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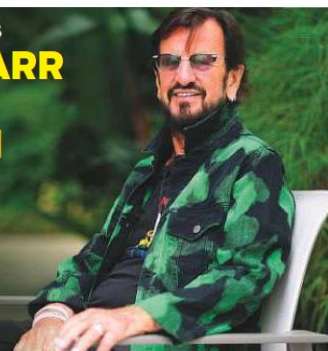


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Canadian aims to spur space medicine in UAE

Dr. Asrar keen
on pioneering a
space medicine
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DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi's recent return from the longest Arab space mission has inspired Dr. Farhan M. Asrar, a former Dubai resident now based in Canada, to contribute to the UAE's space sector.

Dr. Asrar, a medical doctor and academic, aims to pioneer a space medicine and health department in the UAE. He currently serves as the co-chair of the Department of Human Performance in Space for the International Space University's Space Studies Programme, which is internationally recognised and hosted in various countries.

Deep space push

Dr. Asrar and his team have presented their research findings at a United Nations committee meeting and participated in a UN workshop on space technology for socioeconomic benefits. He expressed his desire to give back to the UAE, where he was born and raised, highlighting his personal connection to the country.

His interest in space medicine developed during his medical specialisation, aligning with the UAE's goal to explore deep space.

"Space technology offers



Space technology offers numerous potential benefits in various areas, including environmental health, air pollution monitoring, and infectious disease outbreaks.

Dr. Farhan M. Asrar
| Doctor, academic

numerous potential benefits in various areas, including environmental health, air pollution monitoring, and infectious disease outbreaks," he said. His paper on the role of space in pandemics was published in *Nature Medicine*.

Dr. Asrar believes that nurturing future leaders in space medicine and STEM fields can position the UAE as a global player in research and development.

He described his connection to the UAE as a "homecoming" and commended the country's cosmopolitan nature and its significant achievements in the space sector.