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News

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* * * * *Visiting professor to speak on
the body's own pain-relievers.

DALLAS--Dr. Avram Goldstein, professor of pharmacology at Stanford University and director of the Addiction Research Foundation, will visit The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas February 13-15 as the 1979 Wellcome Visiting Professor of Pharmacology.

Dr. Goldstein has made important contributions to the understanding of several drug-related problems. In recent years he has been especially interested in the "opiate receptors" on certain nerve cells--specific sites to which opiate drugs such as heroin and morphine must bind in order to produce their effect. Dr. Goldstein's demonstration in 1971 of the "stereospecific" binding of morphine-like compounds to brain membrane components pointed the way to the identification of the opiate receptor and the discovery of what have been labeled the "endorphins" for "endogenous morphine" (morphine-like compounds produced by the body itself). Thus, it now appears the body produces its own pain-relievers, which have their effect at some of the same sites as the opiates. These discoveries may help to explain narcotic addiction and have triggered a burst of research activity by scientists around the world.

Dr. Goldstein will present the 1979 Wellcome Lecture, titled "The Opioid Peptides of the Pituitary and Brain," at 4 p.m. on February 15 in the Zale lecture hall, DI.600

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