

# Tele-Robot Design for Deep Space Medical Emergency

Dr Vini Khurana



11 September 2021

# Acknowledgements & Declaration

No Conflict of Interest

Vini Khurana

Prashant Singh

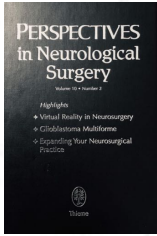
Vikrant Singh

Cathy Zhou



Provisional Patent Application 2020903976;  
“Life Support Tele-Robot”, CNS Aerospace Pty Limited,  
Lodged with IP Australia/Australian Government  
on 2 November 2020

# Relevance



## Virtual Frontiers, Part 2: Role of Virtual Reality Technology in Neurosurgery

VINI G. KHURANA, M.D., LISA M. BATES, B.S., FREDRIC B. MEYER, M.D.,  
and RICHARD A. ROBB, PH.D.

**ABSTRACT** During the last decade, advances in biomedical imaging and computation have enabled more precise and accurate determination of tissue structure and function, along with three-dimensional (3-D) reconstruction, visualization, and intuitive manipulation of such multimodality data. The practice of neurosurgery has benefited from such advances, as reflected by their facilitation of surgical diagnosis and planning, miniaturization of operative cor-

1999



Perspectives  
in Neurological  
Surgery

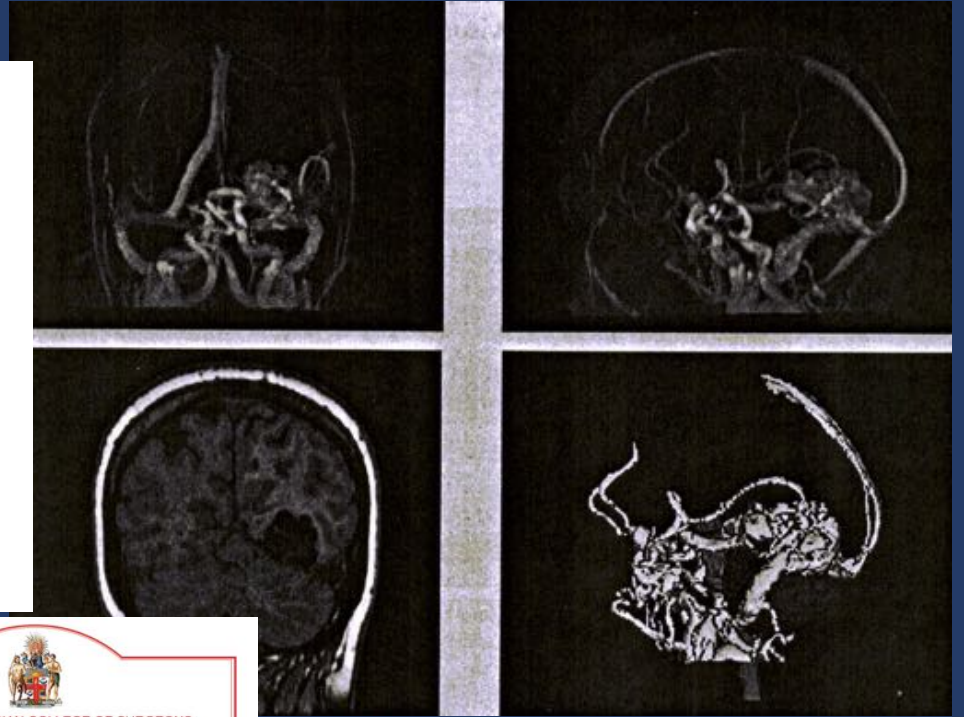


Fig. 5 VR methods may be used to further examine preoperative data in real time. A process known as tiling is used to define the surface anatomy of individual "objects" that have been segmented (i.e., differentiated) from the total volume image data. The left object is the "tiled" ventricular system of a patient, which can be



Neuronavigation since 2001



Tele-Med since 2013



Mazor Robot since 2017



www.surgicalneurologyint.com

## Surgical Neurology International

Editor-in-Chief Nancy E. Epstein, MD, NYU Winthrop Hospital, Mineola, NY, USA.

**SNI: General Neurosurgery**



Editor

Eric Nussbaum

National Brain Aneurysm and Tumor Center, Twin Cities, MN, USA



ASAM 2018 & 2019

Editorial

# Awake craniotomy versus piloting an aircraft: What medicine and aviation can learn from one another?

Vini G. Khurana<sup>1</sup>, Praveen Vats<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CNS Neurosurgery, Woolloomooloo, NSW, <sup>2</sup>Royal Australian Air Force Reserves, Mount Waverley, Victoria, Australia.

E-mail: \*Vini G. Khurana - reception@cnsneurosurgery.com.au; Praveen Vats - vatsy@me.com



The "miracle of flight" and the "miracle of awake brain surgery" I founded on innumerable person-years of invention, trial, error, a success, almost every step needs to go right. Rules must be followed the past incidents and experience. Innumerable technical, technological interactions must also converge to facilitate the completion of neuroanesthesia, similar protocols apply to perform awake craniotomy



Pilot Licence 2018

REVIEW ARTICLE



## Aerospace Implications of Key Neurological Conditions

Vini G. Khurana; Rondhir Jithoo; Michael Barnett

**INTRODUCTION:** The neurological impact (or lack thereof) of certain medical histories and imaging findings is important to understand in the context of air and spaceflight. There are a number of neurological conditions that, if present in pilots and astronauts, carry variable (and sometimes adverse) functional implications for safety and overall mission success. In this systematic overview, the authors will refer to the relevant clinical and radiological features of brain tumors and vascular anomalies, cerebral edema and intracranial hypertension, concussion and the traumatic brain injury (TBI) spectrum, hematomas, cerebrospinal fluid circulation anomalies including hydrocephalus and sequestrations, spinal degenerative changes, and cerebral ischemia and demyelination. It is notable that these last two conditions have recently been reported to be a complication in some people with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). A paradigm for practical neurological audit of symptomatic pilots and



Standard Modern Neurosurgical Theatre (on Earth)



A Highly Specialized Team (Earth 'Crew')



More Complex Patient Positioning & Monitoring (in 'Standard Gravity')



Mazor Robot (Ready Access to Supplies, Service, Technical Support Here)





Available Back-up (Personnel, Equipment)



Relatively Convenient 360-degree  
Patient Imaging





Equipment and More Equipment (Optimising Procedural Accuracy & Patient Safety)



Moon Base – Relative Proximity - More Feasible Translation in Medium Term

COMMENTARY

# Making Humans a Multi-Planetary Species

*Elon Musk*

*Chief Executive Officer  
SpaceX  
Hawthorne, California.*

**B**y talking about the SpaceX Mars mission to make Mars seem possible—mission that is something that we can do—there really is a way that anyone could

## WHY GO ANYWHERE?

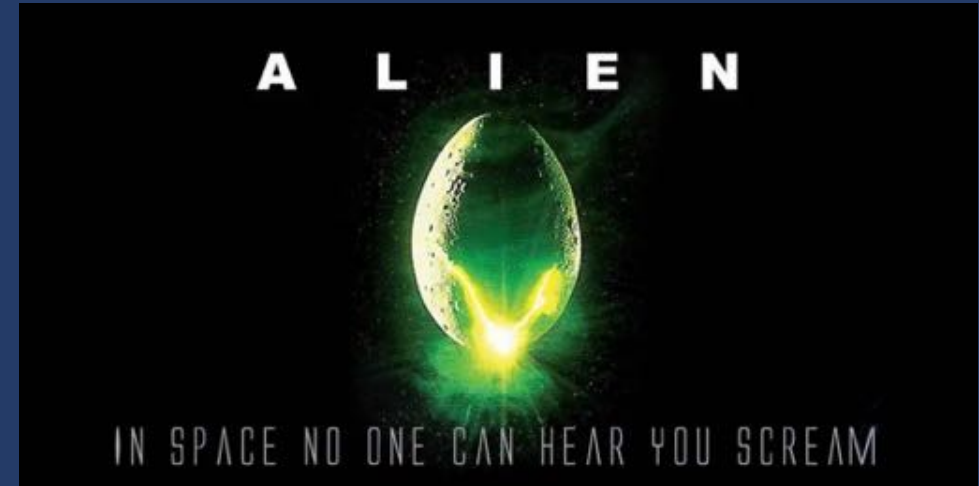
I think there are really two fundamental reasons for going to Mars. One is going to bifurcate along two directions. One is to stay on Earth forever, and then there will be some event. I do not have an immediate doc

Mars Base – Relative  
Remoteness - Less  
Feasible Translation  
(At Least in the Short  
& Medium Terms)



# Practical Limitations of Deep Space Medical Interventions

- Dangerous environment to begin with
- Communication delays/latency
- Accuracy of haptic feedback
- Operator experience
- Effects of low gravity on restraint of personnel, equipment and biological tissues
- Lack of availability of physical products even with local 3D-printing
- Deficit of human back-up and evacuation options



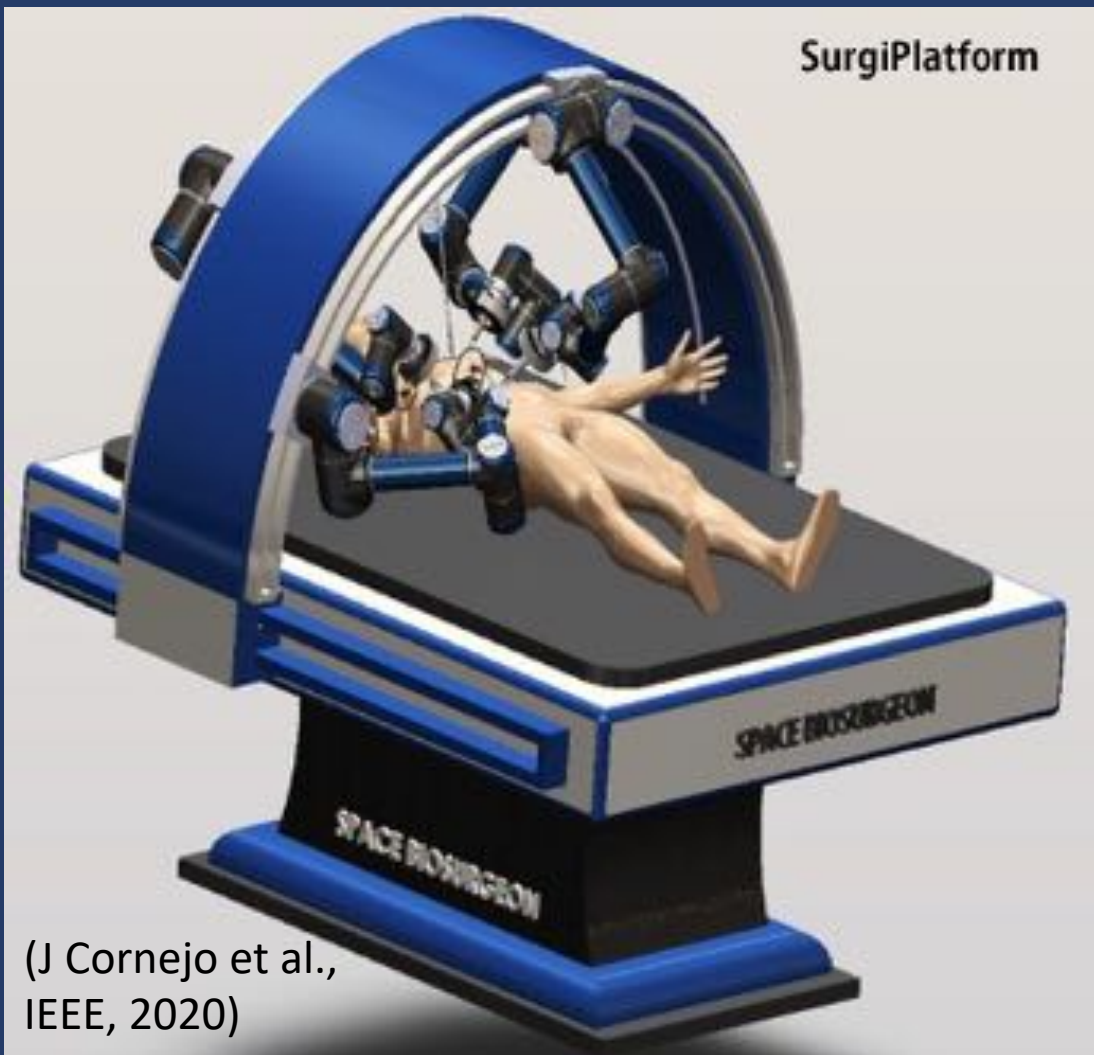


CIMON (German Space Agency, Airbus, IBM Watson; Used on ISS)



Robonaut (NASA; Used on ISS)





(J Cornejo et al.,  
IEEE, 2020)

Conceptual Design of Space Biosurgeon for  
Robotic Surgery and Aerospace Medicine

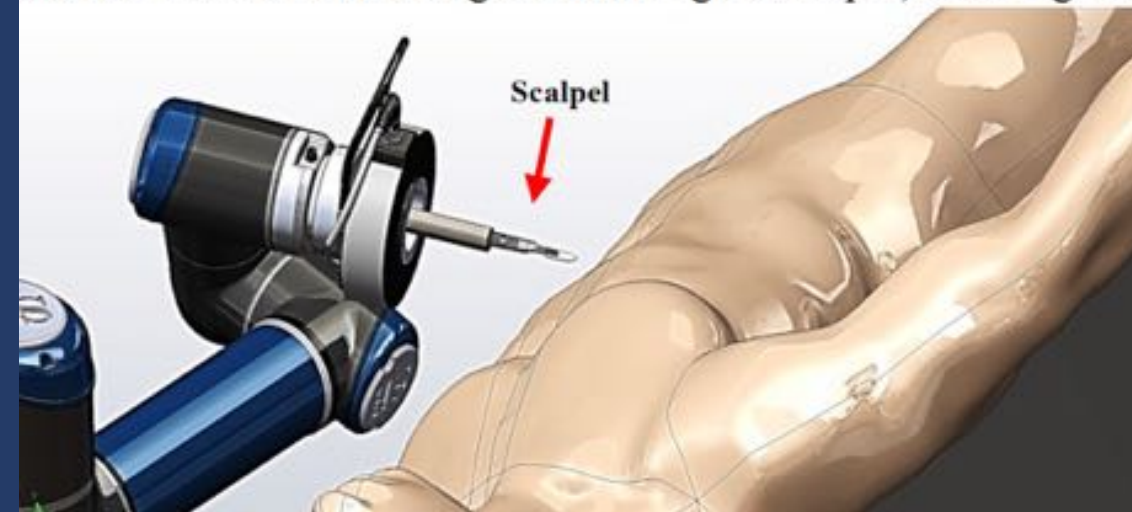
<p>Jose Cornejo Space Medicine &amp; Biomechanics Research Group-TMSF, Biomedical Engineering Master's Program 1TU, Valencia, Spain jose.cornejo@sccc.org</p>	<p>J. Paul Perales-Villarroel, MD Cleveland Clinic Florida Florida, U.S. peralq2@ccf.org</p>
<p>Raul Sebastian, MD George Washington University Hospital Washington DC, U.S. rsebast2@gwu.edu</p>	<p>Jorge A. Cornejo-Aguilar IP-Surgical Engineering Society; Faculty of Human Medicine URP Lima, Peru jcornejo_17@sccc.org</p>



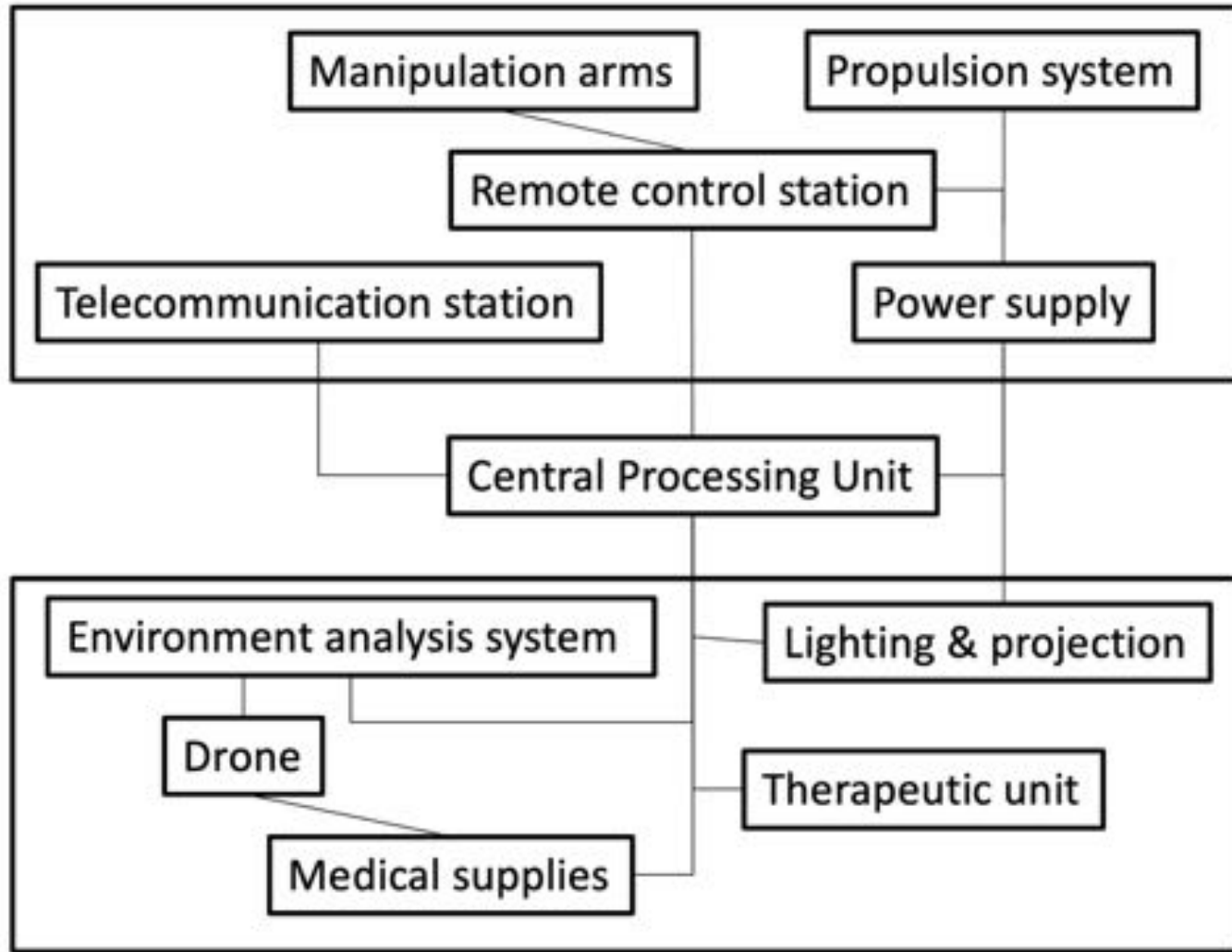
Fig. 7. Space Biosurgeon with 4 SurgiArms

c.1) **SurgiArm N°1**

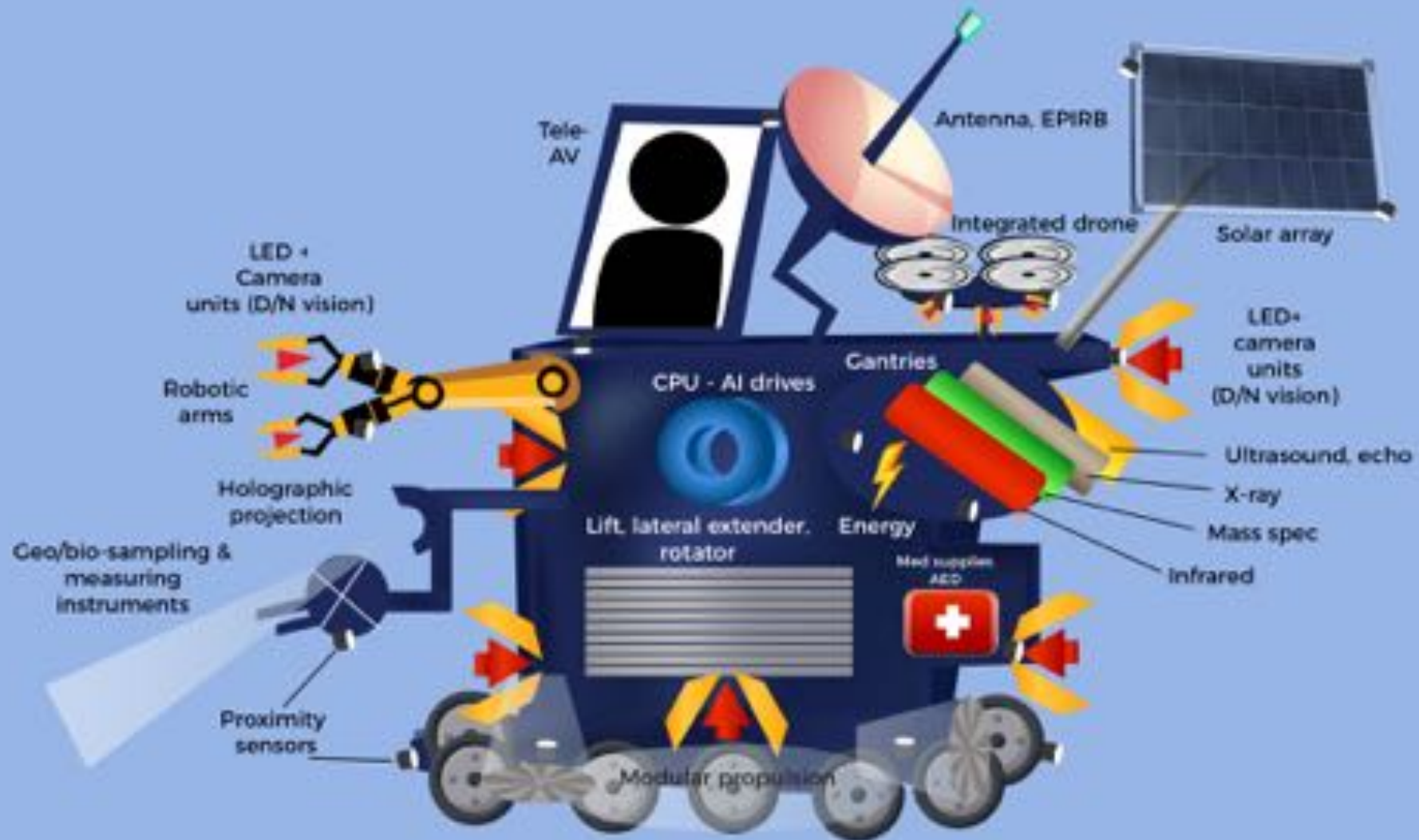
This robotic arm is located on the upper left side of the SurgiTable and of the patient (in External Axis-1); as well as it has the function of making a cut through a scalpel, as in Fig. 8.



Our Goal – Design An Aerospace Robot Whose *Essential Purpose* is  
Medical Beneficence



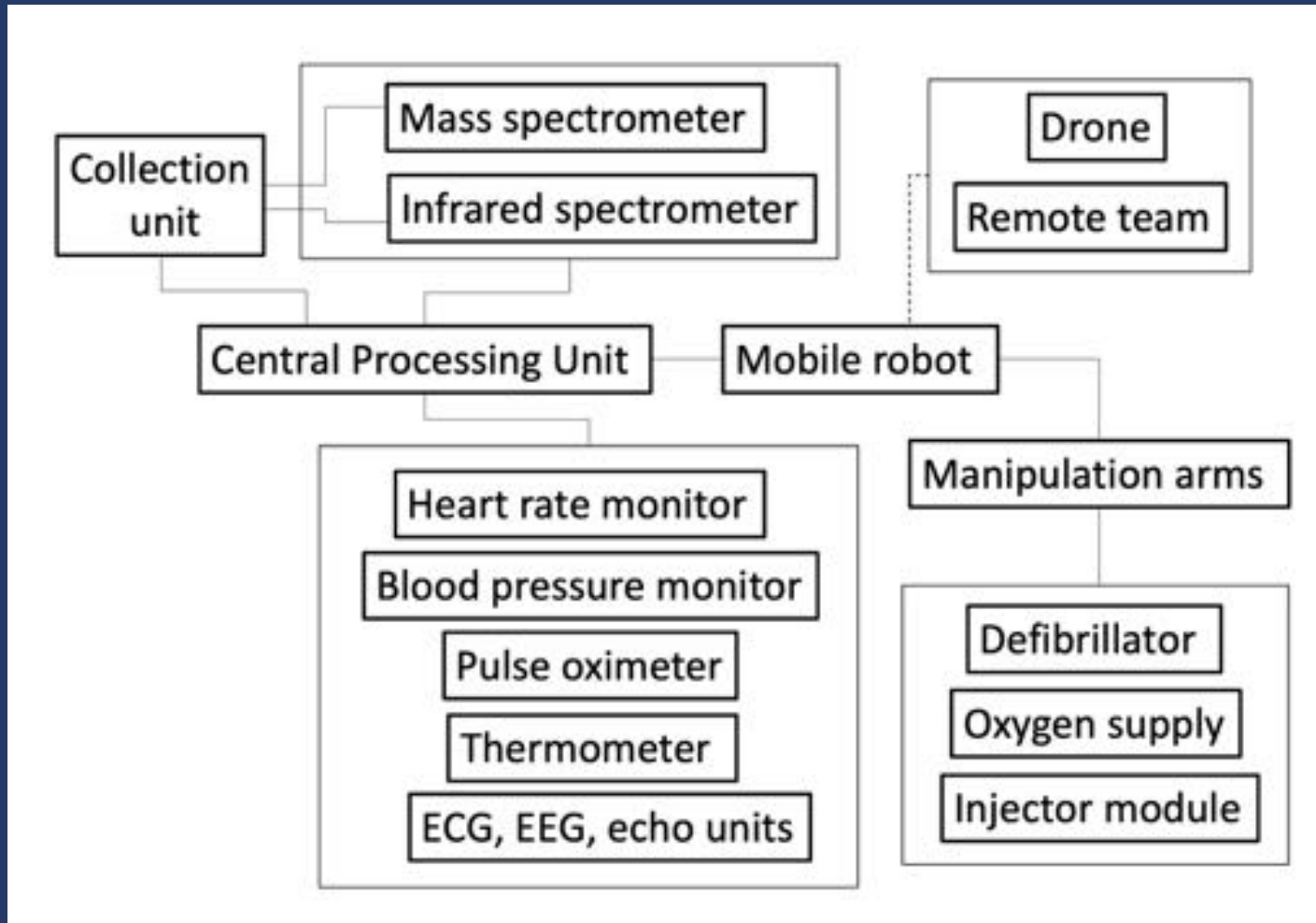
Our Goal – Design An Aerospace Robot Whose *Essential Purpose* is Medical Beneficence



L.I.S.T.E.R.'s Key Features (Digital Artist: Ayesha Ali)



Intervention Scenario (Artist: Ben Mitchell)



Injured (+/- Extravehicular) Astronaut – Location, Assessment, Supply, Intervention and/or Retrieval by L.I.S.T.E.R.



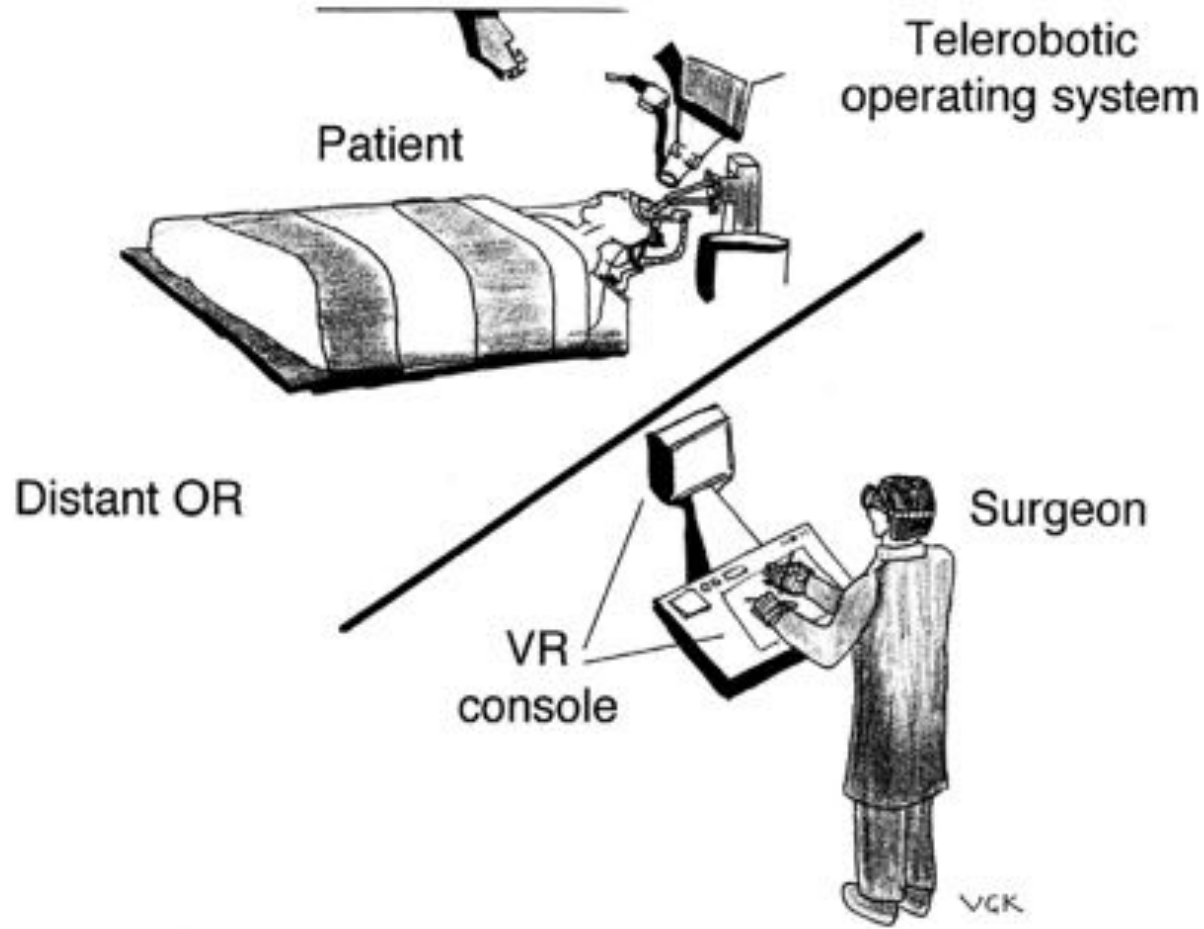
?Build a Scale Prototype (Parts under US \$1,000)\*





# CONCLUSIONS

- **Life Support TEle-Robot (L.I.S.T.E.R.)**– A dedicated aerospace medical robot
- *Key medical features:*
  - Modular biomed. imaging systems (mass spec., IR, ultrasound, X-ray)
  - Manipulation/intervention-capable arms
  - Receives and analyses telemetry biodata (basic vitals, oximetry, ECG, EEG)
  - Integration with e.g., Astroskin (even pre-positioned integrated defib. pads)
  - Tissue sampling systems (e.g., blood, breath)
  - Environmental threat analysis (radiation, noxious gases)
  - Analyses facial features, retina, gait, behaviour, verbal communication
  - Integrated drone for recon., med. supplies, illumination, intervention surveillance
  - Holographic projection for clearer communication of med. instructions/techniques
- Limitations include environmental, logistic, technological, operational



**Figure 28. Telesurgery: The OR telesuite.**

(VG Khurana, "Brain Surgery" - AuthorHouse, 2006)

We're happy to collaborate!



Thank you