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October 29-30, 2026 Conference

Space Summit West 2026

VOCO Hotel

Laguna Hills, California, USA

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Conference Day 1 – Thursday, October 29, 2026

Garnet Gallery, VOCO Hotel, Laguna Hills, California

07:30 Continental Breakfast Buffet is Served

08:00 Participants Check-In
Conference Registration, Materials Pick-Up, Continental Breakfast and Networking

09:00 Conference Chairperson Welcome
Welcome and Introduction to the Topics Covered at Space Summit West 2026

Kristin Kopperud, Aerospace Industry Professional -- Conference Chairperson

09:30 How the Multi-use Variable-gravity Platform (MVP) Enables Organoid Research in Microgravity

Grant Vellinger, Mechanical Engineer – Redwire Space Technologies, Inc., United States of America

10:00 Janus Base Nano-Matrix Enables Authentic Cartilage Tissue Engineering in Microgravity via β-Integrin Activation

Yupeng Chen, Associate Professor and Castleman Term Professor in Engineering Innovation, University of Connecticut, United States of America

10:30 Technology Spotlight Presentation
That's One Small Lab-on-a-Chip, One Giant Leap for Mankind – Microfluidic Devices in Space Flight and Exploration

Claudia Gärtner, CEO, microfluidic ChipShop GmbH, Germany

11:00 Stem Cell Research and Biomanufacturing in Low Earth Orbit

Arun Sharma, Director, Center for Space Medicine Research, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, United States of America

11:30 Growing and Drugging Glioblastoma-Immune Organoids in Space

Meenal Datta, Jane Schoelch DeFlorio Collegiate Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, University of Notre Dame, United States of America

12:00 The Influence of Microgravity on the Transcriptome of Islet-1+ Cardiovascular Stem Cells Cultured on the International Space Station

Mary Kearns-Jonker, Associate Professor, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, United States of America

12:30 Networking Buffet Lunch

13:30 **Keynote Presentation**
Introduction to Exosomes: Tales of Exosomes and Extracellular Vesicles, Tiny Things in the Huge Space

Michael Graner, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus, United States of America

14:00 Real-time Sensing of Extracellular Matrix Remodeling during Fibroblast Phenotype Switching and Vascular Network Formation in Wound Healing

Xuerui Song, PhD Candidate, Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech, United States of America

14:30 Advancing Microcarrier-Based Biomanufacturing of Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cells in Microgravity and Earth

Maribella Domenech, Baxter Chair Professor, Chemical Engineering, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, Puerto Rico

15:00 Mid-Afternoon Coffee Break and Networking

15:30 Streptococcus pneumoniae (Spn) infection of Cardiac Tissue in Space

Palaniappan Sethu, Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Engineering, University of Alabama at Birmingham, United States of America

16:00 Cellular Mechanotransduction by Osteoblasts in Microgravity

Allen Liu, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan, United States of America

16:30 **Technology Spotlight Presentation**

From Lab to Orbit

Paul Marshall, CEO, Rapid Fluidics, United Kingdom

17:00 Panel Discussion Chaired by Dr. Kristin Kopperud, Conference Chairperson
Services to PIs

Panelists

Aaron Rogers

Arun Sharma

18:00 Beer and Wine Networking Reception

19:00 Close of Day 1 of the Conference



Conference Day 2 – Friday, October 30, 2026

Garnet Gallery, VOCO Hotel, Laguna Hills, California

08:00 Continental Breakfast Buffet is Served

09:00 Welcome and Introduction to Day 2 of the Conference

Kristin Kopperud, Aerospace Industry Professional -- Conference Chairperson

09:15 Resource Limited? Leveraging Archived Spaceflight Specimens for Science and Training

Sherri Emer, Associate Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University, United States of America

09:45 Elucidating the Structural Basis for Microgravity-Driven Enhancements in Supramolecular Nanotherapeutic Assembly

Trystin Cote, PhD Candidate-Biomedical Engineering, The University of Connecticut College of Engineering, United States of America

10:15 Presentation Details to be Confirmed

Aline Martins, Space Technologies Director at ISSCOR (Integrated Space Stem Cell Orbital Research Center) at the Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine/UCSD

10:45 Coffee Break and Networking

11:15 Tensile Mechanical Stimulation of Tissue-Engineered Cartilage in Microgravity

Takumi Takahashi, Associate Specialist, University of California-Irvine, United States of America

11:45 Liver Tissue Engineering in Space

Tammy T. Chang, Professor of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, United States of America

12:15 Networking Buffet Lunch

13:30 ISS National Lab R&D: Current Impact and the Road Ahead

Phillip Irace, Science Program Director, ISS National Lab, United States of America

14:00 Panel Discussion – Implementing Science in Space

Chaired by Dr. Kristin Kopperud

Panelists

Aline Martins

Tammy Chang

Mara Domenech

Allen Liu

14:30 Mid-Afternoon Coffee Break and Networking

15:00 **Technology Spotlight Presentation**
In-Space Production of Protein-Based Artificial Retinas

Kristin Kopperud, Program Manager, LambdaVision, United States of America

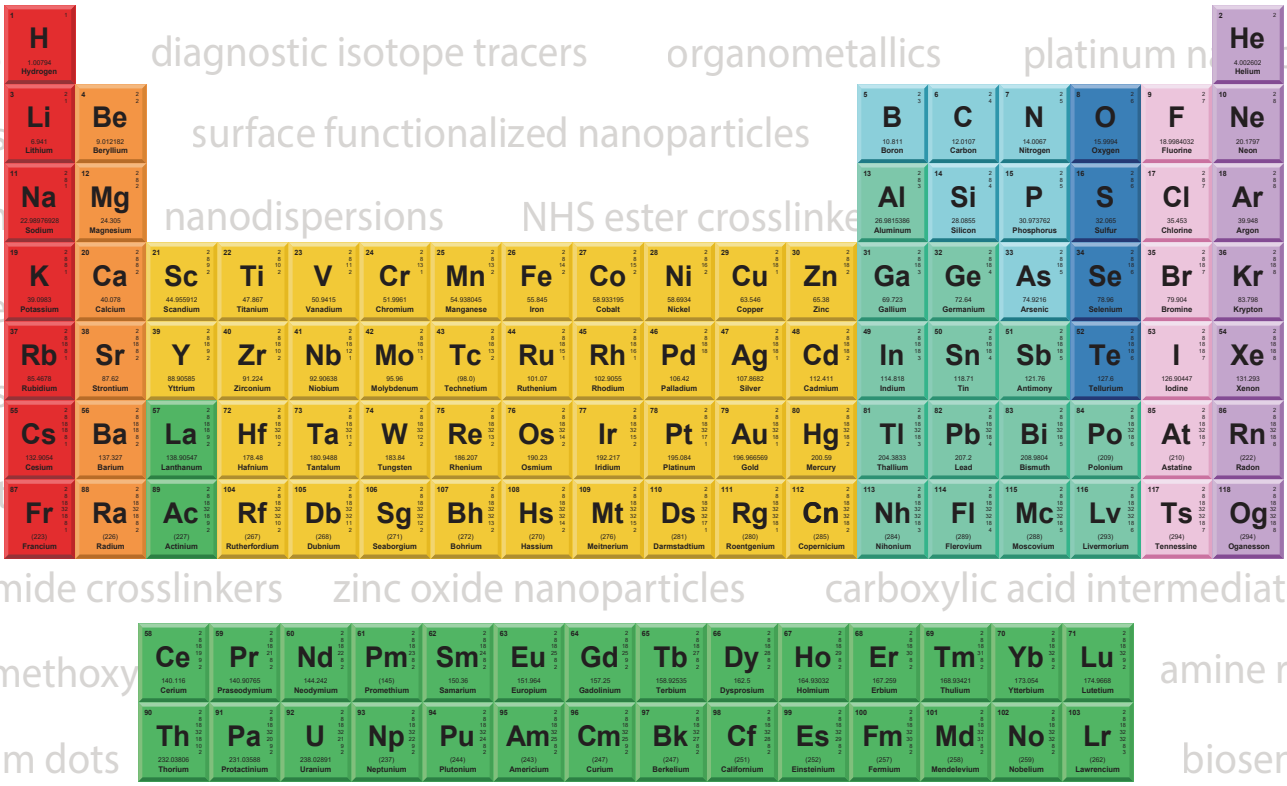
15:30 **Technology Spotlight Presentation**
3D Bioprinting of Vascular Tissue on the International Space Station

Aaron J. Rogers, Senior Scientist, Redwire, United States of America

16:00 Close of Conference

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