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Government grants awards to University of Montana departments

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA---

Three research grants totalling $24,887 have been awarded to the University of Montana, Missoula, by the Public Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

A grant for $11,850 will aid the UM Department of Microbiology with a project dealing with the study of Trypanosoma cruzi, the parasite that causes South American Sleeping Sickness. The Trypanosoma organism has never been successfully cultured in synthetic, chemically defined media and if this could be done, it would help improve results of drug studies which might lead to the discovery of a drug which could cure the disease, according to Bob Davidson, a graduate student working on the project.

A $7,372 grant will be used for a project entitled "Urine Concentration and Urea Excretion in Mammals," under the direction of Dr. E.W. Pfeiffer, a zoology professor at UM. Graduate students will study how urea is used in the kidneys, watch the development of the concentration gradient in the kidneys and study effects of diet in experimental animals, such as hibernating ground squirrels and procupines.

A third grant, for $5,665, will be used in the UM School of Pharmacy for work on a project entitled "Selective Phosphorus Inhibitors of Hydrolytic Enzymes." This three-year project, under the direction of Dr. Donald H. Canham, will be a study of a number of phosphorus compounds which prevent the action of enzymes.