

# Five Questions for Amran Asadi, MD, Ph.D.

**Hometown:** Orlando, Florida

**Medical School:** University of California San Diego

**Status:** CA-1

**What was your goal for participating in NASA's Human Exploration Research Analog this year?**

HERA missions are simulated space voyages, each crafted to serve as a platform for multiple research projects occurring simultaneously ... The main overarching goal is to better understand the socio-behavioral factors at play during long-duration missions. It is hoped that knowledge gained from HERA will ultimately aid in selecting an astronaut crew for the first manned mission to Mars.

**How did you prepare for the mission?**

I did go out and buy a virtual reality (VR) headset just to try and minimize any chances of motion sickness as I [would] be spending part of my day on mission doing VR spacewalks. We also had a few team tasks.

**What led you to focus on anesthesiology?**

My background is actually in engineering, and as an engineer with an interest in medicine, I was really drawn to physiology. ... so it wasn't until I rotated through as a medical student that I realized how much overlap there was between this specialty and all the things I knew I already loved. ... Ultimately though, what excited me most were the possibilities I saw available within the field for research and innovation.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I definitely fall on the research-driven side of the spectrum, which played heavily into my choice of Stanford. The [Fellowship in Anesthesia and Medicine] program is a fantastic opportunity to build toward a research-focused career, while Stanford hospital offers exposure to a patient population and surgical expertise like no other from which to learn how to be an anesthesiologist. ... After residency, I'd like to pursue fellowship training in aerospace medicine.

**What is one thing your fellow residents do not know about you?**

I have an entrepreneurial streak that started fairly early. When I was seven years old I was fortunate enough to be one of the first kids in my neighborhood to get a Nintendo, but instead of playing it myself I set up an underground arcade and started charging admission. My parents thought it was funny at first until they found me counting stacks of cash in my bedroom ... My arcade was short-lived. **SA**

