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Zimmerman continues study of protein malnutrition at UM lab

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ZIMMERMANN CONTINUES STUDY OF
PROTEIN MALNUTRITION AT UM LAB

By Linda Winslow
UM Information Services

MISSOULA--

Effects of low protein diet in early infancy on socialization processes of rhesus monkeys is the subject of a recent phase of a five-year study being conducted by the University of Montana Department of Psychology in the UM Animal Behavior Laboratory at Ft. Missoula.

Dr. Robert R. Zimmermann, UM professor of psychology, is director of the project, which receives \$50,000 annually from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and \$12,000 annually from Nutrition Foundation, Inc. The project, entitled "The Effects of Early Malnutrition on the Behavioral Development of the Rhesus Monkey," was begun in 1970 and is scheduled to be concluded in 1975.

In a report recently published, Zimmermann gives the findings of a two-year study of the effects of protein malnutrition upon the social behavior of laboratory-reared infant rhesus monkeys who had been separated from their mothers in early life and placed on special diets.

Zimmermann said he hopes to use the data obtained from this project to evaluate the relationship between protein-calorie malnutrition and its effects upon the learning and behavior of the protein deprived children of underdeveloped countries.

The report states that the major focus of this research phase concerns the possibility that protein malnutrition early in life produces permanent changes in the intellectual and social development of the child.

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