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DALLAS--Scientists may be getting close to answering a few basic questions about cell growth and aging in weightlessness as they prepare to recover the Woodlawn Wanderer 9, a biological experiment which has ridden 59 days with Skylab.

"We know the unit had power and we hope all mechanisms worked," said Dr. P. O'B. Montgomery, the major investigator. "Now the cells will be brought back, some for re-freezing, some for subculturing and study."

Culturing of these human lung cells will be done in the laboratories of Dr. Hayflick at Stanford with some subculturing and studies of fixed and preserved cells to be in laboratories at Woodlawn Hospital in Dallas.

Dr. Montgomery said microscopic movie films of cell growth would be developed in Houston at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

In the experiment designed by Drs. Montgomery, Joseph Paul and Jim Cook of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, and by Dr. Hayflick at Stanford, the lung cells are monitored for both characteristics of growth and aging.

On earth, this type of cell usually divides only about 60 times. Whether it was affected by weightlessness is one question which will be asked.

Extensive microscopic studies will be done in the Dallas laboratories, said Dr. Montgomery.

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