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Montana State University receives continuation grant from the U.S. Public Health Service Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montana State University has received a continuation grant of \$19,060 from the U. S. Public Health Service Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases to support research conducted by Dr. H. Richard Fevold, assistant professor of chemistry. The current grant is effective April 1 and runs through March 1966.

Under the initial grant last year, Dr. Fevold began a three-year study of the regulation of the adrenal steroid secretory pattern. The research so far has resulted in the achievement of experimental alteration of the ratio of adrenal steroids, Dr. Fevold reports.

Adrenals of different animals secrete two main adrenal steroid hormones, according to the MSU biochemist. The ratio of these two hormones varies from species to species but is characteristic of the species, he explained.

Now that he has succeeded in altering this ratio experimentally in rabbits, Dr. Fevold is trying to determine the biochemical mechanism by which the change in ratio is brought about and if such an alteration ever occurs naturally.

Scientists believe that better understanding of the mechanism of the adrenal secretory pattern could help explain certain aspects of animal population cycles. Better understanding of the cycles would be of economic benefit to agriculture.

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