

Hi Ashley-

I wanted to gauge your interest in speaking with two incredible Saudi women, one who made history this week when the Ax-2 mission counted her among the astronaut crew, the first woman astronaut from Saudi Arabia to blast off into space to the ISS and back (Axiom mission, SpaceX rocket). The other started her own rocket company at age 26 and is Special Adviser to the Saudi Space Commission and the first female aerospace engineer in the Gulf.

They have become inspirations to women of the region.

I would love to see if you'd be interested in speaking with them about their collective experiences, what they accomplished and what it means to Saudi Arabia and women in Saudi Arabia. Sending Americans to space is still exciting here, but it is also fairly routine at this point; for Saudi Arabia, it's hard to overstate how historic their contributions are and the overwhelming public excitement this recent mission generated, with massive public viewing events of the launch and the national education program that was done with students from space. They are both so dedicated to inspire the future generation of scientists and aspiring astronauts and encourage more young women and girls to follow STEM careers.

- [Mishaal Ashemimry](#) is the first female aerospace engineer in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries, and started her own rocket company at age 26. Mishaal Ashemimry is a Saudi-American Aerospace Engineer, Aerospace Entrepreneur, commercial pilot and Special Adviser to CEO of the Saudi Space Commission & Vice President for Diversity Initiatives at the IAF (International Astronautical Federation)
- [Rayyanah Barwani](#) is a 34-year-old biomedical scientist who made history when she blasted off into space on May 2. During the Ax-2 mission, she focused her attention on stem cell and breast cancer research. As a biomedical researcher, she has almost a decade of experience in cancer stem-cell research. After graduating with a Bachelor's in Genetics, Reproduction, and Development from the University of Otago and a Master's in Biomedical Sciences from Alfaisal University she has been working as a research laboratory technician at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre. <https://www.axiomspace.com/astronaut/rayyanah-barnawi>

Look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thank you

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Hi Bethan Rose-

The historic Ax-2 mission, which carried the first woman astronaut from Saudi Arabia, Rayyanah Barwani to the ISS, has now returned to Earth. Rayyanah Barwani, the 34-year-old biomedical scientist made history when she blasted off into space on May 21, becoming the first Arab woman ever to do so. She's spent more than 9 years researching stem cells and how they can be used in cancer treatments.

I'm working with the Saudi Space Commission and I'm writing to see if you're interested in arranging an interview with Rayyanah Barnawi to get her reaction on this first mission to space—what it was like, what they accomplished and what it means to Saudi Arabia. The AX-2 Mission was an Axiom Space mission, and the spaceship the astronauts took to the ISS was supplied by SpaceX.

This last point is a particularly interesting angle, especially from Rayyanah's perspective. Sending Americans to space is still exciting here, but it is also fairly routine at this point; for Saudi Arabia, it's hard to overstate how historic this is and the overwhelming public excitement it has generated, with massive public viewing events of the launch and the national education program that was done with students from space.

The crew conducted 14 innovative and pioneering scientific experiments in microgravity, including the repercussions of space on human health and rain-seeding technology, which is aiming to contribute to increasing rainfall in many countries. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, there were also educational experiments conducted aboard the ISS in real time with 12,000 students viewing from Saudi. The aim is to inspire the future generation of scientists and aspiring astronauts and encourage more young women and girls to follow STEM careers.

In case of interest - we just got news of some astronaut availability//interview times - both press conference and one-on-one. Below are details  
Thank you!

**TODAY: AX-2 CREW POST-RETURN PRESS CONFERENCE**

video and images from Axiom Space's [Ax-2 media kit](#)  
The event will be live streamed on [axiom.space](https://axiom.space).

**TO ATTEND: June 1, 2023, at 4:00 EST**

**Virtual press conference via Zoom**

Participants include:

- Peggy Whitson, Ax-2 commander
- John Shoffner, Ax-2 pilot
- Ali AlQarni, Ax-2 mission specialist
- Rayyanah Barnawi, Ax-2 mission specialist

**Media must register to participate in this briefing and must RSVP by 12:00 p.m. ET on June 1.** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Register here for the crew press conference:

[https://axiomspace.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4zAWzI8CTGCZ93YiwX0JPw\[CH3\]](https://axiomspace.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4zAWzI8CTGCZ93YiwX0JPw[CH3])

**One on One with** Rayyanah Barnawi, Ax-2 mission specialist

**Today 1<sup>st</sup> June**

- **6pm EST - 8pm EST**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**


- **10am EST - 7pm EST**

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**EXECUTION**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 22 U.S.C. § 618, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this statement filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date	Printed Name	Signature
August 9, 2023	Diane Briskin	
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