

Dialogue 3

# Ethics in Extreme Environments: NASA and Space-based Research

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In 2004, President George W. Bush called on NASA to “gain a new foothold on the Moon and to prepare for new journeys to the worlds beyond our own.” In response, NASA began planning for long-duration missions to other planets. Space travel, however, poses a number of difficult medical and bioethical issues, some of which are unique to the space environment. While NASA is no longer actively planning for interplanetary travel, the challenge of bioethics in extreme environments remains. In this talk, Dr. Wolpe, who serves as Senior Bioethicist for NASA, discusses the fascinating and troubling issues in both clinical care and human subjects research in space.

Dr. Wolpe is the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Bioethics, the Raymond F. Schinazi Distinguished Research Chair in Jewish Bioethics, a Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Sociology, and the Director of the Center for Ethics at Emory University. Dr. Wolpe also serves as the first Senior Bioethicist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), where he is responsible for formulating policy on bioethical issues and safeguarding research subjects. He is Co-Editor of the *American Journal of Bioethics* (AJOB), and Editor of *AJOB Neuroscience*, and sits on the editorial boards of more than a dozen professional journals in medicine and ethics.

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