

news *THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS*

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

December 14, 1976

DALLAS--A scientific team from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School is conducting a broad study of the effects of antibiotics in infants and children under a \$131,826 grant from The John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc.

Dr. George H. McCracken Jr., professor of pediatrics at Southwestern, is directing the studies which will:

1. Monitor the susceptibility to antibiotics of various disease-causing bacteria collected from newborn infants in various regions of North and South America.
2. Compare the activities of new antibiotics with those of commonly used agents in test tube experiments.
3. Acquire basic data on antimicrobial agents commonly administered to infants and children.
4. Conduct clinical efficacy trials of antibiotics in specific pediatric infectious diseases.
5. Evaluate the safety of antimicrobial agents in infants and children.
6. Study the pharmacology and bacteriologic efficacy of antibiotics in animal experiments.

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"Antibiotics are the most frequent class of prescription drugs administered to infants and children," Dr. McCracken comments, "Until recently there were few guidelines for administering these drugs to pediatric patients, particularly newborn babies."

Dr. McCracken said that a number of "therapeutic disasters" had resulted from giving infants antibiotics on the basis of extrapolated data from adults.

He further cited differences in drug serum levels of as much as two times depending on whether one form of penicillin was administered with milk or during a fasting state.

Ultimate object of the studies, announced jointly by Hartford Foundation President Harry B. George and U.T. Health Science Center President Charles C. Sprague, will be to obtain pharmacologic data which can be used to formulate specific dosage schedules which are safe and effective in treatment of pediatric infectious diseases.

The studies will involve both new, unlicensed drugs and marketed drugs for which adequate information is lacking.

With the assistance of a previous Hartford Foundation grant, the Southwestern group has been conducting a broad range of similar studies for the past four years.

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