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A "Silver Snoopy" and a letter from Apollo 13 Astronaut James Lovell were presented Thursday to Dr. P.O'B. Montgomery of Dallas in recognition of experiments which may determine the ultimate condition of the human being in space.

Dr. Montgomery, special assistant to the deputy chancellor, University of Texas System, and associate dean of the UT (Southwestern) Medical School, is principal investigator on a National Aeronautics and Space Administration-sponsored project to determine the effects of weightlessness on living human cells.

The Dallas scientist was one of four honored with Snoopy pins and letters Thursday. Others were Dr. Francis Johnson, president, and Dr. John H. Hoffman, faculty member, of The University of Texas at Dallas; and Dr. Pauline Beery Mack of Texas Woman's University in Denton.

The awards were presented by Francis M. Lucas, resident representative of the Office of Naval Research, and Hiram D. Farrar, Dallas representative of NASA.

Dr. Montgomery's group in Dallas is the only biological team building its own experimental package for a NASA flight. In this case it will be "Skylab," scheduled for middle or late 1972. Originally, the project was scheduled for Biosatellite and Apollo Applications programs.

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The experiment package, measuring 15 by 6-1/2 by 8 inches and weighing 22 pounds, packs a total of 26 experiments, including moving pictures of the living cells in zero gravity, and a variety of chemical studies on them.

"The idea is based on one of the concepts of modern medicine," explained Dr. Montgomery. "When you're sick, your cells are sick and by looking at the cells and measuring changes in them more about the sickness can be learned."

"Space is a totally new environment and it's inconceivable that the removal of one of the major forces on human cells (gravity) wouldn't cause changes. Historically, when men have ventured into new environments, there have been unanticipated results: Early French balloonists died from lack of oxygen at altitude, and when man went deep into the sea he encountered nitrogen narcosis and 'bends.' On long voyages, there was scurvy."

In the letter written to Dr. Montgomery before the Apollo 13 flight, Astronaut Lovell said, in part:

"We in the flight end of the business know that success on our manned space missions will be measured by the performance of individuals like you. You have carried out your responsibilities in an exemplary manner demonstrating pride in your work and performance exceeding normal requirements."

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