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Mission

The British Interplanetary Society promotes the exploration and use of space for the benefit of humanity, by connecting people to create, educate and inspire, and advance knowledge in all aspects of astronautics.

Published by the British Interplanetary Society**Volume 58 No. 10 October 2016****372-375 Controlling Exposure to Deadly Martian Microbes**

People are dead set on going to Mars. Dr John Cain provides the last of his two articles examining the risks inherent in deep-space exploration with an examination of the possible dangers from working on the surface of the Red Planet. Can extremophiles from other worlds threaten human life – all of it?

**386-388 Spacefest 7**

Chris Starr attended the seventh Spacefest event this year at Tucson, Arizona, 9-12 June and reflects on a gathering of all the "greats" in the world of space together with astronauts, historians, artists and writers of science fact and science fiction.

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Cover image: Engineers check out the hatch on NASA's Orion spacecraft but space suits will be little protection to the body if microbial contamination infects the crew (see pages 372-275). NASA



Opposite: Inside the Vehicle Assembly Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, five levels of work platforms for NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket are in view in High Bay 3. The second half of the F-level work platforms, F north, is in view above the other four levels. The F platforms were installed on the north and south sides of the high bay, about 58.5 m above the floor. Installation of the F platforms marks the midpoint of platform installation. The F platforms are the fifth of 10 levels of work platforms that will surround and provide access to the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft for Exploration Mission 1 planned for launch two years from now. NASA/Michelle Stone