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\$59,760 grant bolsters dietary research at UM

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\$59,760 GRANT
BOLSTERS DIETARY
RESEARCH AT UM

MISSOULA--

Dr. Robert R. Zimmermann, a psychology professor at the University of Montana, has been awarded a \$59,760 research grant by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to determine the effects of social restrictions and dietary factors on development.

The grant, effective June 1, 1971, will enable Dr. Zimmermann to continue a five-year study of social development after malnutrition in infancy, utilizing rhesus monkeys to investigate the effects of low and high protein diets.

The monkeys are housed at the UM Animal Behavior Laboratory at Fort Missoula. The lab's total of 85 monkeys includes 26 born at the lab.

"Preliminary evidence suggests that there are profound effects of protein malnutrition on social development," Dr. Zimmermann said. "Animals raised on low protein diets do not socialize with their peers and they show heightened aggression and brutality toward other animals.

"The new research," Dr. Zimmermann continued, "is concerned with the effects of social restrictions and dietary factors on development. To date it is apparent that animals who are raised in social isolation require a better diet in order to survive than animals who have social experience."

Concerning Dr. Zimmermann's nutritional research, Dr. Richard A. Solberg, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said:

"Dr. Zimmermann's work on nutrition is one of the most active research programs on campus. It is an example of how a university community such as the University of Montana contributes to the national and international efforts in basic research. With the present worldwide problems of protein deficiency in human diets, his research stands at the forefront of efforts to determine the adverse effects of dietary deficiency."

more

Dr. Zimmermann received a Bachelor of Science degree from Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis., in 1953, and a Master of Arts degree from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., in 1955. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1958.

Before coming to UM in 1966 as a visiting ~~lecturer~~, Dr. Zimmermann was a research associate at the University of Wisconsin and an associate professor at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

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