

Scott M. Smith, Ph.D.

Dr. Smith leads the Nutritional Biochemistry Laboratory at the NASA Johnson Space Center. This group is charged with keeping crews healthy with respect to nutrition, including using nutrition as a means to optimize astronaut health and safety. Activities include the assessment of nutritional status of crewmembers on missions to the International Space Station, along with ground-based and spaceflight research efforts. He has conducted research on the Space Shuttle and the Russian space station Mir, and is the principal investigator for ongoing spaceflight experiments on the International Space Station. His research centers on the role of nutrition in astronaut health, including specific studies evaluating bone loss and vision changes, among others. He has led several ground-based research projects, including studies of vitamin D in Antarctica. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed publications, chapters and reviews, including 20 primary research papers resulting from research on the International Space Station. He has coauthored three books: two textbooks, and another, titled “Space Nutrition,” designed for upper elementary and middle school students.

Smith is a member of the American Society for Nutrition, the American Physiological Society, and the International Academy of Astronautics. Dr. Smith received a B.S. in Biology, and a Ph.D. in Nutrition, both from the Pennsylvania State University.