

Welcome Home Crew-4!

After about 6 months on the International Space Station, four astronauts return home! April 27 at 3:52 am The Crew-4 mission launched a Falcon 9 rocket into space. Less than 16 hours later, they docked onto the International Space Station's Harmony module's space-facing port.

The mission was called Crew-4. Crew-4 has gone down in history as the first, with Watkins becoming the first Black woman to join the space station crew for an extended stay.

On the International Space Station, the astronauts led science experiments, involving research on how to grow vegetables in space without soil and the study of spaceflight consequences on the human body. They also conducted technology demonstrations. Cristoforetti completed two spacewalks with Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev to perform station maintenance and upgrades. Crew-4 worked on studies documenting how affects the immune system's function and the gut microbiome, determining the effect of [fuel temperature on the flammability](#) of material, exploring possible [adverse effects on astronaut hearing](#) from equipment noise and microgravity, and studying whether additives [increase or decrease the stability of emulsions](#). The astronauts also investigated microgravity-induced [changes in the human immune system similar to aging](#), tested a novel [water-reclamation membrane](#), and [examined a concrete alternative](#) made with a material found in lunar and Martian dust.

"It's been awesome to be able to walk into the Columbus module and smell the smell of leaves growing, of plants growing," Watkins told reporters.

October 14, 2022, at 8:55 pm the crew landed safely in the Atlantic Ocean. Stay tuned for next week's issue as tomorrow the astronauts will be discussing the mission tomorrow (October 20, 2022)

References

Garcia, M. (2022) *NASA's SpaceX crew-4 mission, NASA*. NASA. Available at: <https://blogs.nasa.gov/crew-4/> (Accessed: October 19, 2022).

Press, T.A. (2022) *Four astronauts return to Earth after nearly 6 months on the Space Station*, NPR. NPR. Available at: <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/14/1129254839/spacex-astronauts-splashdown-space-station> (Accessed: October 19, 2022).

Wattles, J. (2022) *Astronauts returning home from Space Station Splash Down off Florida coast | CNN business, CNN*. Cable News Network. Available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/14/business/spacex-nasa-crew-4-undock-friday-sc>n (Accessed: October 19, 2022).