Editorial

Mission to Mars: Volunteer Dentist

May dentist imagine volunteering for or accepting an assignment for a trip to Mars? There is an demand in attempting to do things and go places on behalf of the human race in the name of exploration and science that few or none have done before. Future generations of launch vehicles will most likely be safer than the Shuttle at transporting people to low-Earth orbit. However, after five decades of human spaceflight, NASA and ISS have relatively little experience at dealing with the challenges. These days, as the Human Mission program at this stages, NASA and ISS understand the risks fairly well and can manage them better than ever before. It would seem, advances in technology and precursor missions will reduce the number of unknowns to something that can be responsibly managed.

There are big sacrifices that astronauts make that come with the job - separation from family for extended periods of time, long hours and lots of travel, sacrificing a certain amount of privacy, the pressure of having to perform complex and risky tasks with a great deal at stake in view of the public. The Mars crew would experience separation from family longer than any astronauts have tolerated. Also, the medical requirements would be far stricter for astronauts intended to crew a spacecraft to Mars than have been imposed on Shuttle or even Station astronauts. Would medical experts and managers additionally want to perform prophylactic procedures on potential crew members, such as removing appendices, to reduce the chance of an in-flight medical emergency? Perhaps potential crew members would be the subject of genetic engineering to improve resistance to radiation as described above or for some other mission-success purpose. Even till date, No Space agencies except BR research group (My group), are giving attention on human oral cavity physiology and adverse effects of microgravity and radiation on oral cavity. So further, No doubt there would be a high price to pay for the privilege of representing humanity on the first trip to Mars.

My point of view, NASA, ISS, ESA and ISRO should send one person with robotic (Having knowledge of medical, dental and other Health hazards such as a dentist) on a one-way trip to Mars and He/ she can study and send information to us. I have no doubt that there would be an abundance of volunteers like me and my team.

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