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DALLAS - Several microbiologists from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School will participate in the 68th annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology this week in Detroit.

Dr. Edward Sulkin, professor and chairman of the Department of Microbiology at the medical school, is general chairman of this year's meeting of the society which is expected to attract more than 7,000 persons.

Microbiologists from 27 countries will get an intensive review of recent progress in medical, industrial, agricultural and general applications of the science of the sub-universe of living cells and viruses.

Subject matter will range from the evolution of life to the problems of monitoring and decontaminating spacecraft. There will be sessions on food, soil, freshwater bacteria, human organ transplants, poisons and fungi.

Those from the Southwestern Medical School making presentations at the meeting include Drs. J. P. Sanford, E. D. Rosenblum, Richard Finkelstein, Betty A. Hatten, Hammond G. Riggs, Jr. and Benita B. Mays.

William E. Stewart II and Dr. Sulkin are to present a paper evaluating the effect of "interferon," a recently described inhibitor of viruses, on experimentally-induced rabies infection.

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The study indicated there are several kinds of rabies viruses which differ in their ability to produce disease, says Dr. Sulkin.

By incorporating radioactive isotopes into the nucleic acid of the virus as an indicator of growth, it was possible to demonstrate that rabies virus is sensitive to interferon, he added. Further, the virus which causes rabies in canine populations has certain characteristics which differ from those found to be involved in rabies in bats - now widely distributed in the United States.

The study, supported by the National Institutes of Health, showed that rabies virus is able to induce formation of interferon, as well as being inhibited by it. This indicates, says Dr. Sulkin, formation of interferon may be involved in the classical Pasteur treatment.

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