

Oct. 17, 1970

# NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
(SOUTHWESTERN)  
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



BOB FENLEY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

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DALLAS--Researchers at The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School are at work on more than a dozen fundamental studies of the heart and its diseases with grants totaling \$87,000 this year from the Dallas County Chapter, American Heart Association.

The investigations cover a broad front, ranging from the effects of exercise on human heart function to methods for growing and studying fetal mouse hearts in a test tube environment.

The researchers and their projects include:

Dr. Marvin J. Stone, "Paraprotein Immunoglobulins with Antibody Activity." Today there is considerable research on the body's immunity mechanisms. This study, under a \$7,500 grant, investigates a group of protein complexes which may cause disturbance of blood flow and clotting.

Dr. William J. Rea, "A Comparison of Two Types of Fascia Lata Grafts." \$3,800. Muscle coverings from the legs are being used to replace heart valves. This is a study of two of the most promising techniques.

Dr. Pedro N. Paez, "The Oxygen Affinity in Coronary Artery Disease." \$2,500 grant. With heart disease, the ability of the blood to carry oxygen becomes vitally important.

Dr. Charles B. Mullins, "Left Ventricular Function with Isometric Exercise." a \$12,000 grant. Isometric exercise, generally that in which muscle force is exerted against other muscles or static objects, is being investigated in relation to functions of the main pump chamber of the heart.

Dr. Roger C. Ecker, "Enhancement of Cardiac Allograft Preservation." \$2,000 grant. This study seeks ways to preserve heart grafts, such as valves, for longer times.

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Dr. Juha P. Kokko, "Salt, Water and Urea Transport in Isolated Nephrons." a \$9,500 grant. Since kidney and heart failure are sometimes related, this study looks at some of the fundamental processes in primary work units of the kidney.

Dr. William W. Miller, "Developmental Changes in Myocardial ATPase." \$7,500. This work involves changes in the biochemical energy system of heart muscle cells from before birth, as a newborn and as an older child.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, "Factors Affecting Beating of Fetal Mouse Hearts." \$5,000. It is now possible to culture mouse hearts in a "test tube" environment. This study investigates their beating.

Dr. James E. Wilson III, "A Method for Detecting Fibrin Clots in the Lung." \$1,000. Blood clots which lodge in the lung cause damage to that organ and have been difficult to detect. A new method of detection is investigated.

Dr. S.J. Leshin, "Experimental Cardiogenic Shock Effects of ~~Digitalis~~ Digitalis." \$6,000. Digitalis, in use for some time in heart disease treatment, is investigated in an experimental situation.

Dr. Mickey W. Via, "Atrioventricular Conducting System of the Heart." \$7,500. The impulses by which the heart paces its contractions are carried by a specialized cell system under study in this grant.

Dr. Norman Kaplan, "The Mechanism of Estrogen Induced Hypertension." \$7,000. Estrogen, a principal agent of birth control pills, is investigated as producing higher blood pressure.

In addition to the regular research project grants, a grant of \$7,231.20 was given Dr. Gladys J. Fashena for community service work, a \$7,500 research fellowship and a \$1,500 teaching fellowship were given the medical school by the Dallas Chapter.

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