

Like it or not, humans are going back to the Moon by 2024 and Mars by 2035. One question is what kind of health services should be accompanying the missions? The environment of Deep Space is extremely hostile, the number of practitioners severely limited and communication times are far too long for telemedicine.

Canada is preparing to become the world leader in Deep Space medicine. The synergies with Canada's rural and remote health care challenges are clear. Canada already can boast of world leading artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, virtual reality, biotechnology and other high tech research. And we already have a long and developing tradition of broadly skilled physicians accustomed to work in difficult conditions. The Council is hoping for mutual benefits between rural/remote Canadian health, Deep Space health and our technology industry/academic endeavours over the next few decades. It appears significant funding likely will be available.

The Canadian Space Agency has formed a high level yet pragmatic 16 member Advisory Council, tasked to meet every six weeks or so until November 2020 to explore ways forward in Deep Space medicine and the SRPC is proud to represent rural/remote physicians on this Council.

Keith MacLellan would be happy to take any input from Canada's rural/remote areas. He can be reached at: keith.maclellan1@gmail.com

Here is a link to the Canadian Space Agency's Deep Space health initiative where further links can bring those interested to previous reports leading up the creation of the Advisory Council:
<https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/events/2019/deep-space-healthcare.asp>

Below is a Tweet from the Canadian Space Agency

CanadianSpaceAgency Verified account @csa_asc 12 Nov 2019

CSA's Advisory Council on Deep Space Healthcare will help define a potential deep space healthcare initiative for Canada. Their first meeting was held at CSA headquarters earlier today.

