

## Press release archive

**Announcing *npj Microgravity*, a new open access journal dedicated to scientific advancements through spaceflight research**

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Nature Publishing Group and the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University today announce the launch of *npj Microgravity*, a new open access journal. The journal is specifically dedicated to publishing research that enables space exploration and research that is enabled by spaceflight. It will also publish research utilizing ground-based models of spaceflight.

Microgravity is an extreme environment in which gravity is greatly reduced. It provides a unique opportunity to not only enhance future spaceflight missions, but also provides novel insight into our understanding of biological, physical and engineering sciences on Earth with potential practical applications for the general public. *npj Microgravity*, an online-only and free to access journal, captures the discoveries from reduced gravity and analogue environments, thereby providing scientists and science enthusiasts alike a way to stay at the cutting edge with the latest research.

Editor-in-Chief Cheryl A. Nickerson, Ph.D., Arizona State University, USA, is internationally recognized for her pioneering research in utilizing the microgravity environment of spaceflight as a unique research platform to provide novel insight into infectious disease mechanisms and to understand how physical forces dictate the outcome of host-pathogen interactions that lead to disease.

Dr Nickerson says: "With the International Space Station, commercial spaceflight entities, and increasing international participation from spacefaring nations, we are in a Renaissance period for spaceflight research that has tremendous potential for breakthrough advances in diverse scientific and technological domains to benefit life on Earth and exploration of space. I am delighted to be a part of this new initiative, which I believe is exactly the type of platform needed to highlight and broaden microgravity and analogue research into widespread mainstream acceptance with the highest values of scientific integrity historically defined by the Nature brand."

Dr. Nickerson will announce the journal at an online Google Science Fair event Hangout on Air later today. With Scientific American's Editor-in-Chief, Mariette DiChristina, they'll be asking: **[What happens under microgravity?](#)**

This is the latest launch in the series of **[Nature Partner Journals](#)** (npj), a new series of online, open access journals published in collaboration with world-renowned international partners. As with all titles within the series, *npj Microgravity* adheres to high editorial standards and will publish high-quality open research.

Martin Delahunty, Global Head of Partnership Journals at Nature Publishing Group says: "For over fifty years, humanity's imagination has been captured by what lies beyond our own small planet. The research undertaken into space exploration has even led to technological advances which affect our everyday life. And for the first time, scientists looking to publish on this topic will have the option of choosing a high quality, dedicated journal which is open to all."

*npj Microgravity* will publish scientific research in the life sciences, physical sciences and engineering fields, which is needed to develop advanced exploration technologies and processes, particularly those profoundly affected by operation in a space environment. It will also publish research that is enabled by spaceflight and spaceflight analogues that provide novel insight into biological, engineering and physical sciences to benefit Earth-based research and the general public.

The journal will be **[open for submissions](#)** in late October.

**-ENDS-**

**[Microgravity! A Google Science Fair 2014 Hangout On Air](#)** will take place at 10AM PT / 1PM ET / 1700 GMT on Friday October 10.

The Article Processing Charge will be \$4,000.

## About the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University

The Biodesign Institute plays a critical role in advancing the research mission of Arizona State University (ASU), a comprehensive public research university that is the second largest in the U.S. The Biodesign Institute embodies the guiding principles and aspirations of ASU's ongoing evolution as a New American University, as defined by ASU President Michael Crow, specifically, to advance research and discovery of public value; and to assume fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

The mission of the Biodesign Institute at ASU addresses today's critical global challenges in health care, sustainability and security by developing solutions bioinspired from nature, including: diagnostics for the early detection of diseases such as cancer and diabetes; vaccines and therapeutics to fight a wide spectrum of infectious diseases; novel nanomaterials for bioelectronics, drug design and delivery; clean, renewable biofuels and bioremediation to mitigate environmental contamination.

Now celebrating its first decade of discoveries and impact, since inception, the Biodesign Institute has attracted more than \$400 million in extramural funding from competitive grant awards as well as support from philanthropic and industry sources, had a \$1.5 billion impact on the Arizona economy, annually supported 3,165 Arizona jobs, fostered 12 start-up companies and licensed technologies, and translated its discoveries into commercially viable products and clinical practices. ASU is the largest public university, with 82,000 students this fall. For more information, please go to:

[www.biodesign.asu.edu](http://www.biodesign.asu.edu)

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Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a publisher of high impact scientific information in print and online. NPG publishes journals, online databases and services across the life, physical, chemical and applied sciences.

Focusing on the needs of scientists, *Nature* (founded in 1869) is the leading weekly, international scientific journal. NPG publishes a range of Nature research journals and *Nature Reviews* journals, and a range of prestigious academic and partner journals including society-owned publications. Online, nature.com provides over 8 million visitors per month with access to NPG publications and services, including news and comment from *Nature*, and the leading scientific jobs board *Naturejobs*.

Part of the Nature Publishing Group family is Frontiers, a community-driven open-access publisher and research network. NPG and Frontiers work together to empower researchers to change the way science is communicated, through open access publication and open science tools. For more information on Frontiers, please go to [www.frontiersin.org](http://www.frontiersin.org).

*Scientific American* is at the heart of NPG's consumer media division, meeting the needs of the general public. Founded in 1845, *Scientific American* is the oldest continuously published magazine in the US and the leading authoritative publication for science in the general media. Together with [scientificamerican.com](http://scientificamerican.com) and 14 local language editions around the world it reaches over 5 million consumers and scientists. Other titles include *Scientific American Mind* and *Spektrum der Wissenschaft* in Germany.

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