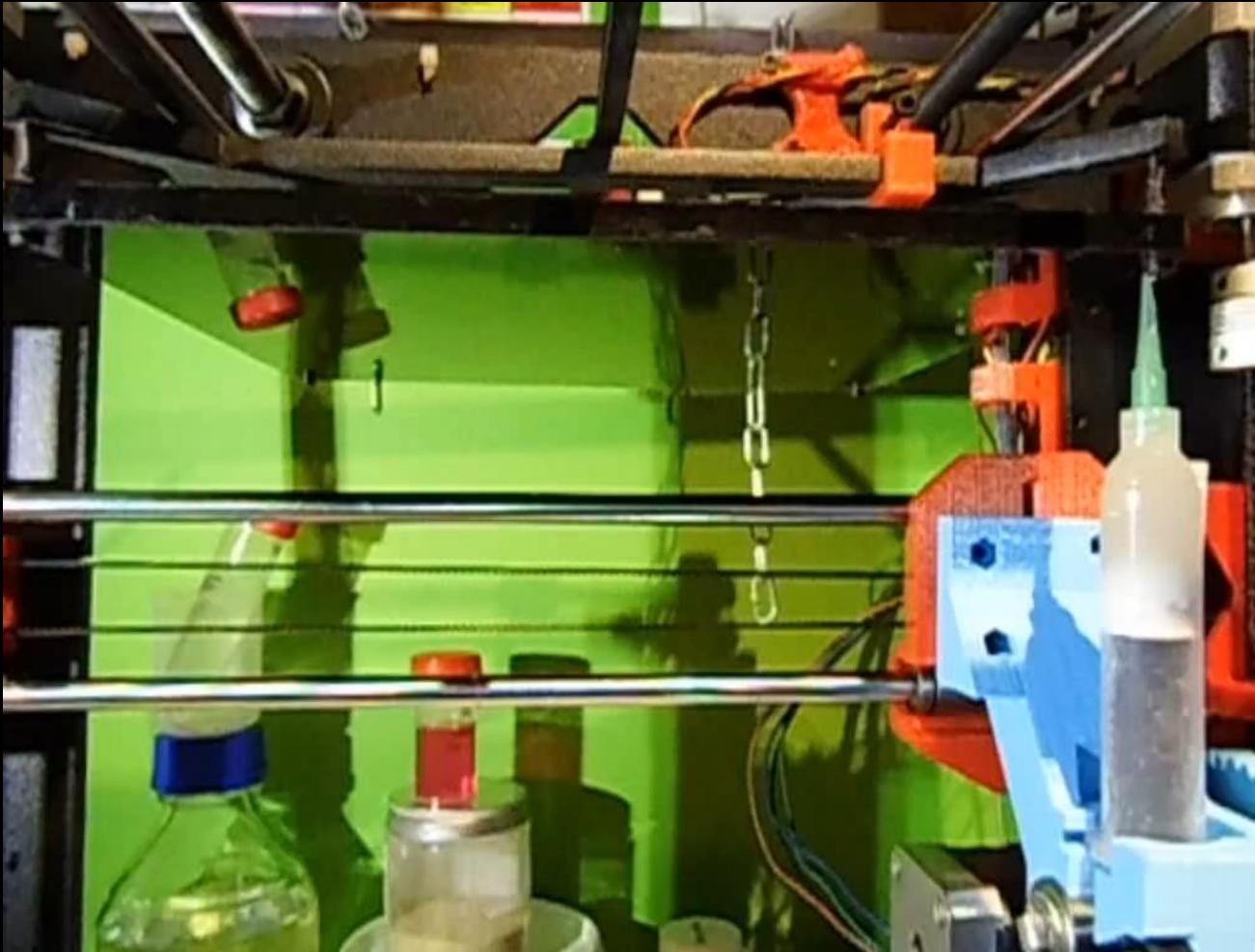


**Ground-based  
facilities**



**Radiation**

# 3D BIOPRINTING IN SPACE

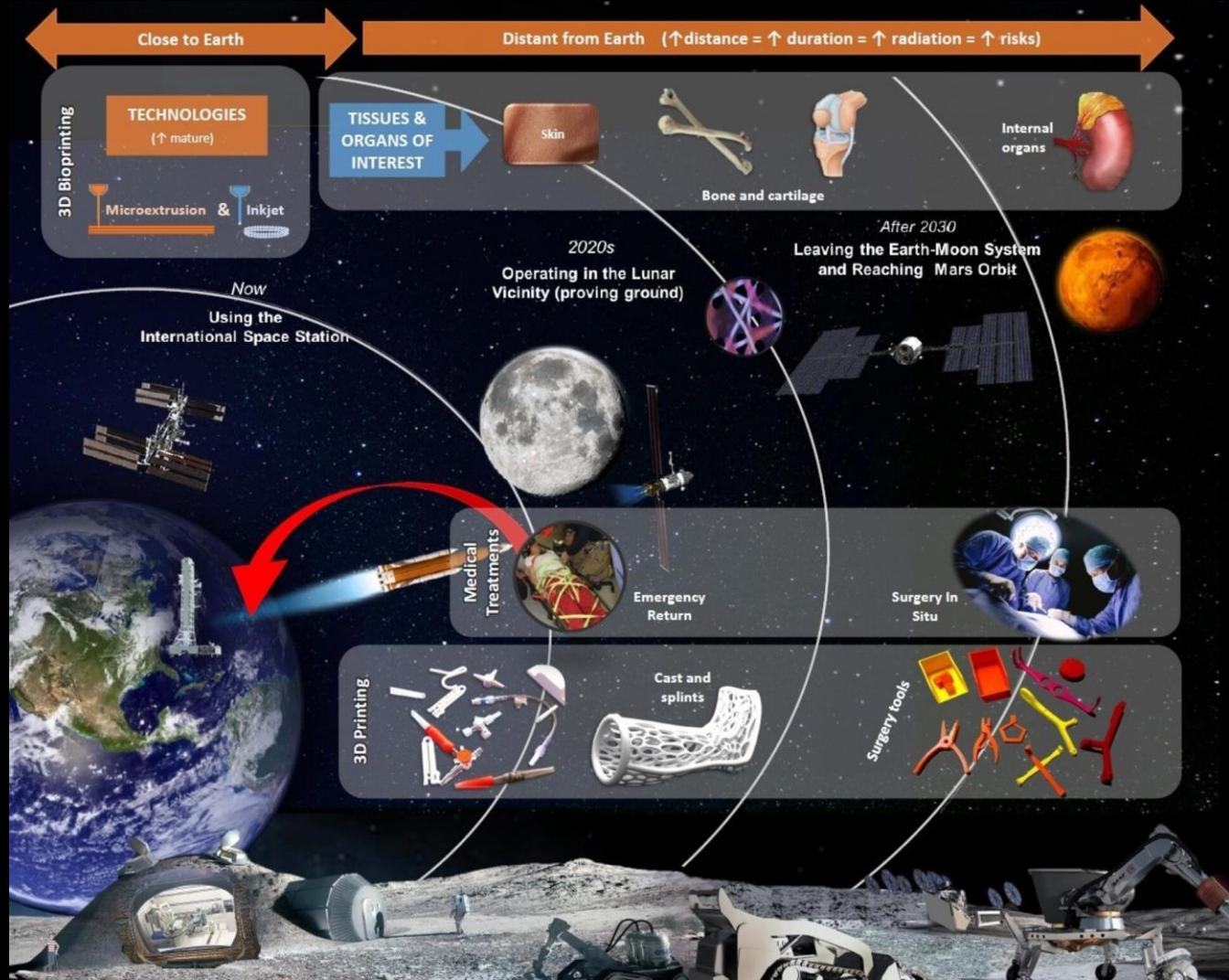
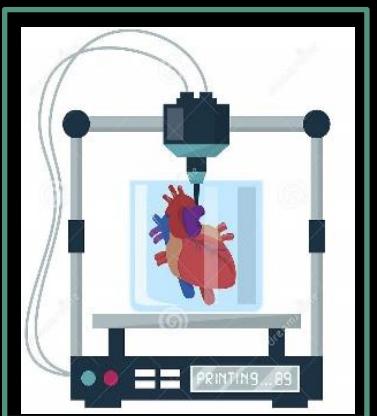
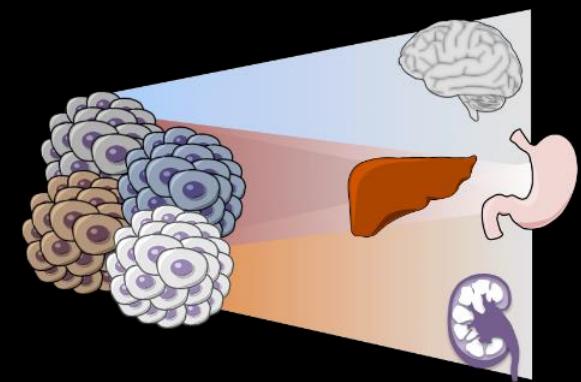


3DBioprinting upside-down  
© N. Cubo Mateo/TU Dresden

# 3D BIOPRINTING IN SPACE



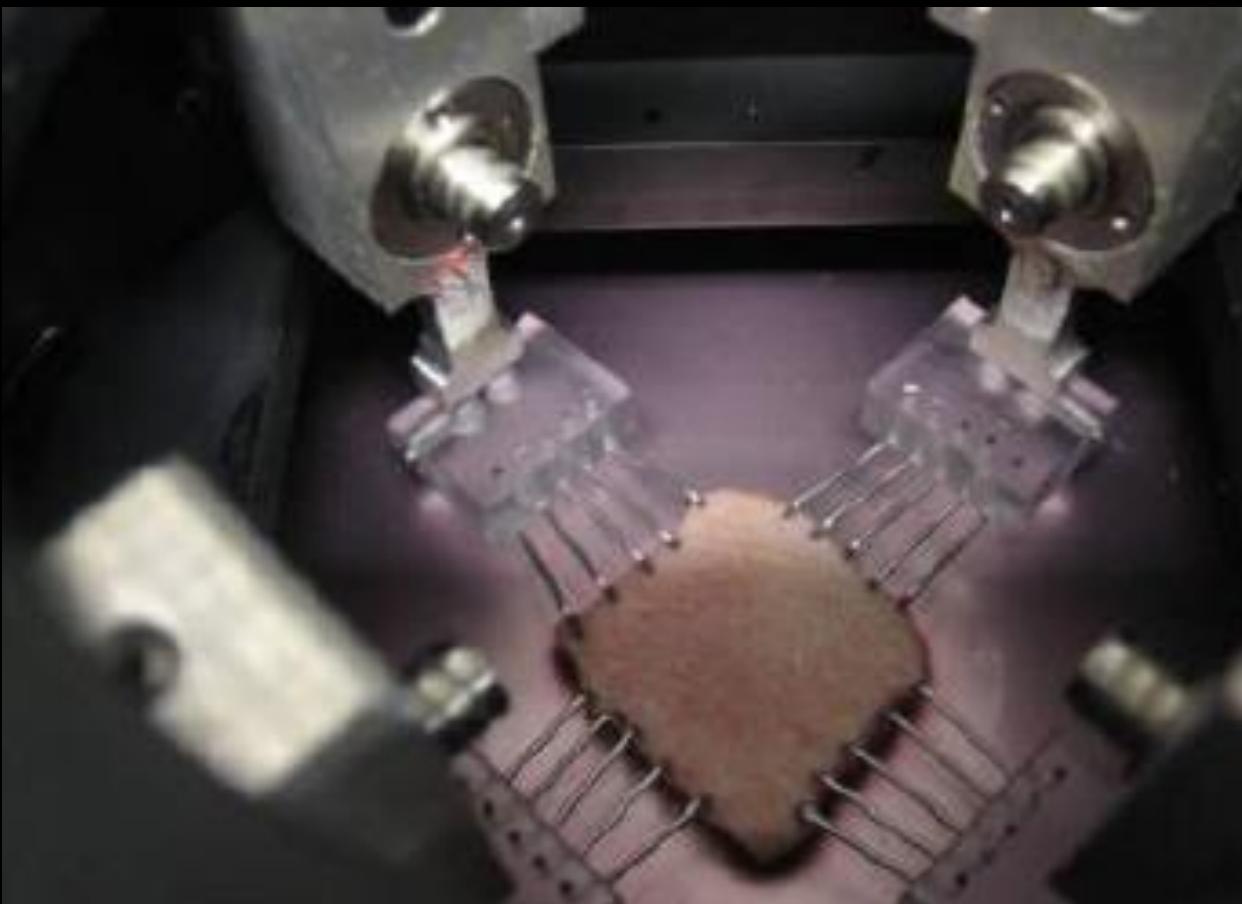
3D-printed bone © ESA-Remedia





# SUTURE IN SPACE

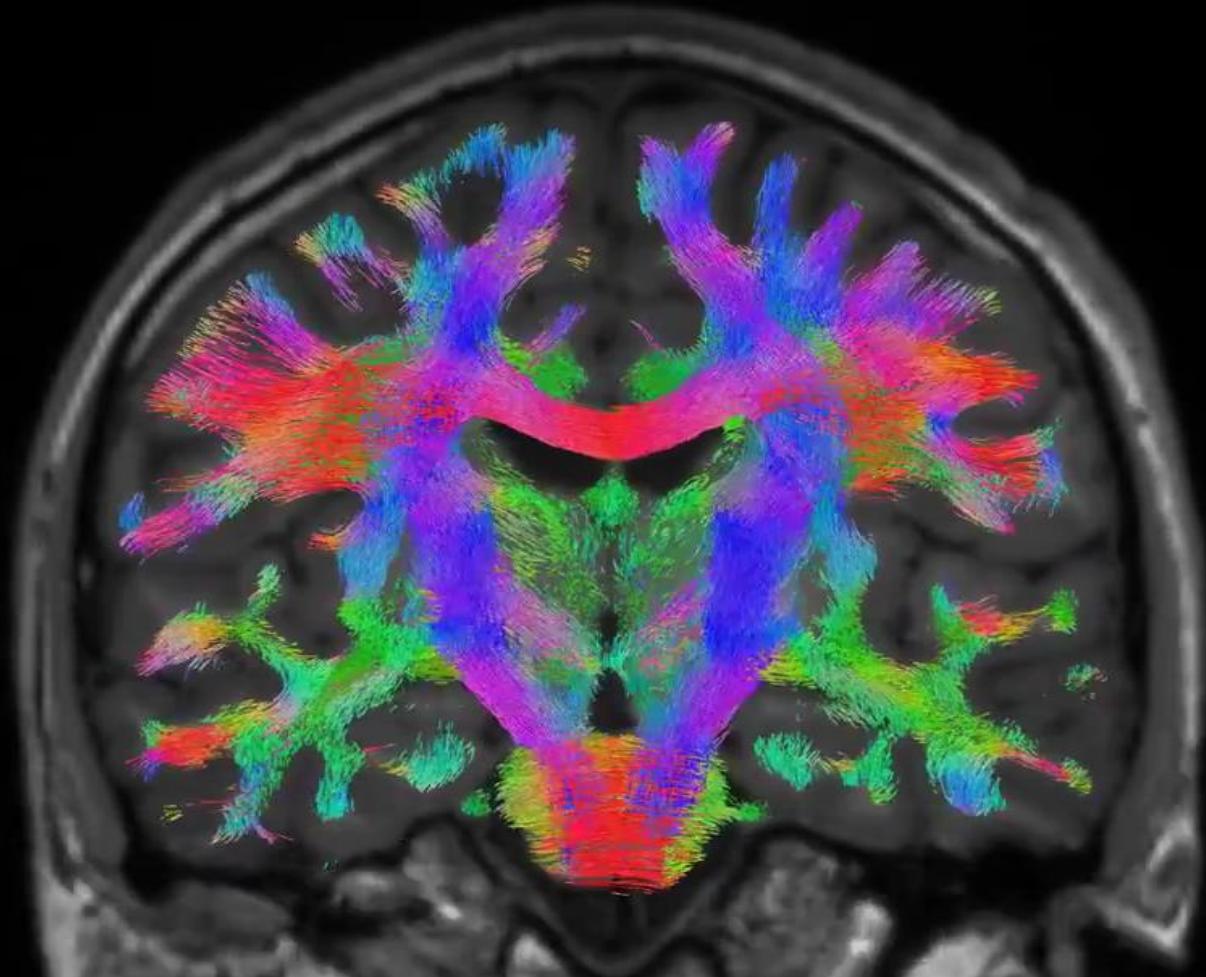
[M Monici et al.]



© M. Monici

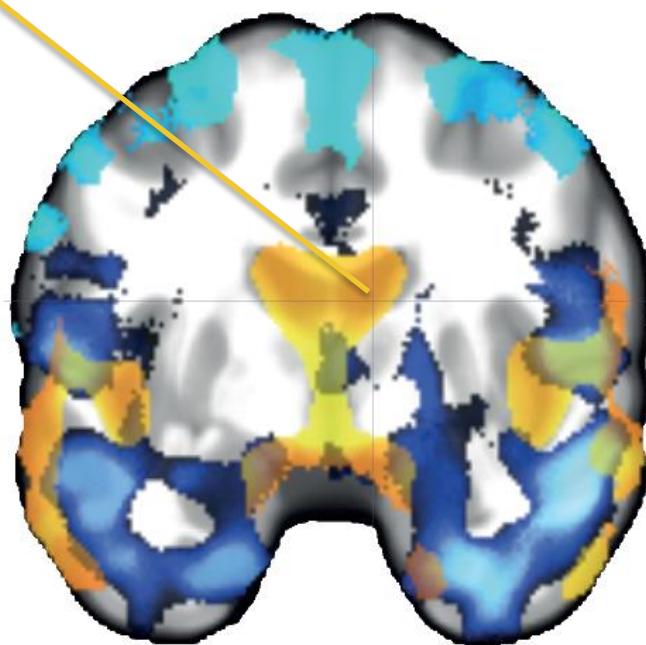
# BRAIN-DTI

[F. Wuyts et al.]

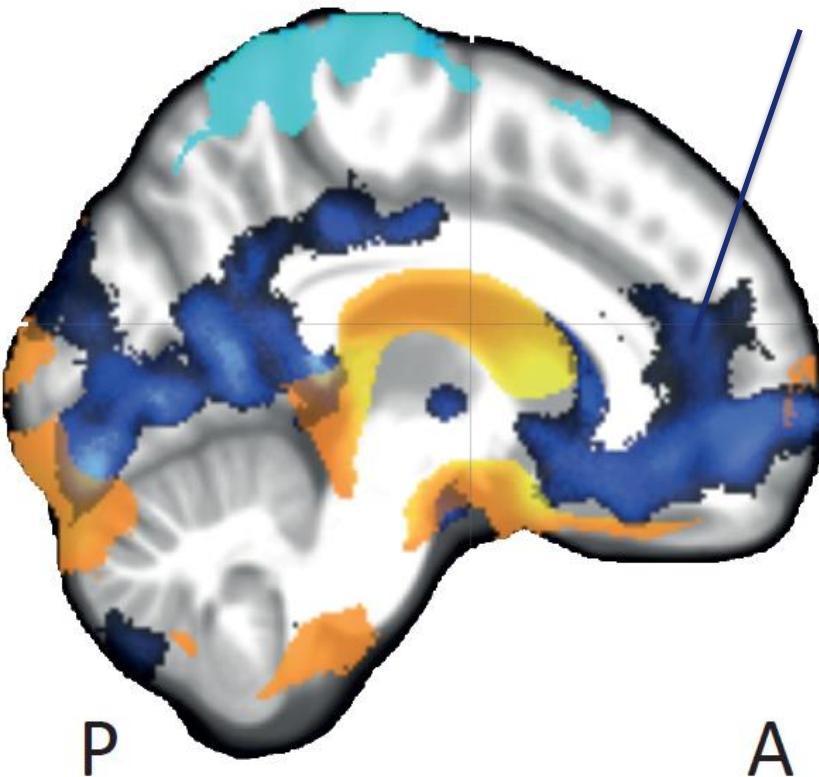


# BRAIN-DTI

Increase in CSF



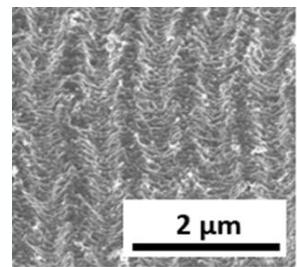
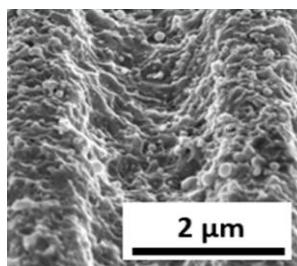
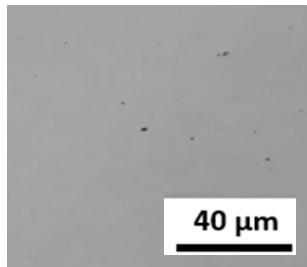
Decrease in grey matter volume



# BIOFILMS

[R. Möller et al.]

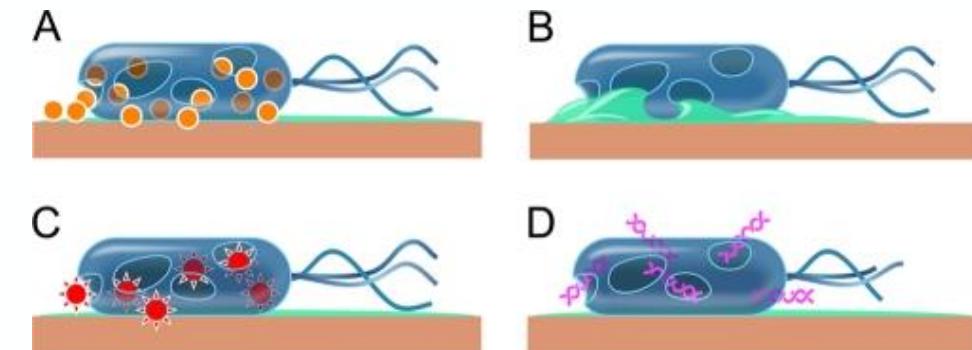
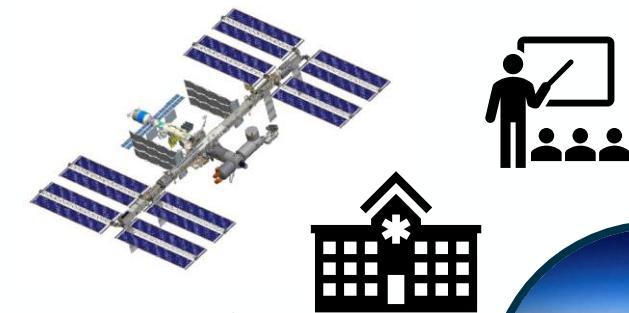
Different surface topographies



Müller et al., 2020



Antimicrobial properties of copper



Grass et al., [2011]



#SpaceCare

# BEDREST



# ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY / EXERCISE



# DRY IMMERSION



# CONCORDIA



# PARABOLIC FLIGHT



# HIBERNATION



**EUROPEAN AMBITION**



An ambitious perspective for the current and next generations



**TERRAE NOVAE 2030+**



→ THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

## SciSpacE Life Sciences Team

- Angelique Van Ombergen
- Christiane Hahn
- Rodrigo Coutinho de Almeida
- Nicol Caplin

- Inês Antunes
- Anna Fogtman
- Melike Balk
- Gabriel Rios

## SciSpacE Team Lead

- Giorgio Crippa [acting]

# THANK YOU! – QUESTIONS?

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<https://scispace.esa.int> [coming soon]