

DR. TARA RUTTLEY

I am currently the Associate Program Scientist for the International Space Station at NASA. Prior to this position, I was the lead flight hardware engineer for all of the medical equipment and human research experimental hardware used on the International Space Station. I was born and raised in Louisiana before obtaining a BS degree in Biology and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University (CSU), where I was also a Ronald McNair Scholar. I completed my PhD in Neuroscience in 2007 from University of Texas Medical Branch. I came to work for NASA in Jan 2001, where I began my career as a project engineer for the exercise bicycle that's currently on the ISS. I've always wanted to work for the US Space Program, particularly for the Johnson Space Center, where the focus is on human presence in space and manned missions. There is something very unique about the microgravity environment that causes distinct changes in human physiology from the systems level, all the way down to the cellular level. I enjoy my work at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, and I also enjoy meeting and working with students from the TriO programs, as well as from programs specifically designed to encourage education in Science and Engineering.