



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS

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DALLAS--Scientists in the Department of Pharmacology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School have been awarded a one year research contract of \$77,883 for a series of studies designed to analyze certain effects of antibiotics in animals.

The Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare named Dr. H. Richard Adams principal investigator for the research, part of which is specifically aimed at evaluating neuro-muscular blocking effects and cardiovascular depressant activity of antibiotics when administered during anesthesia. "There have been several reports of adverse patient reactions, such as neuromuscular paralysis, believed to have been caused by the interaction of certain antibiotics and anesthetic agents," said Dr. Adams, who is both a Ph.D. pharmacologist and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

The researcher indicated that he will utilize several species of laboratory animals including rhesus and squirrel monkeys and baboons.

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Dr. Adams and other investigators have reported findings which indicate that some antibiotics may inhibit the metabolism of other drugs. Metabolism, the body's way of disposing of chemicals and drugs, may be blocked, for example, in the case of marijuana and the barbituates. "Such antibiotic-induced interaction might induce severe adverse responses to the psycho-active drugs, if not an extremely "bad trip", he said.

Dr. Adams also indicated that the different effects often induced by the same drug in man and lower animals may be related to drug metabolism. For example, man metabolizes certain oral anti-diabetes drugs much faster than animals, yet some barbiturates are metabolized slower in man than in animals. Another major part of the study will be evaluation of the long-term effects of antibiotics.

"We will conduct some long term studies in order to determine the chronic effects of antibiotics on drug metabolism," added Dr. Adams, an assistant professor at UTSWMS.

Those drugs to be evaluated in the study include kanamycin, neomycin, dihydrostreptomycin, chloramphenicol, penicillin, and certain tetracyclines.

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