

Should we ‘genetically modify’ humans to fit the demands of space travel?

It takes something special to be an astronaut – an extraordinary combination of bravery, fitness, intelligence, lightning-fast decision-making and calmness under the most extreme pressure. It’s known as “[the right stuff](#)”.

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[D]espite selecting the best of the best, humans are still poorly suited to life in space. We are products of 3.8 billion years of evolution in a comfy 1g oxygen-rich biosphere, protected by a magnetic bubble (the magnetosphere) from the harshness of the Universe. Away from the Earth, astronauts are [bombarded by cosmic radiation](#) and suffer nausea, muscle and bone loss, deteriorating eyesight and even weakened immune systems as a result of zero gravity.

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But what if instead of putting the effort into adapting space to humans, we do as [ESA astronaut Luca] Parmitano suggests and adapt humans to space? “You can imagine designing a future space-faring human, that’s not shocking or surprising but something we could do,” says Parmitano. “Maybe we have to.”

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The chances are when humans begin to leave the Earth in any significant numbers, we are going to have to adapt to a new environment. Instead of searching for Earth 2.0, we could instead breed Human 2.0. They might even have four hands and a tail.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Will we ever have genetically modified astronauts?](#)