# Mitigating HZE radiation-induced deficits in marrow-derived mesenchymal progenitor cells and skeletal structure

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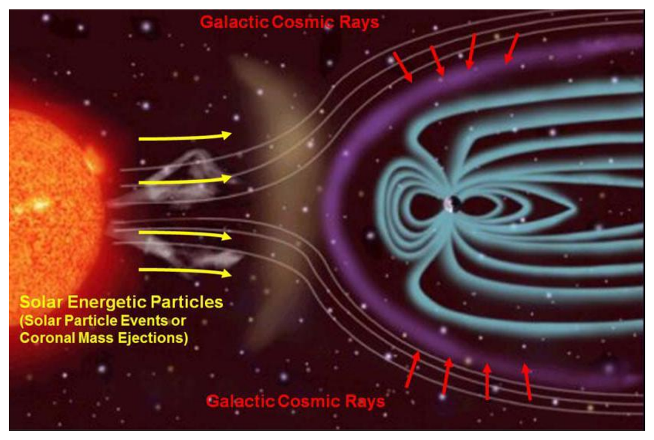
## PROBLEM

Future long-duration space exploration beyond the earth's magnetosphere will increase human exposure to space radiation and associated risks to skeletal health.



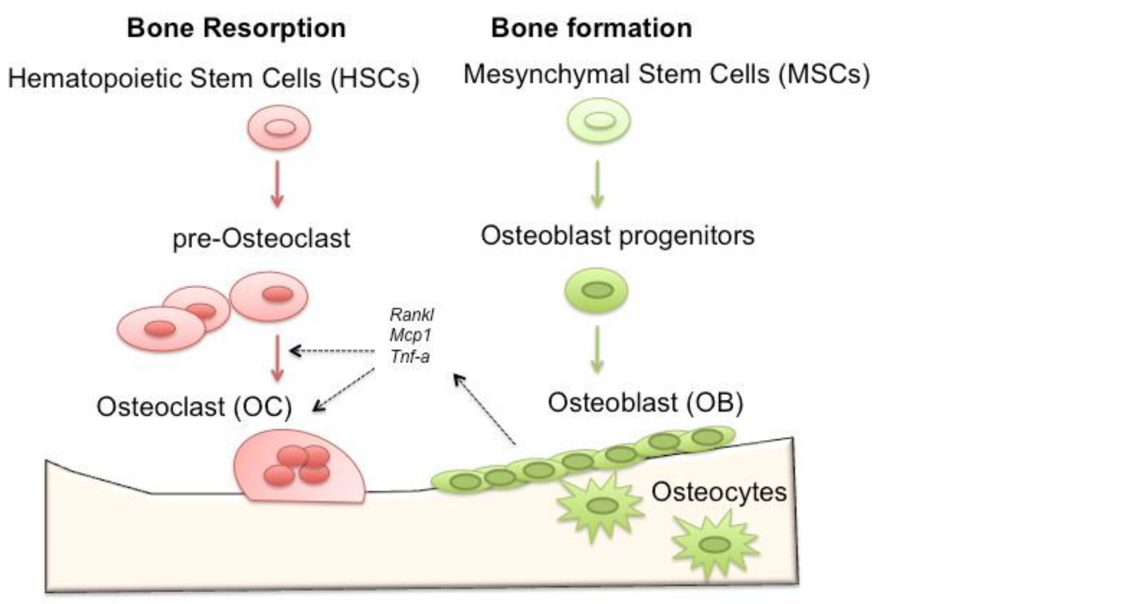

We showed previously that a diet supplemented with Dried Plum (DP) prevents short term bone loss caused by total body irradiation
(Schreurs et al. Scientific Reports, 2016 Feb 11;6:21343).

## HYPOTHESIS

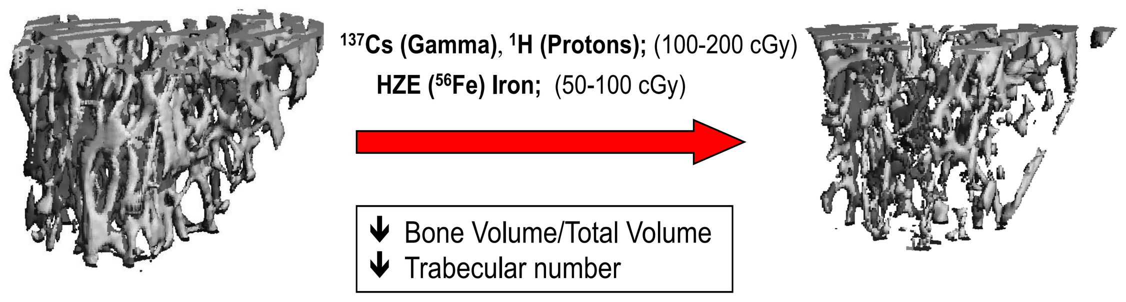
DP diet mitigates persistent, damaging effects of HZE radiation on bone structure and marrow-derived osteoprogenitors and stem cells.

## BACKGROUND

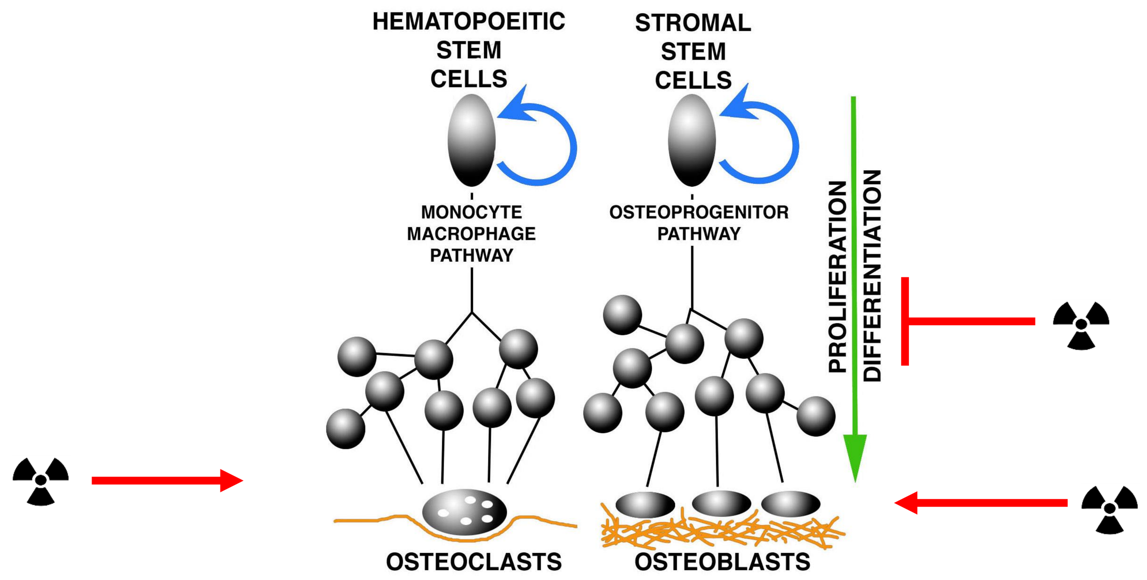
Bone remodeling: a balance between bone resorption by osteoclasts and bone formation by osteoblasts.




Ionizing radiation & bone loss: clinical and space relevance
- Radiation Therapy Sequelae
  - Osteoradionecrosis (rare)
  - Contributes to weakening: post-menopausal and age-related osteoporosis
  - Secondary tumor induction
- ...outside magnetosphere and long durations




Prior evidence shows that total body irradiation stimulates osteoclastogenesis and impairs both osteoblastogenesis and bone formation by mature osteoblasts:




## METHODS

Animals: Male C57Bl6/J mice, 16 wk old at time of total body irradiation (TBI)
Study design: 2X2 study design: Control diet X Dried Plum (25%) and (0Gy-sham vs IR);
Radiation: Total Body Irradiation (TBI), single exposure, ≤ 2Gy

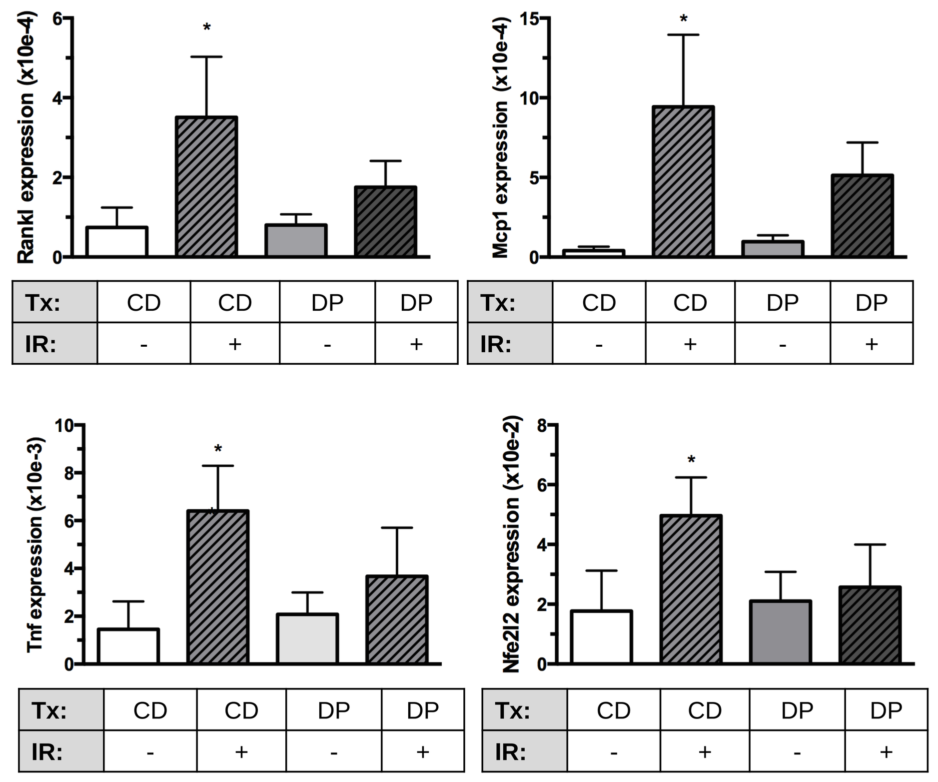
| | |
|---|---|
| -$^{137}$Cs | 0.86 Gy/min |
| -Dual (1Gy total dose) | Sequential: proton (0.25Gy)- $^{56}$Fe(0.5Gy)-proton(0.25Gy) <br> 56Fe: E = 600 MeV/n <br> Proton: E = 150 MeV/n |
| -HZE: $^{56}$Fe (1Gy) | E = 600 MeV/n |

Timeline:
- prefeed 14-21 days with control diet (CD) or Dried Plum diet (DP)
- samples recovered 1d, 11d or 30d post-TBI

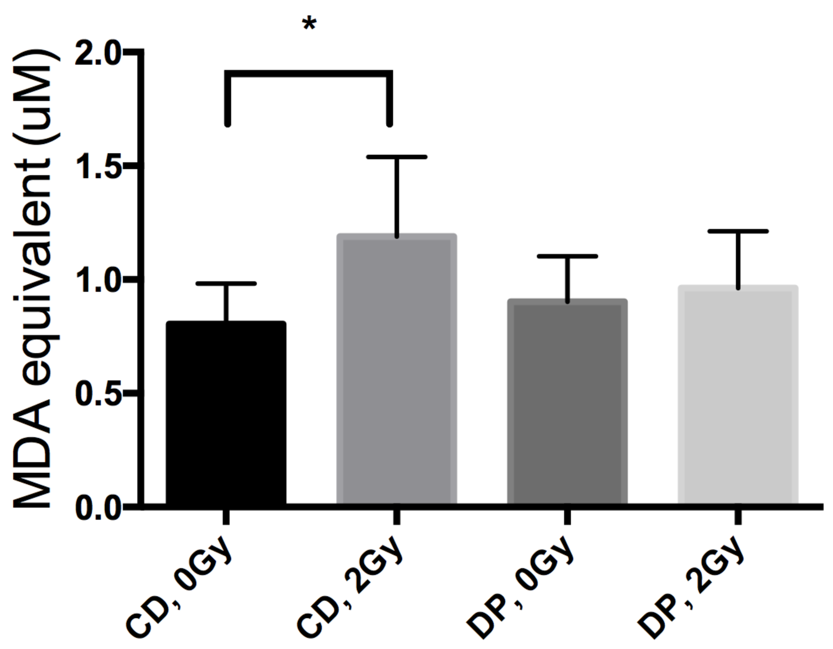
Gene expression: qPCR
Statistics: data shown are Mean ± S.D., 1-factor or 2-factor ANOVA, Tukey-Kramer post hoc

## RESULTS

### DP reduced expression of pro-osteoclastogenic cytokines 1d after TBI ($^{137}$Cs)

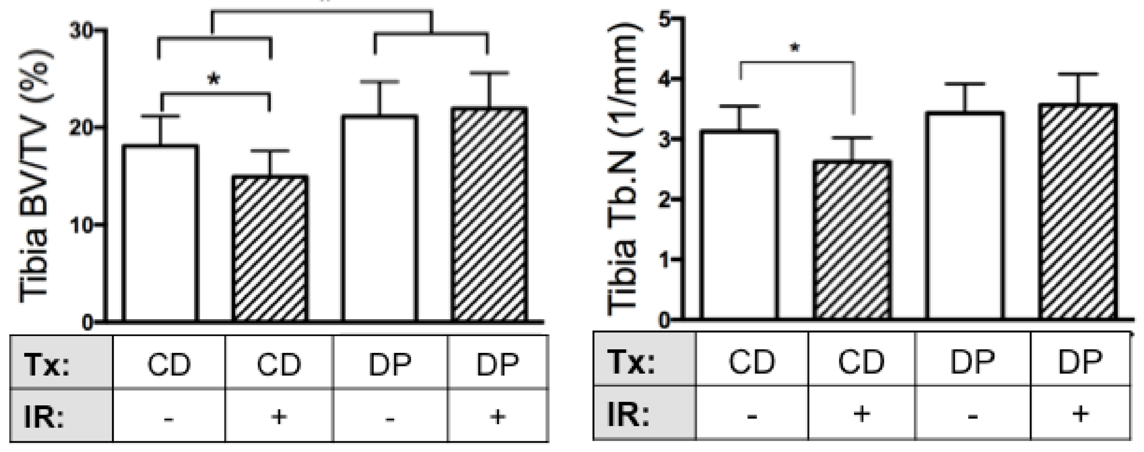



### DP reduced serum oxidative stress marker (serum TBARS) 11d days after TBI ($^{137}$Cs)




CD= control diet (AIN93M), DP=25% Dried Plum in AIN93M,
MDA= malondialdehyde equivalent (Tbars assay).

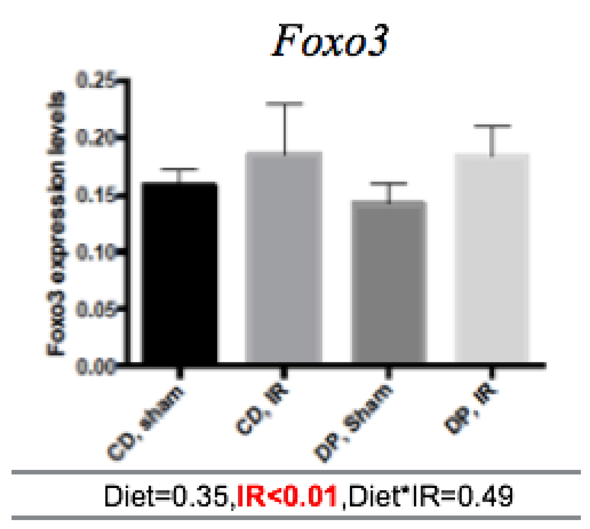
### DP prevented decrements in cancellous bone structure 30d after TBI ($^{56}$Fe)




Tx= treatment; CD= control diet (AIN93M), DP=25% Dried Plum in AIN93M,
BV/TV%= cancellous Bone Volume/Total Volume, Tb.N= Trabecular number

### DP gene expression 11 days after TBI ($^{137}$Cs): few changes

Mineralized tissue



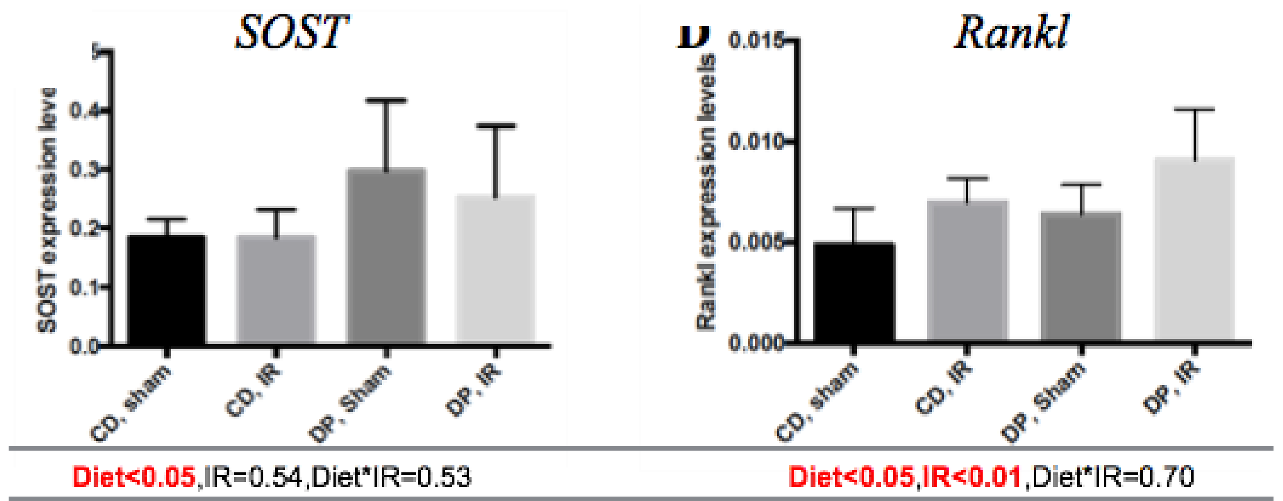

2-factor ANOVA

**No changes in mRNA levels of the following:**

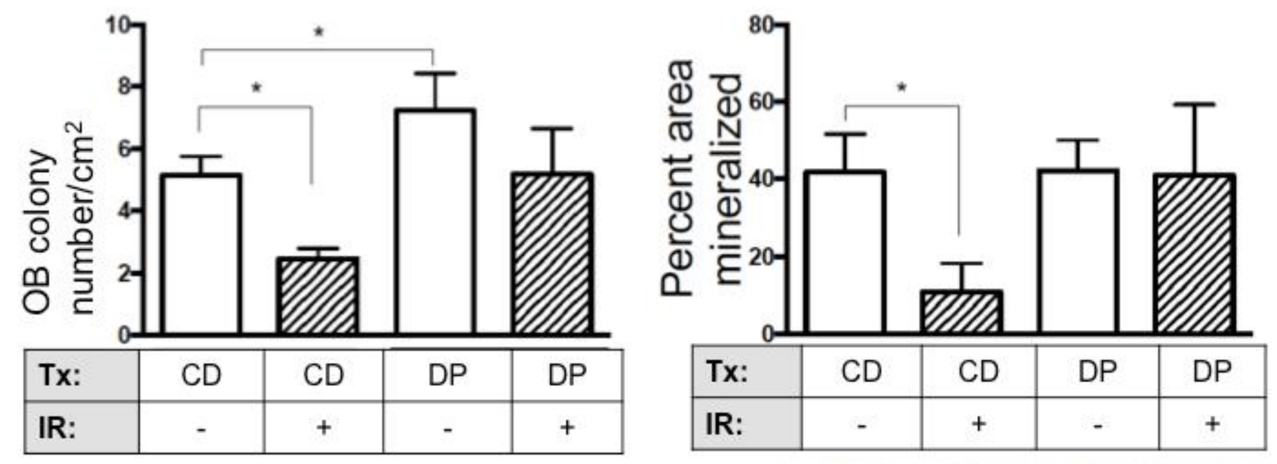
**Bone Marrow Cells**
- Bone-related: Rankl, Opg, BMP2, IGF1, Runx2, BMP4, Nfatc1
- Oxidative stress/DNA damage-related: SOD1, Foxo3, Nfe2l2, p53, Gadd45a, Cdkn1a

**Mineralized tissue (shaft):**
- Bone-related: Postn, Bglap
- Oxidative stress/DNA damage-related: mTOR, Nfe2l2, p53, Gadd45a, Cdkn1a

Mineralized tissue | Mineralized tissue




### DP prevented damage to marrow-derived osteoprogenitors 30d after TBI ($^{56}$Fe)




mineralized nodules:

Tx= treatment; CD= control diet (AIN93M), DP=25% Dried Plum in AIN93M,marrow cells flushed post-TBI and grown in osteogenic medium. Ob colony number (day 7 in culture) and mineralized nodules stained by von Kossa (21d in culture)

## SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

- DP diet fully protected radiation-induced bone loss from low LET or high LET radiation
  - relevance for spaceflight and radiotherapy
- Possible mechanisms for DP radioprotective effects:
  - mitigate early increase in pro-osteoclast cytokines
  - reduce oxidative damage, in bone and systemically
  - prevent damage to osteoprogenitors and mesenchymal stem cells

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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