



STATEMENT DESIGNS: The Ebony Fashion Fair showcased the work of haute couture designers such as Vivienne Westwood (above), Alexander McQueen (below), and Tilmann Grawe (right).



MEMORIAL ART GALLERY

Inspiring Beauty

Exhibition highlights the historic Ebony Fashion Fair.

Some of the historic work of world-class designers will be on display at the Memorial Art Gallery this spring, when the museum becomes the only venue in the Northeast to host a national exhibition showcasing the 50-year history of the Ebony Fashion Fair.

Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair brings together 40 ensembles, both haute couture and ready-to-wear, and includes glamorous gowns, feathered coats, and statement designs from the 1960s to the 21st century.

Among the designers represented are Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, Oscar de la Renta, Pierre Cardin, Patrick Kelly, Christian Lacroix, Vivienne Westwood, and Alexander McQueen.

The exhibition is the first to explore the history of the fair, a traveling showcase that helped redefine the concepts of empowerment, pride, and achievement for African Americans. It was the brainchild of Eunice Walker Johnson of Chicago, who with her

husband and business partner, John, owned Johnson Publishing Company. Among the company's ventures was the groundbreaking magazine *Ebony*.

As part of the exhibition, which opens January 30 and runs through April 24, the Memorial Art Gallery is hosting a series of talks and other activities.

Since opening in 2013 at the Chicago History Museum, the exhibition has traveled to the Museum of Design Atlanta, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Minnesota History Center, and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. After Rochester, it moves to Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, Washington, and the George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. **R**

Details are available at mag.rochester.edu/InspiringBeauty.

NEUROBIOLOGY

Astronauts and Alzheimer's?

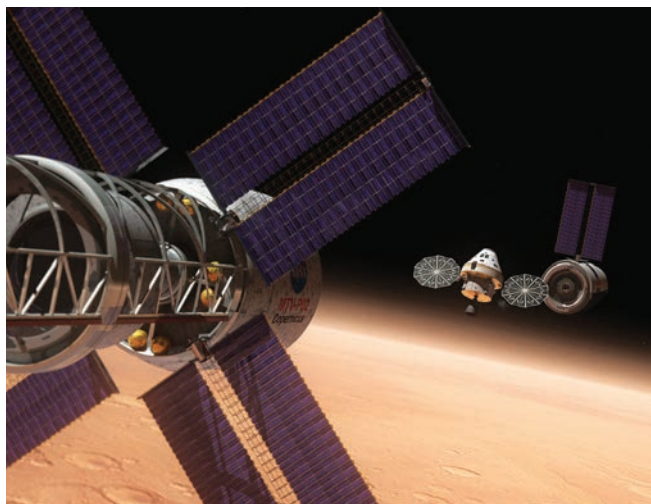
A NASA-funded study explores how space travel affects the brain.

By Mark Michaud

A Rochester neurobiologist is taking Alzheimer's research where few scientists have gone before.

Kerry O'Banion, a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy and the Del Monte Center for Neuromedicine, has been awarded \$1.8 million from NASA to study whether extended deep space travel places astronauts at risk for neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's.

One of nine grants announced by NASA, the study is part of a research effort to better understand and reduce the risks to humans associated with long journeys in deep space, specifically focusing on neurological and cardiovascular diseases and cancer.



RESEARCH FRONTIER: Understanding the biological risks involved with space travel is a priority for NASA as the agency develops plans for missions to Mars and other areas of outer space.

Understanding the potential health impact of space travel is a priority for NASA as the agency develops future plans for voyages to Mars and other destinations. While space is full of radiation, the Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere generally protect the planet and people in low Earth orbit from such particles. Once astronauts leave orbit, they're exposed to forms of cosmic radiation that cannot always be effectively blocked.

The studies will be conducted in part at the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, where accelerators can reproduce the radioactive particles found in space.

The Rochester study builds on earlier work by O'Banion and his colleagues, who in a 2012 study showed that exposure to a particular form of space radiation called high-mass, high-charged particles caused biological and cognitive changes in mice.

The results indicated an accelerated risk for the development of Alzheimer's disease. [R](#)



WORLD VIEW: The exhibition features 40 ensembles from some of the world's most prominent designers and design houses, including France's Emmanuel Ungaro (top) and Italy's Missoni (above).