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NEWS RELEASE

May 3, 1999

Contact: Doug Coffin, pharmaceutical sciences associate professor, (406) 243-4723.

HEART ASSOCIATION SENDS UM FACULTY MEMBER TO WASHINGTON

MISSOULA--

Douglas Coffin, an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at The University of Montana, was among about 200 American Heart Association volunteers on Capitol Hill last week to tell Congress about the need to increase funding for heart disease and stroke research.

Coffin and the other volunteers urged their legislators to approve a 15 percent increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health in fiscal year 2000. Capital Hill visits by the volunteers coincided with the release of new poll data that show strong public support for more research on cardiovascular disease, the No. 1 killer in America.

"There are nearly 60 million people who are affected by heart disease and stroke and almost a million who die each year from these diseases," Coffin said. "It's easy to become numb to those numbers."

Coffin is on the board of directors of the American Heart Association Northwest Affiliate. The affiliate's president-elect is UM pharmaceutical sciences Professor and Chair Vernon Grund.

The American Heart Association is a voluntary health organization dedicated to reducing disability and death from heart disease and stroke. To this end, the association spent nearly \$312 million during fiscal year 1997-98, including \$269,000 in Montana.

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AHA/tb
Local
Coffin.rl