



**EPISODE TWO:  
THE SCIENTISTS**

1  
00:00:04,099 --> 00:00:02,270  
these two things are from the spheres

2  
00:00:07,460 --> 00:00:04,109  
slosh experiment which we've been

3  
00:00:09,770 --> 00:00:07,470  
working on up here microgravity has a

4  
00:00:12,110 --> 00:00:09,780  
lot to teach us take these containers

5  
00:00:14,180 --> 00:00:12,120  
the green liquid inside is showing us

6  
00:00:16,310 --> 00:00:14,190  
how fuel swirls around in a tank while

7  
00:00:18,320 --> 00:00:16,320  
it moves through space what we learned

8  
00:00:23,300 --> 00:00:18,330  
could help us design safer more

9  
00:00:25,519 --> 00:00:23,310  
efficient spacecraft at any given time

10  
00:00:27,259 --> 00:00:25,529  
we are conducted close to 300 different

11  
00:00:29,720 --> 00:00:27,269  
experiments aboard the International

12  
00:00:31,429 --> 00:00:29,730  
Space Station research like this is

13  
00:00:36,730 --> 00:00:31,439

preparing us for the future of space

14

00:01:02,469 --> 00:00:57,320

[Music]

15

00:01:04,060 --> 00:01:02,479

we really can't mimic the environment on

16

00:01:06,219 --> 00:01:04,070

the space station anywhere on this

17

00:01:08,350 --> 00:01:06,229

planet and it's what makes it such a

18

00:01:11,050 --> 00:01:08,360

special place and why scientists from

19

00:01:13,060 --> 00:01:11,060

many universities several companies like

20

00:01:15,609 --> 00:01:13,070

to send their science up because once

21

00:01:18,100 --> 00:01:15,619

you remove gravity many things like

22

00:01:20,770 --> 00:01:18,110

differently this season we're exploring

23

00:01:23,649 --> 00:01:20,780

why we sent science to space and what it

24

00:01:25,389 --> 00:01:23,659

takes to get it there spoiler alert you

25

00:01:28,240 --> 00:01:25,399

don't have to be a rocket scientist to

26

00:01:30,730 --> 00:01:28,250

conduct research in microgravity so this

27

00:01:32,380 --> 00:01:30,740

is our first project that's going up to

28

00:01:34,990 --> 00:01:32,390

the station and our first project

29

00:01:36,609 --> 00:01:35,000

working with you know anyone involved in

30

00:01:39,219 --> 00:01:36,619

the space burger so it's a very exciting

31

00:01:40,539 --> 00:01:39,229

time for us the transition from what am

32

00:01:44,370 --> 00:01:40,549

I to do with my life in the middle of

33

00:01:46,749 --> 00:01:44,380

graduate school to Here I am sitting in

34

00:01:48,130 --> 00:01:46,759

Houston getting ready for our launch I

35

00:01:48,639 --> 00:01:48,140

can't hardly believe that it's actually

36

00:01:51,399 --> 00:01:48,649

happening

37

00:01:53,679 --> 00:01:51,409

meet Elaine one of the cofounders of Tim

38

00:01:56,320 --> 00:01:53,689

Pantages a medical device startup based

39

00:01:57,609 --> 00:01:56,330

in Virginia her company is developing a

40

00:01:59,550 --> 00:01:57,619

gel patch that can serve as a

41

00:02:01,930 --> 00:01:59,560

replacement for eardrum repair surgery

42

00:02:04,300 --> 00:02:01,940

that could have huge benefits here on

43

00:02:07,469 --> 00:02:04,310

earth but launch that gel to space and

44

00:02:10,080 --> 00:02:07,479

the opportunities for use grow even more

45

00:02:12,400 --> 00:02:10,090

first we have to back up a few steps

46

00:02:15,009 --> 00:02:12,410

putting your life's work on top of a

47

00:02:16,300 --> 00:02:15,019

rocket may seem like a daunting task but

48

00:02:18,009 --> 00:02:16,310

there's a system in place to help

49

00:02:19,960 --> 00:02:18,019

scientists who know nothing about

50

00:02:22,360 --> 00:02:19,970

spaceflight get their research into

51  
00:02:24,880 --> 00:02:22,370  
orbit you see NASA and its international

52  
00:02:27,640 --> 00:02:24,890  
partners aren't the only source of

53  
00:02:30,130 --> 00:02:27,650  
science aboard the space station the ISS

54  
00:02:33,130 --> 00:02:30,140  
US National Laboratory creates pathways

55  
00:02:35,979 --> 00:02:33,140  
to space for companies universities and

56  
00:02:37,839 --> 00:02:35,989  
even young students if you're starting a

57  
00:02:39,550 --> 00:02:37,849  
journey into the unknown it helps to

58  
00:02:41,470 --> 00:02:39,560  
have an expert at your side to navigate

59  
00:02:43,479 --> 00:02:41,480  
the way the National Lab connects

60  
00:02:45,729 --> 00:02:43,489  
researchers with implementation partners

61  
00:02:47,619 --> 00:02:45,739  
who provide resources and guidance for

62  
00:02:50,050 --> 00:02:47,629  
taking an experiment from earth to

63  
00:02:51,100 --> 00:02:50,060

microgravity Elaine and her team are

64

00:02:53,410 --> 00:02:51,110

working with NanoRacks

65

00:02:55,059 --> 00:02:53,420

they have the plate reader on the space

66

00:02:56,949 --> 00:02:55,069

station that's going to be used for our

67

00:02:58,330 --> 00:02:56,959

project and they're coordinating the

68

00:02:59,860 --> 00:02:58,340

launch and getting all the materials

69

00:03:01,000 --> 00:02:59,870

together for us we're glad that we're

70

00:03:06,180 --> 00:03:01,010

working with them because we're glad

71

00:03:10,119 --> 00:03:08,530

the project that we're sending to the

72

00:03:11,830 --> 00:03:10,129

space station is looking at how

73

00:03:13,839 --> 00:03:11,840

hydrogels behave in microgravity

74

00:03:16,210 --> 00:03:13,849

conditions and we're specifically

75

00:03:17,920 --> 00:03:16,220

looking at how the structure changes and

76  
00:03:18,850 --> 00:03:17,930  
how drug release profiles change in the

77  
00:03:21,759 --> 00:03:18,860  
absence of gravity

78  
00:03:24,130 --> 00:03:21,769  
my name is panis - I'm a co-founder & Co

79  
00:03:25,570 --> 00:03:24,140  
inventor of this technology and I've

80  
00:03:29,440 --> 00:03:25,580  
been with team management since they

81  
00:03:32,949 --> 00:03:29,450  
zero hydrogels are a very important

82  
00:03:35,199 --> 00:03:32,959  
materials they are high volume water

83  
00:03:39,490 --> 00:03:35,209  
that can very well mimic the

84  
00:03:41,470 --> 00:03:39,500  
extracellular matrix of our body so we

85  
00:03:44,050 --> 00:03:41,480  
really thought that answering this

86  
00:03:47,470 --> 00:03:44,060  
question can really help the scientific

87  
00:03:48,220 --> 00:03:47,480  
community confused don't worry we've got

88  
00:03:50,470 --> 00:03:48,230

you covered

89

00:03:53,350 --> 00:03:50,480

think of hydrogels like a scoop of

90

00:03:55,809 --> 00:03:53,360

gelatin not quite a liquid not quite a

91

00:03:58,750 --> 00:03:55,819

solid definitely made up of mostly water

92

00:04:00,670 --> 00:03:58,760

we can use hydrogels to cover wounds and

93

00:04:03,069 --> 00:04:00,680

even deliver antibiotics to promote

94

00:04:04,600 --> 00:04:03,079

healing for that reason hydrogels are

95

00:04:06,720 --> 00:04:04,610

being studied for use for things like

96

00:04:09,550 --> 00:04:06,730

wound care for soldiers on battlefields

97

00:04:11,559 --> 00:04:09,560

if you are far away from a hospital or a

98

00:04:13,870 --> 00:04:11,569

clinic and you can't get good medical

99

00:04:16,330 --> 00:04:13,880

care right away and that soldier has a

100

00:04:18,550 --> 00:04:16,340

wound could you apply that hydrogel

101  
00:04:20,140 --> 00:04:18,560  
directly to the wound site and begin to

102  
00:04:22,330 --> 00:04:20,150  
treat any infection that might be coming

103  
00:04:24,100 --> 00:04:22,340  
on what about in space though what if we

104  
00:04:26,200 --> 00:04:24,110  
are far away from Earth's surface on our

105  
00:04:28,330 --> 00:04:26,210  
way towards Mars and we also have

106  
00:04:29,800 --> 00:04:28,340  
another wound on an arm or a leg and we

107  
00:04:31,420 --> 00:04:29,810  
need a better way to treat that wound

108  
00:04:33,790 --> 00:04:31,430  
and make sure it doesn't become infected

109  
00:04:35,320 --> 00:04:33,800  
so temp antigen the hydrogel itself is a

110  
00:04:37,629 --> 00:04:35,330  
great example of a dual-purpose

111  
00:04:40,270 --> 00:04:37,639  
technology it's something we can use not

112  
00:04:42,070 --> 00:04:40,280  
only on the earth but up in space this

113  
00:04:44,320 --> 00:04:42,080

research could provide previously

114

00:04:46,540 --> 00:04:44,330

unknown foundations for future hydrogel

115

00:04:48,909 --> 00:04:46,550

studies it's a great example of how

116

00:04:51,440 --> 00:04:48,919

microgravity can offer new insights into

117

00:04:54,620 --> 00:04:51,450

systems we've already explored on earth

118

00:04:57,260 --> 00:04:54,630

the data that we're collecting is so so

119

00:04:59,270 --> 00:04:57,270

basic science that it's it's hard to

120

00:05:00,890 --> 00:04:59,280

find those sorts of projects at this

121

00:05:02,630 --> 00:05:00,900

stage as a research that's really

122

00:05:07,190 --> 00:05:02,640

exciting for us as well and it's in

123

00:05:08,990 --> 00:05:07,200

space and when it gets to space it goes

124

00:05:11,780 --> 00:05:09,000

into the hands of astronauts who will

125

00:05:13,580 --> 00:05:11,790

run the experiment in Ormond just like

126

00:05:15,890 --> 00:05:13,590

training for launch landing and

127

00:05:17,780 --> 00:05:15,900

spacewalks crew members participate in

128

00:05:19,490 --> 00:05:17,790

hours of scientific training to prepare

129

00:05:21,290 --> 00:05:19,500

them for running many of the hundreds of

130

00:05:23,750 --> 00:05:21,300

experiments that are ongoing aboard the

131

00:05:29,750 --> 00:05:23,760

space station ready to go to class with

132

00:05:32,480 --> 00:05:29,760

an astronaut we'll take you along well I

133

00:05:35,060 --> 00:05:32,490

had changed in 11 years since she was up

134

00:05:38,150 --> 00:05:35,070

there there was a new experiment so he

135

00:05:40,190 --> 00:05:38,160

hadn't seen that either they tell us you

136

00:05:41,300 --> 00:05:40,200

know hey this is a lot easier upside

137

00:05:43,590 --> 00:05:41,310

down you know you're gonna be in my