

*Life Sciences in Space Research (LSSR)*

*COSPAR Outstanding Paper Award for Young Scientists – 2023*

Fang Chen is recognized for her manuscript entitled “Protective effect of *Gastrodia elata* blume ameliorates simulated weightlessness -induced cognitive impairment in mice”. Fang received her B.Sc. degree in Rehabilitation Therapy and Physiotherapy from Hunan Medical University in China in 2020. She is currently a Ph.D. student at the Hunan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Changsha, China. Her Ph.D thesis focuses on the study of neuroprotection of herbal medicine in space environment. In her spare time, Fang enjoys various sports activities such as jogging and playing badminton. These exercises not only keep her fit but also help her unwind after a busy day.



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Yueying Lu, a third year Ph.D. student in the School of Biological and Medical Engineering at Beihang University in Beijing, China is the 2<sup>nd</sup> awardee of the 2023 Best Paper Award. Yueying’s research focuses on spatial microbiology, particularly on the evolutionary dynamics and mechanisms of microbial communities associated with spacecraft under various extreme environments. In her studies, she utilizes an interdisciplinary approach involving environmental microbiome, corrosion of equipment materials, and personnel physiological health with the goals of monitoring and improving microbial communities to benefit human health and the maintenance of regenerative space life support systems. She is very grateful for the recognition and will continue her pursuance in the study of diverse microbials in the space environment. In her spare time, Yueying likes to play basketball and badminton.



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