

Members of the

International Space Surgery Research Consortium

Leadership Team



Bridging Earth and Space — Taking Surgery to
the Final Frontier

Dr Dora Babocs

MD, PGD

Co-founder and Co-lead, ISSRC



Dr. Dora Babocs is a visionary medical doctor with an aim to make surgical procedures a safe option for future deep-space missions. Currently serving as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Mayo Clinic, her journey into the realms of medicine and space exploration began in Szeged, Hungary, where she embarked on a career as a General Surgery resident. Driven by a profound curiosity about the cosmos, she is concurrently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Astronomy and Planetary Science, recently graduated as a Space Specialist in Life Sciences, and participated in ESA's Space Physician Training 2023. Dr. Babocs also plays an integral role in the Biomedical Engineering Group at OeWF, contributing her expertise to Mars analog missions. Additionally, she serves as a European Representative of the International Outreach Committee for AMSRO, and serves as National Point of Contact for Hungary at SGAC, fostering international collaboration in space exploration. Dr. Babocs was also selected for the Forbes 30/30, and Forbes x Johnnie Walker Selfmade lists in 2024. Through her pioneering vision and tireless scientific endeavors, Dr. Babocs is dedicated to overcoming the challenges of surgery in deep space, paving the way for future human exploration beyond the confines of our planet.

Dr Rowena Christiansen

MEmergHealth, MBA, MBBS, BA Hons, LLB, DCH, GradDipDisasterMed, GradDipEd, ACCAM, GradCertSpaceStudies, ISU SHSSP16, FAsMA, FAsHFA

Co-founder and Co-lead, ISSRC



Dr. Rowena Christiansen is dual-qualified in medicine and law, with post-graduate studies in emergency health, aerospace medicine, space studies, disaster management, anaesthetics, and child health. She also holds qualifications in business, humanities and education. Rowena primarily practises in medicine in extreme and austere environments and pre-hospital emergency care. She is a Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA), and the Aerospace Human Factors Association. Rowena authored an innovative subject on "Human health in the space environment" for the Melbourne Medical School, and lectures on 'humans in space', 'space biotechnology' and 'astrobiology' for Swinburne University of Technology. She is a passionate aerospace medicine advocate, educator, researcher, and editor/reviewer, embracing the importance of international collaboration and networking. Rowena volunteers in support of diverse professional organisations, and was the first Australian Vice-President of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) and the Organisation for Space Medicine, Engineering, and Design. She is a founding member of the Space Surgery Association, and the current President-Elect. In late 2019, she founded the "ad astra vita" project, focusing on space health and medicine in austere and extreme environments, and is a co-founder of the International Humans in Space Summit and the Melbourne International Space Festival. Rowena is an annual finalist in the Australian Space Awards, receiving the 2023 "Innovator of the Year" award, and has also received several aerospace medicine awards. In 2026 she was appointed as a Deputy Editor for *npj Microgravity*.

Krishi Korrapati

BA
Chief Research Fellow



Krishi is a fourth-year medical student at Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University. After graduating from Columbia University with a degree in neuroscience, economics, and philosophy, he hoped to bridge his restlessness for medicine and space, having faith that advancing the human condition will alleviate inequity on Earth. During the night, he dreams of poetry as politics and interstellar exploration. During the day, he is training for an Ironman, interpreting Spanish, doing theater, and trying to learn how to fly a plane. He likes to gild everything with lightheartedness and with gravity.

Dr M. Mark Melin

MD

Senior Mentor



Dr. M. Mark Melin MD FACS RPVI FACWS is the Medical Director of the Wound Clinic, Gonda Vascular Center, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA. His interests include dermal lymphatic therapeutics and research, adjunctive micronutrients including Diosmin Hesperidin, and biofilm mitigation in wound care. He has participated in research, publications and education in aerospace medicine and is the Treasurer for the Space Surgery Association.

Dr Georgios Tzavellas

MD, MSc, RPVI, FACS, FSVS

Research Manager



Dr. Georgios Tzavellas is a board-certified vascular and endovascular surgeon. He has trained and practiced in both Europe and the United States, including residency at Stony Brook Medicine in New York, and served as faculty at the Indiana University Health. He currently holds clinical appointments in both Greece and the U.S. In parallel with his clinical career, Dr. Tzavellas has cultivated a deep and evolving interest in space medicine and physics, particularly focusing on vascular pathophysiology in space.