New Directions in Behavioral Health:
A Workshop Integrating Research and Application

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In 2001, the National Academy of Sciences published Safe Passage: Astronaut Care for Exploration Missions, a comprehensive review that draws attention to behavioral health, an overarching topic that subsumes psychological, interpersonal, and cultural adaptation in space. On December 2-3, 2003, the University of California, Davis was the site of a NASA-funded workshop entitled New Directions in Behavioral Health: Integrating Research and Application. The purpose of this workshop was to promote fruitful dialogue between researchers and operational personnel in the interests of expanding our understanding of behavioral health on exploration missions including a return to the Moon and a voyage to Mars. This paper presents an overview of the rationale and findings of this workshop. We review justifications for improving our understanding of behavioral health in space, explore illustrative research areas, discuss ways to foster collaboration among different stakeholders, and consider desiderata for a comprehensive and sustained spaceflight behavioral health program.