



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Bone Biology, Spaceflight, and Assays

Ryan T. Scott 

July 13, 2023

ryan.t.scott@nasa.gov

Biological Responses of Space Exploration

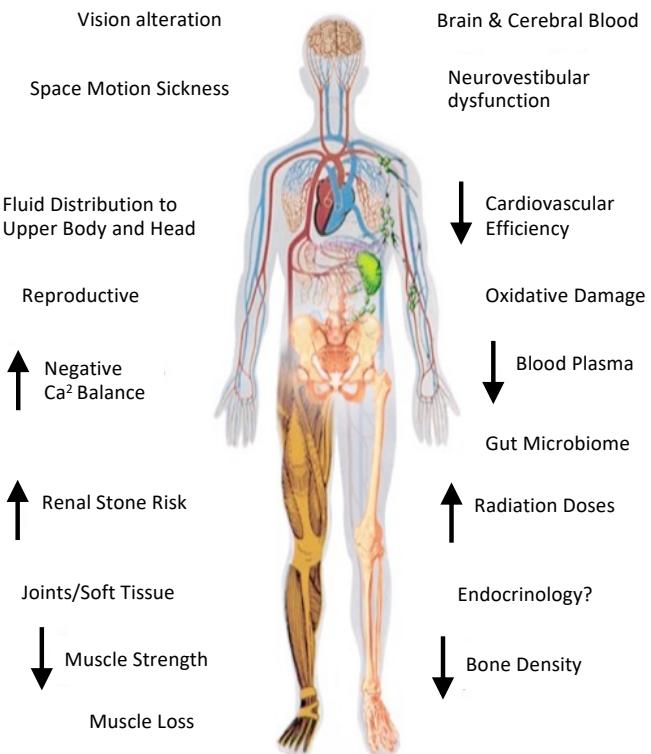
What's Occurring? Severity?

When? Time course?

Where? Whole system? Isolated?

How? Mechanics?

In Space vs On Earth?



Spaceflight and Risk- NASA Human Systems Risk Board

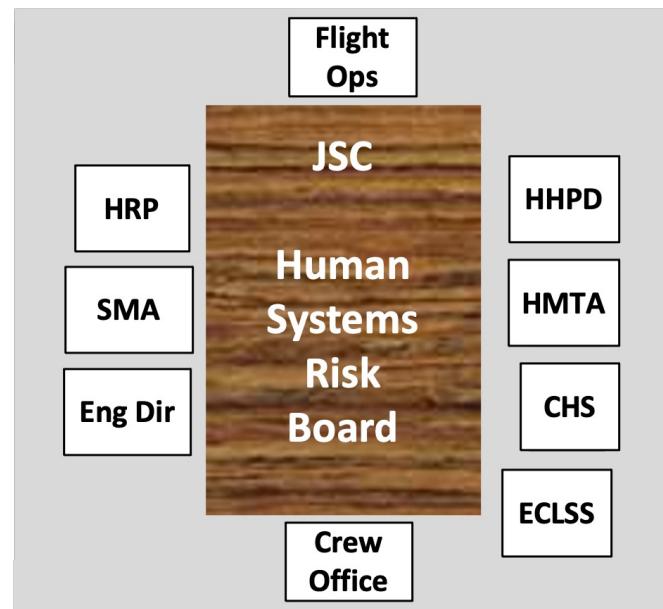
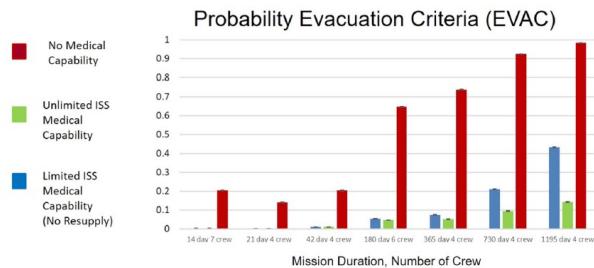
npj Microgravity

www.nature.com/npjgrav

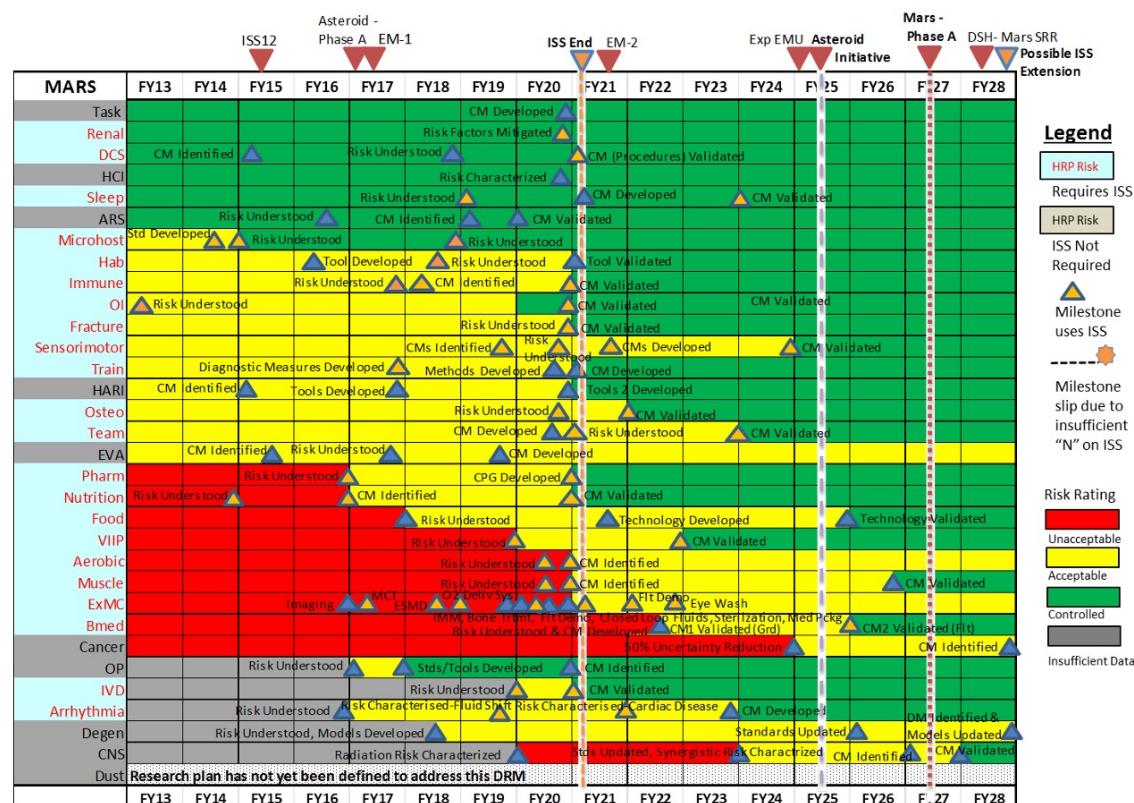
ARTICLE OPEN

Estimating medical risk in human spaceflight

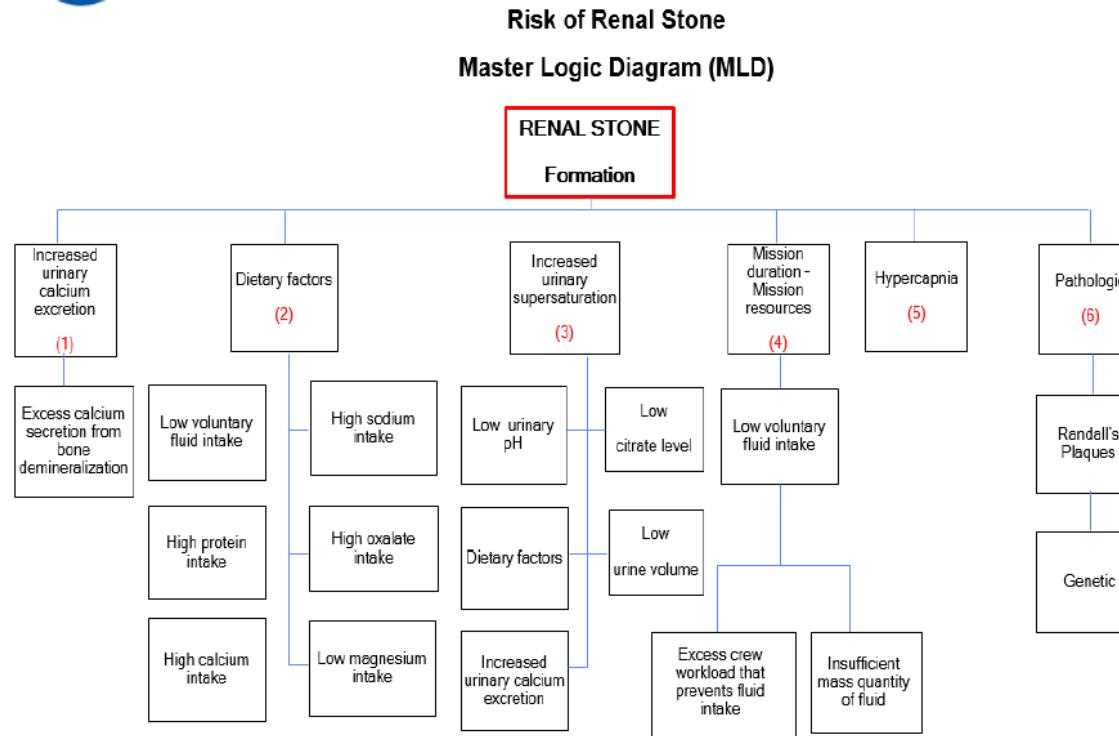
Erik L. Antonsen¹, Jerry G. Myers², Lynn Boley³, John Arellano⁴, Eric Kerstman⁵, Binaifer Kadwa⁶, Daniel M. Buckland^{6,7} and Mary Van Baalen⁸



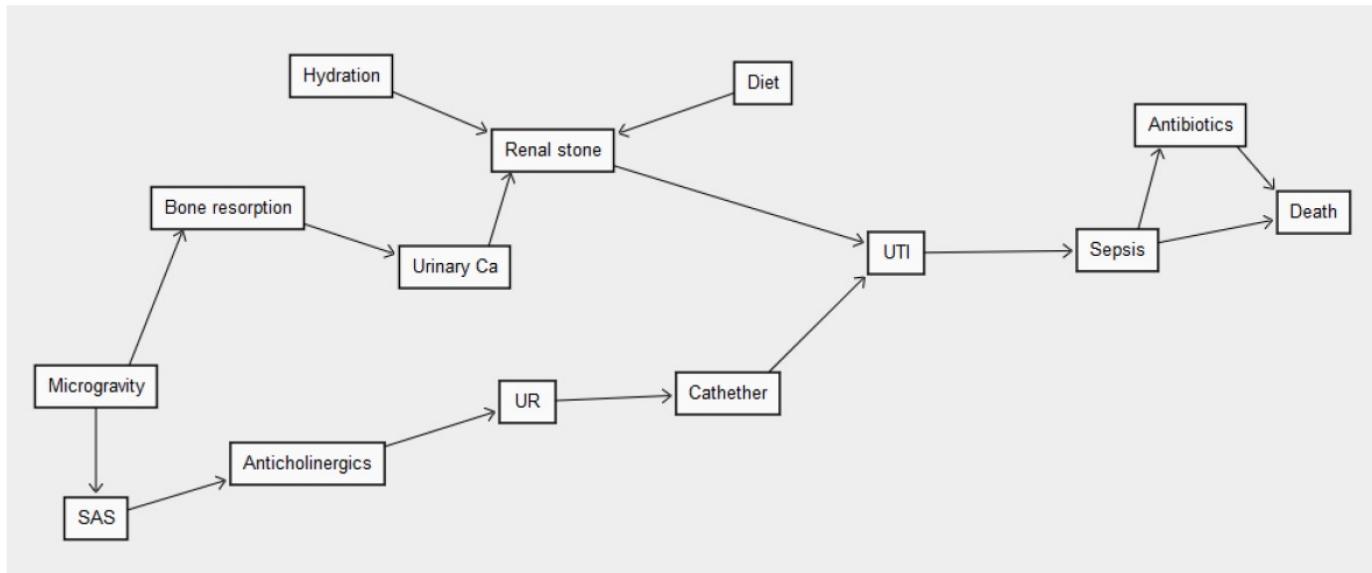
Risk Reduction Path



Master Logic Diagram

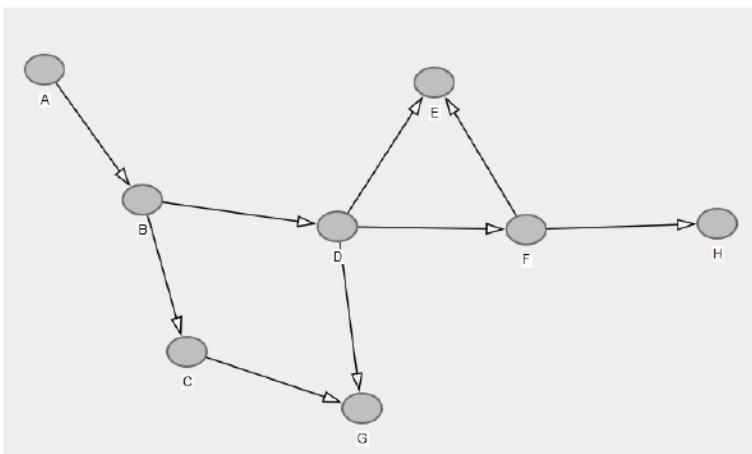


Example UTI

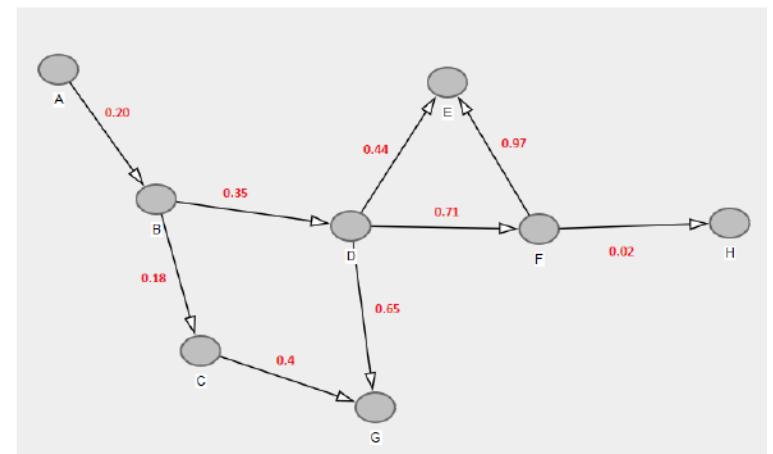


Novel question: How does use of anticholinergics modify our total probability of death from sepsis after UTI?

Where this leads to



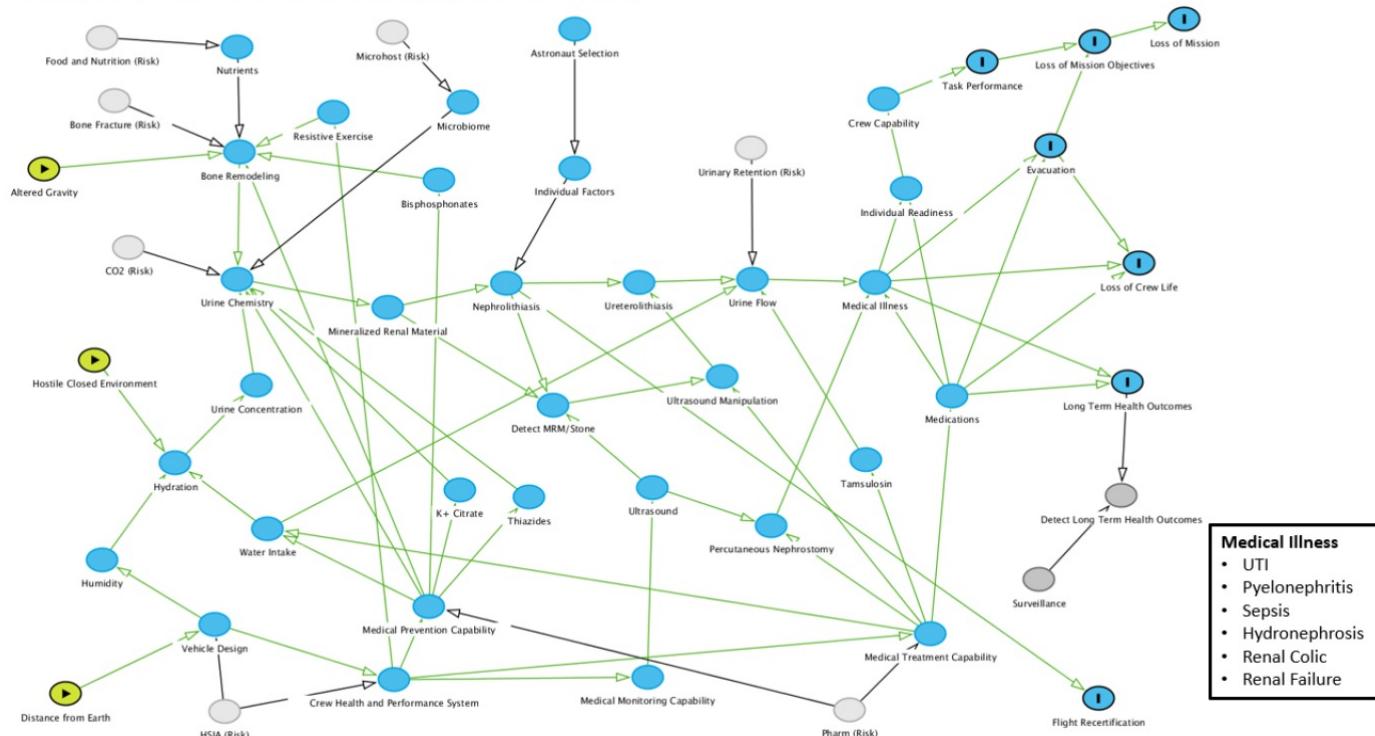
DAG



Bayesian Network

Renal Stone Risk DAG

Risk of Renal Stone Formation (Renal Stone Risk)

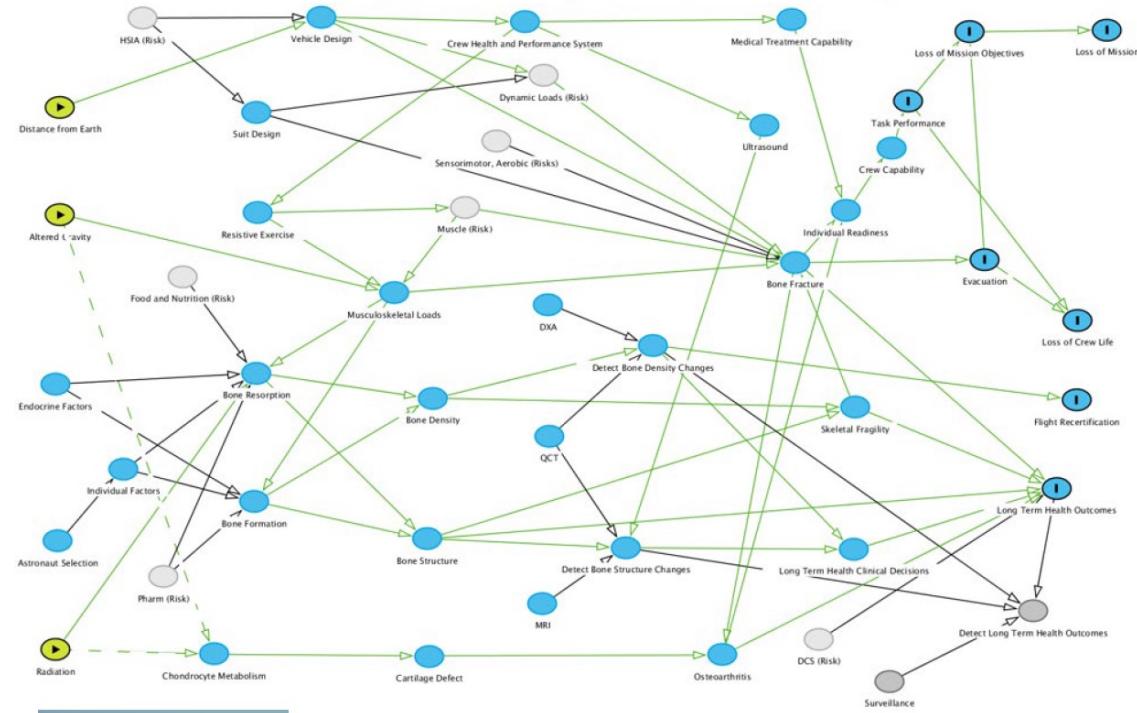


SMEs involved in creation of DAGs

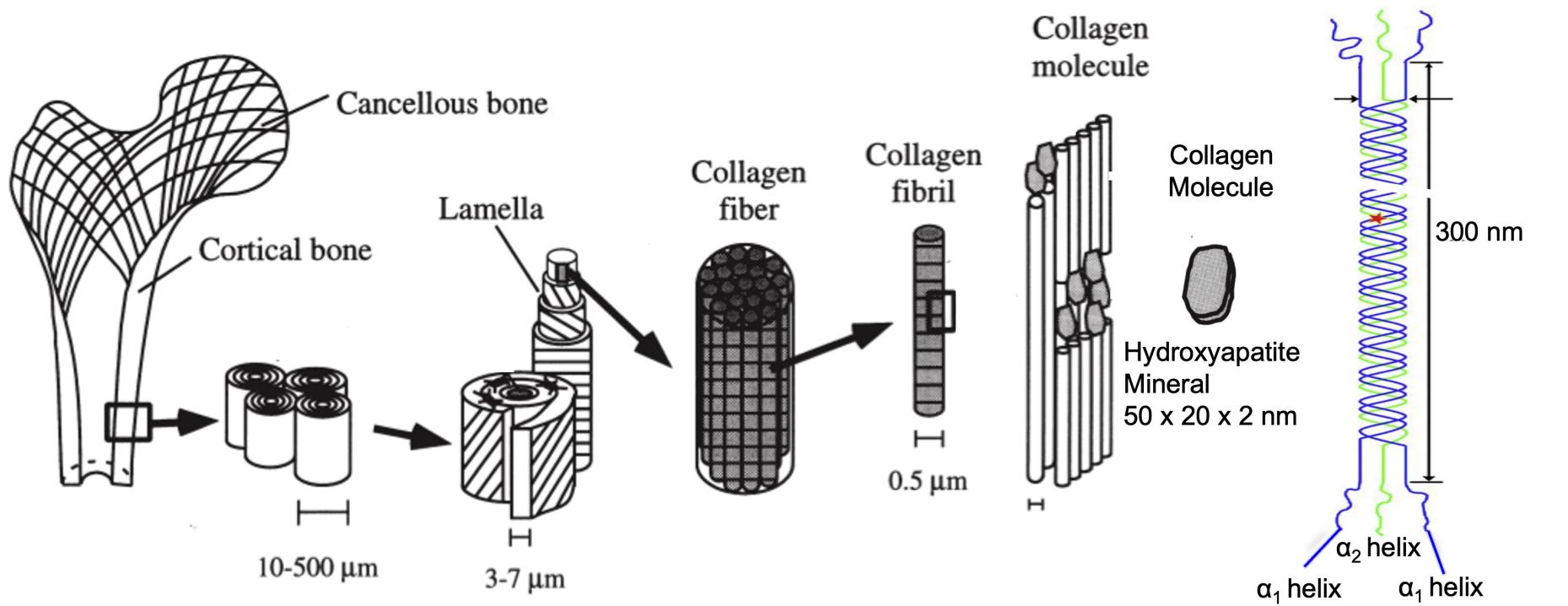
Risk Title	Risk Custodian: Epidemiology	Risk Custodian: Ops	Risk Custodian: Research			
Aerobic Risk	Maners, Jillian	Roden, Sean	Rivas, Eric (Acting)	Microhost Risk	Babiak-Vazquez, Adriana	Valencia, William
Behavioral Risk	Petersen, Devan	Picano, James	Whiting, Sara	Muscle Risk	Maners, Jillian	Scheuring, Rick
Bone Fracture Risk	Monti, Avalon	Kreykes, Amy	Sibonga, Jean	Non-ionizing Radiation (NIR) Risk	Charvat, Jacqueline	Prejean, Brian (Acting)
Cardiovascular Risk	Charvat, Jacqueline	Suresh, Rahul	Lee, Stuart	Pharm Risk	Charvat, Jacqueline	Gaza, Ramona
CO2 Risk	Osborne, Suzy	Alexander, David	Ryder, Valerie	Radiation Carcinogenesis Risk	Charvat, Jacqueline	Bayuse, Tina
Crew Egress Risk	Monti, Avalon	Haas, Christopher	Moore, Nathan	Renal Stone Risk	Charvat, Jacqueline	Semones, Eddie
Decompression Sickness (DCS) Risk	Murray, Jocelyn	Sanders, Bob	Norcross, Jason	SANS Risk	Mason, Sara	Cole, Rick
Dust Risk	Springer, Tamara	Kepria, Sean	McCoy, Torin	Sensorimotor Risk	Mason, Sara / Osborne, Suzy	Brunstetter, Tyson
Dynamic Loads Risk	Monti, Avalon	Pattarini, James	Somers, Jeff	Sleep Risk	Nartey, Nicholas	Hart, Stephen
Electrical Shock Risk	Coble, Chris	Suresh, Rahul	Rasbury, Jack	Team Risk	Babiak-Vazquez, Adriana	Rosenberg, Marissa
EVA Risk	Murray, Jocelyn	Scheuring, Rick	Norcross, Jason	Toxic Exposure Risk	Petersen, Devan	Babiak-Vazquez, Adriana
Food and Nutrition Risk	Maners, Jillian	Wu, Xulei	Douglas, Grace; Smith, Scott	Urinary Retention Risk	Mason, Sara	Alexander, David
Hearing Loss Risk	Coble, Chris	Robinette, Martin	Allen, Chris	Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Concern	Charvat, Jacqueline; Mason, Sara	Cole, Rick
Human-System Integration Architecture (HSIA) Risk	Petersen, Devan	Vos, Gordon	Vera, Alonso			Pavela, James
Hypoxia Risk	Murray, Jocelyn	Sanders, Bob	Norcross, Jason			
Immune Risk	Babiak-Vazquez, Adriana	Pavela, James	Crucian, Brian			
Medical Conditions Risk	Taiym, Wafa	TBD	TBD			

Bone Fracture Risk DAG

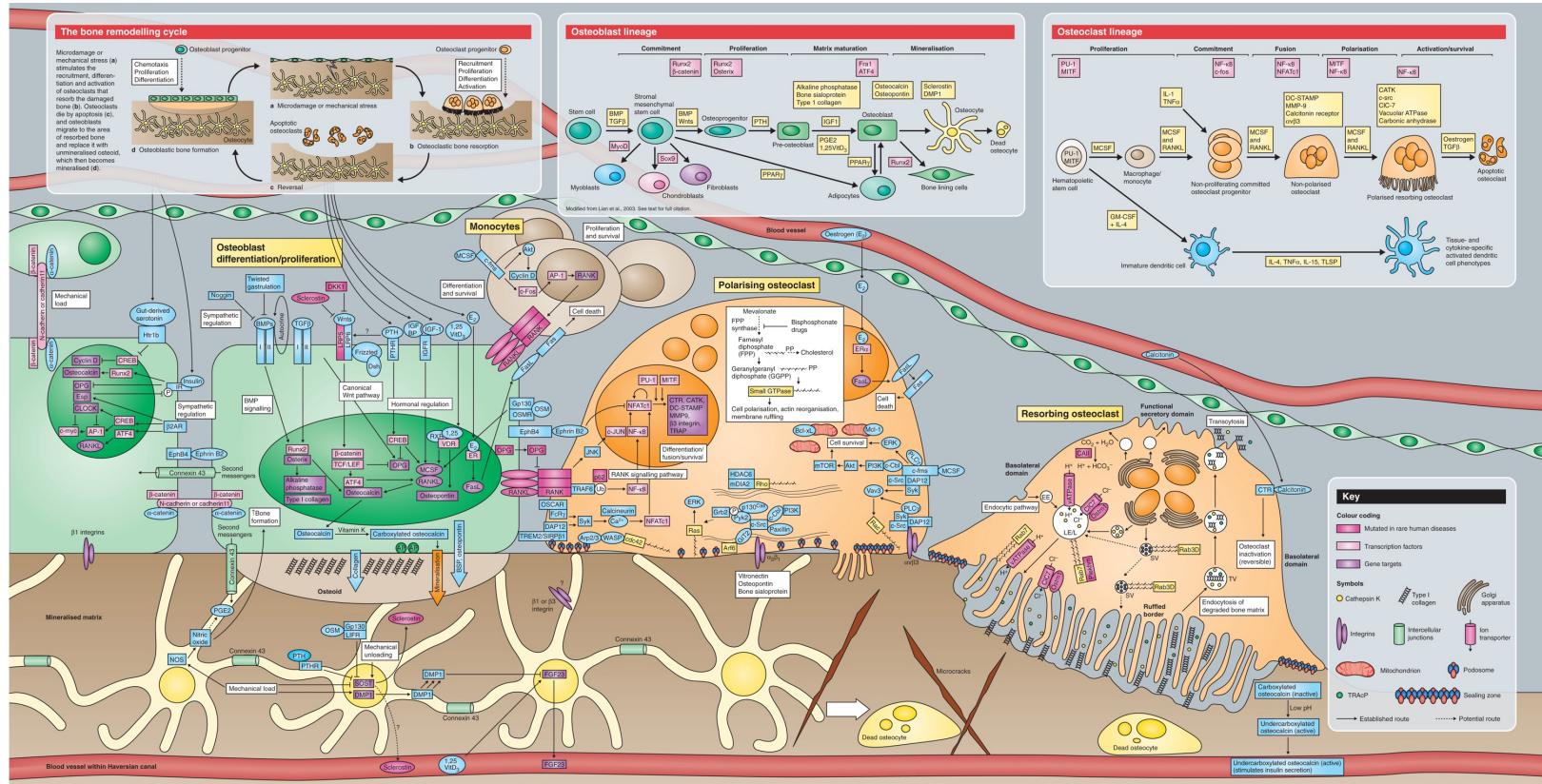
Risk of Bone Fracture due to Spaceflight-induced Changes to Bone (Bone Fracture Risk)



Basic Bone Biology

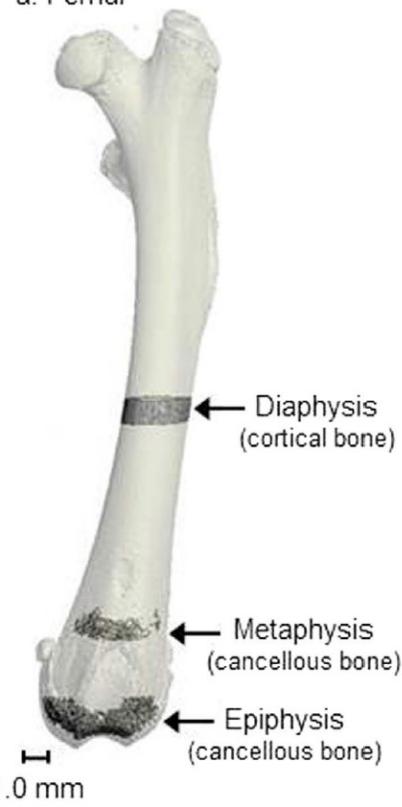


Bone Cell Biology

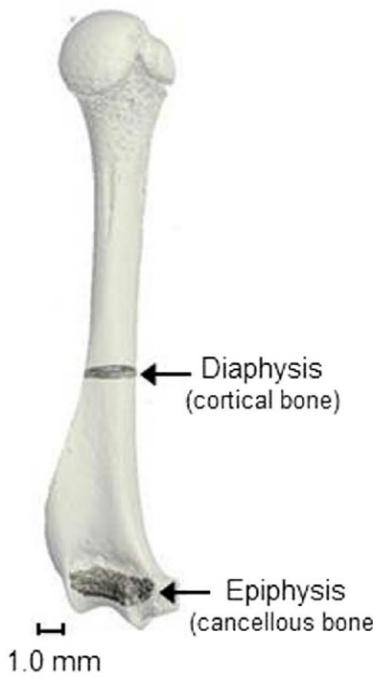


Bones

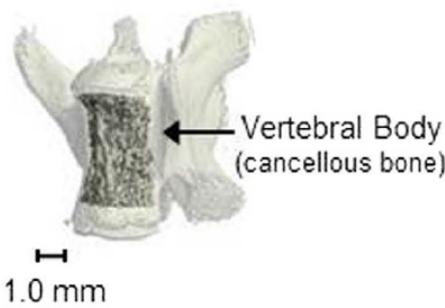
a. Femur



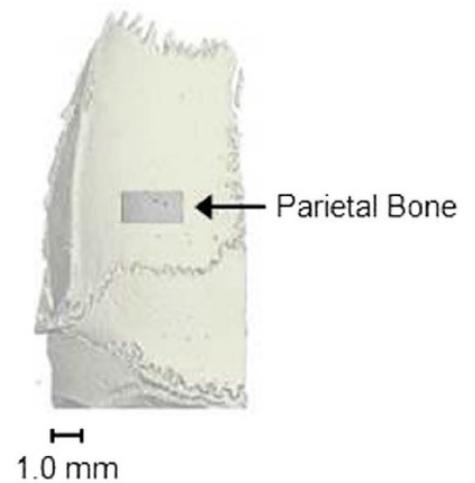
b. Humerus



c. Second Lumbar Vertebra



d. Calvarium



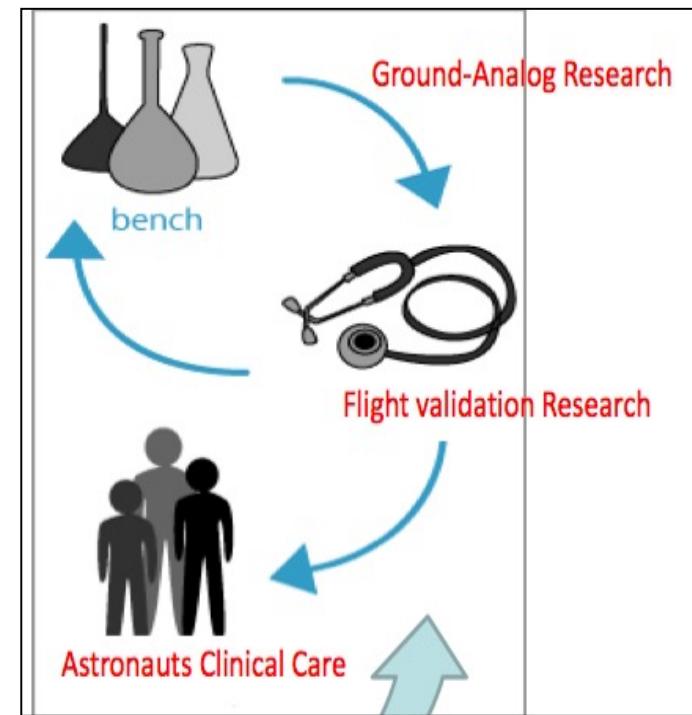
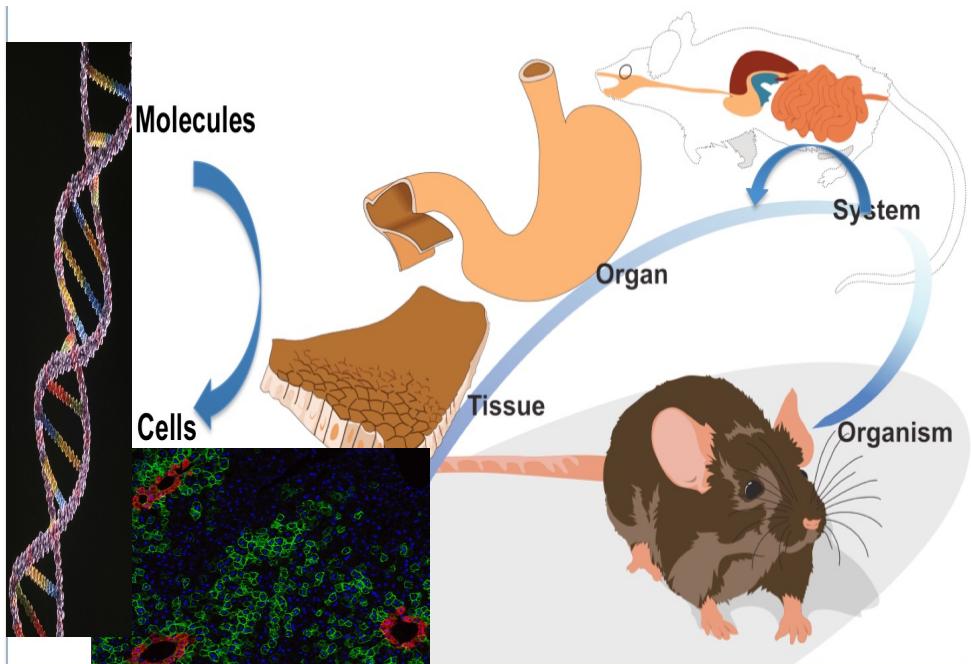
Levels of Evidence and Bradford Hill Criteria

Criterion	Definition	Notes
Temporality	The effect has to occur after the cause (and if there is an expected delay between the cause and expected effect, then the effect must occur after that delay).	This is necessary for all posited causal effects, even speculative ones.
Analogy	The use of analogies or similarities between the observed association and any other associations.	Analogs can be in exposure, population, or both.
Mechanism	If there is a plausible theoretical mechanism that can explain how the causal effect works then the posited causal connection is more likely to be true.	
Reproducibility	Consistent findings observed by different persons in different places with different samples strengthens the likelihood of an observed effect being causal.	
Specificity	Causation is likely if there is a very specific population at a specific site and disease with no other likely explanation. The more specific an association between a factor and an effect is, the bigger the probability of a causal relationship.	This is the classic Person/Place/Time of epidemiology.
Coherence	Coherence between epidemiological and laboratory findings that validate the mechanistic assumptions increases the likelihood of an effect.	This is translational science.

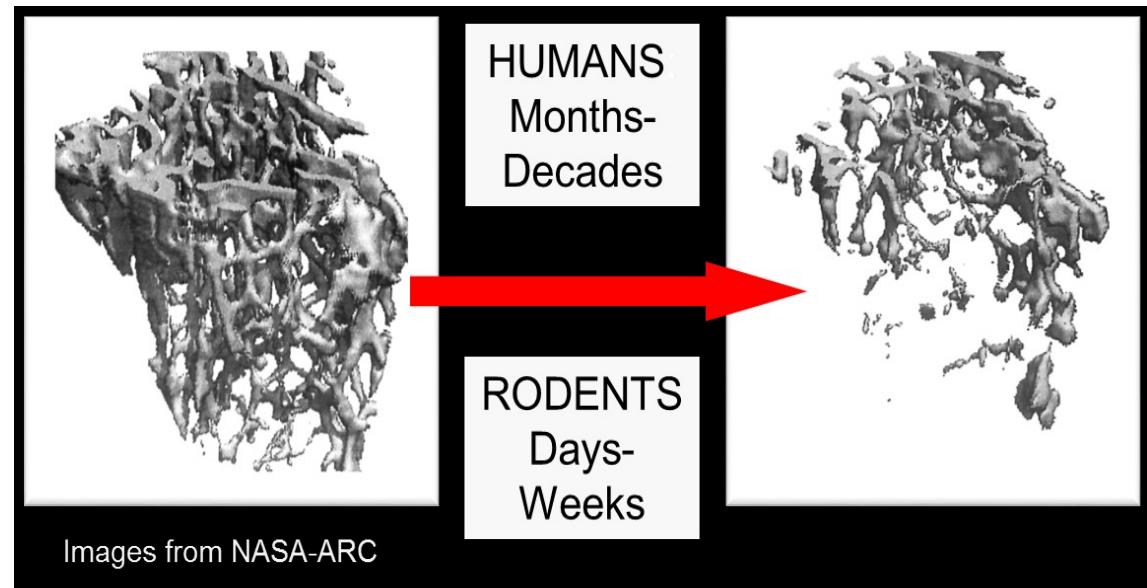
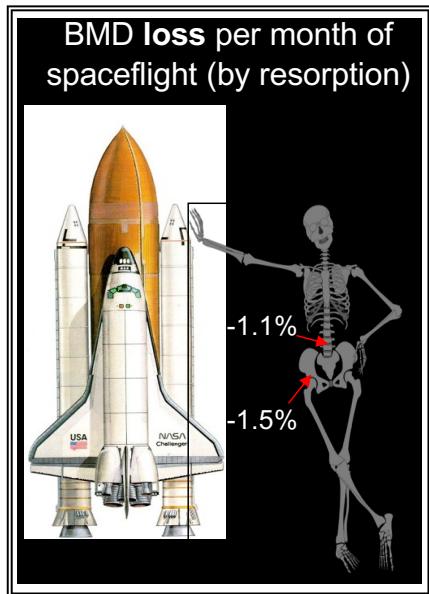
Specificity, Reproducibility, and Mechanism may each fill the requirement for an additional category to name

LOE	Temporality	Analogy	Mechanism	Reproducibility	Specificity	Coherence
4 - Speculative	✓	✓				
3 - Weak	✓	✓	✓			
2 - Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1 - Strong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

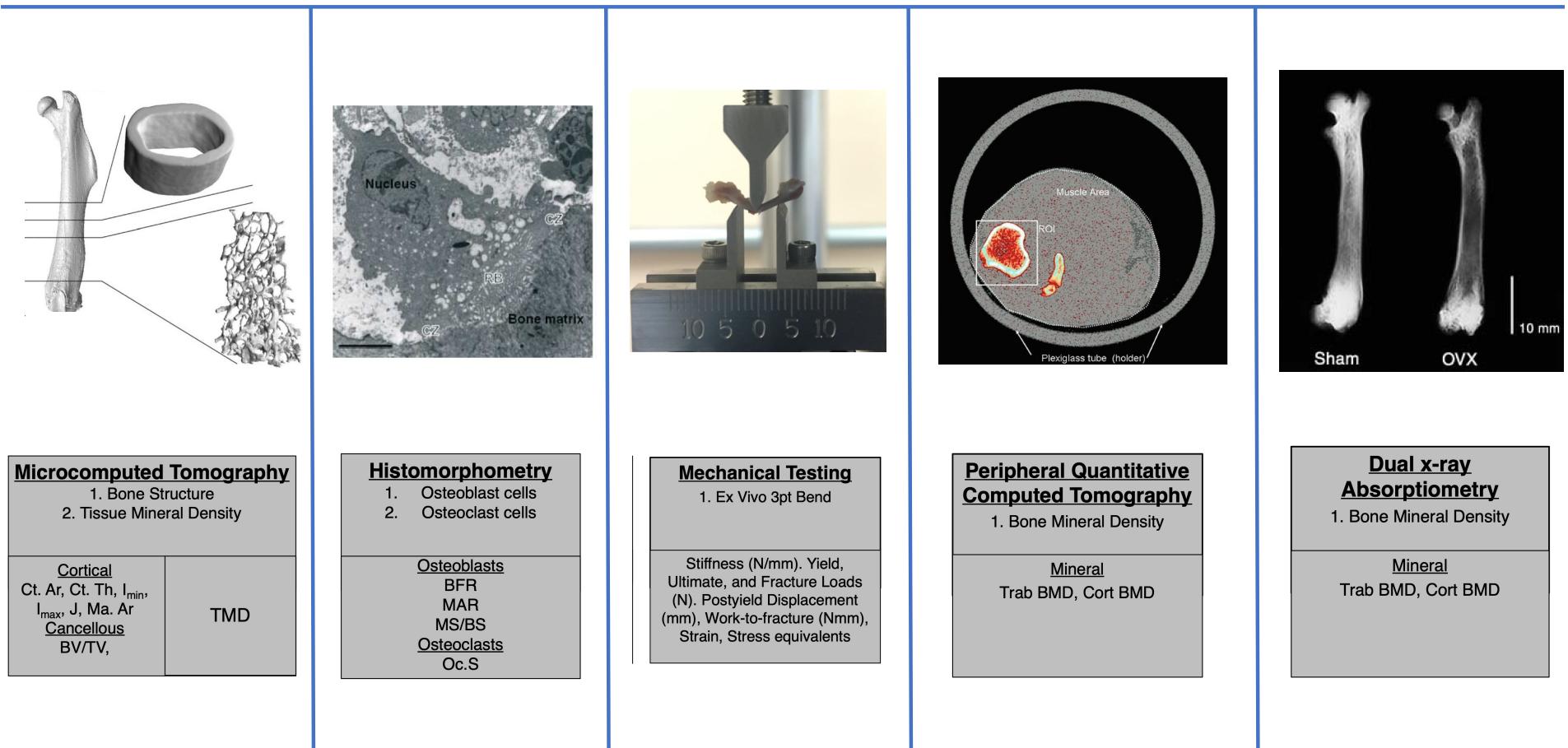
Levels of Scientific Research (Translational)



Bone Health and Spaceflight



Basic Bone Analyses in Science



Data from the Studies in DAG Effort

OSD-351

Effects of Spaceflight on Bone Microarchitecture in the Axial and Appendicular Skeleton in Growing Ovariectomized Rats

Jessica A. Keune¹, Adam J. Branscum², Urszula T. Iwaniec^{1,3} & Russell T. Turner^{1,3}

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

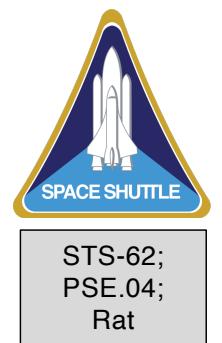


STS-62;
PSE.04;
Rat

OSD-310

Spaceflight-induced vertebral bone loss in ovariectomized rats is associated with increased bone marrow adiposity and no change in bone formation

Jessica A Keune¹, Kenneth A Philbrick¹, Adam J Branscum², Urszula T Iwaniec^{1,3} and Russell T Turner^{1,3}



STS-62;
PSE.04;
Rat

OSD-489



ISS; Rodent
Research 1;
Mouse

OSD-477, 608



PWB;
Harvard
University;
Rat

Dose-dependent skeletal deficits due to varied reductions in mechanical loading in rats

Frank C. Ko, Marie Mortreux, Daniela Riveros, Janice A. Nagy, Seward B. Rutkove & Mary L. Bouxsein [✉](#)

npj | microgravity



Quantifying Cancellous Bone Structural Changes in Microgravity: Axial Skeleton Results from the Rodent Research-1 Mission

Parker B. Dubé^{1,2}, R.T. Scott³, N.H. Thomas³, M.M. Pendleton⁴, J.S. Alwood⁵, ¹Space Life Sciences Training Program (SLSTP), NASA Ames, Moffett Field, CA, USA, ²Department of Biomedical Engineering, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA, ³Blue Marble Space Institute of Science, NASA Ames, Moffett Field, CA, USA, ⁴University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA, ⁵Bone and Signaling Laboratory, NASA Ames, Moffett Field, CA, U

ryan.t.scott@nasa.gov
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Gross Bone Anatomy

