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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AWARDS \$122,394
FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT TO KENNETH WATSON

MISSOULA--

Dr. Kenneth F. Watson, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Montana in Missoula, has received a faculty research grant of \$122,394 from the American Cancer Society (ACS) for an extensive study of cancer-causing agents.

Included in the award is a \$10,000 institutional allowance to UM to enable Watson to conduct his study over a five-year period.

The grant was awarded by the ACS in conjunction with other grants Watson has received to study the duplication of the genetic material of a group of cancer-causing viruses and the role of the tumor host cell in the duplication process.

According to Watson, particles, believed to be viruses and similar to some found in monkeys, have been observed in human cancer cells grown in the laboratory. Those particles will be investigated by Watson, who will compare their characteristics with the characteristics of known cancer viruses. From these studies, Watson and his associates hope to find an answer to the question of whether these viruses are involved in human cancers.

The ACS grant, a career development award for the period ending June 30, 1981, will enable Watson to set up the cancer research study because his teaching duties will be limited at UM while he is conducting the study. Although his salary--usually paid by UM--will be paid under the ACS grant, Watson will continue to teach to a limited extent at UM in the area of his specialty, biochemistry.

Watson received a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, Idaho, in 1964, and he was awarded the doctor of philosophy degree in biochemistry in 1969 at Oregon State University, Corvallis. He joined the UM faculty in July 1973. Watson was a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow from 1969-71 at Columbia University, New York City, and he also was a fellow of the International Agency for Research on Cancer at the Robert Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany, during the period 1972-73.