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County cancer group awards UM \$1000 for leukemia study

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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COUNTY CANCER GROUP
AWARDS UM \$1,000
FOR LEUKEMIA STUDY

MISSOULA--

The Missoula County Cancer Association (MCCA) has awarded \$1,000 to two University of Montana faculty members for a continuing study of the causes of leukemia and the possible immunological effects of vaccinations on the blood disease.

Presentation of the award was announced by Gene Miles, Missoula, the MCCA public education chairman. The grant was made to Dr. Carl Larson, a microbiology professor and director of the Stella Duncan Memorial Institute at UM, and Dr. Richard N. Ushijima, associate professor of microbiology at the University.

Miles said the \$1,000 donation is in memory of the late Tom K. O'Neil, past member of the MCCA Board of Directors and the 1969 MCCA fund raising chairman, and the late Mrs. Marion L. Boyer, an assistant in past fund raising campaigns.

"The local cancer association decided to give the \$1,000 to the University microbiology department," said Miles, "because of the notable advancements made by the department against cancer, including leukemia, in recent years."

Drs. Larson and Ushijima have concluded from scientific studies that experimental mice infected with tuberculosis or vaccinated with a live vaccine containing attenuated tubercule bacilli develop a definite resistance to leukemia or blood cancer produced by the Friend leukemia virus.

The scientists also feel the vaccine may someday prove to make the animals resistant to other diseases, possibly including other forms of cancer.

Miles said the \$1,000 grant "came from public donations in Missoula for the benefit of Missoula County cancer patients."

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COUNTY CANCER GROUP--2

"The MCCA is strictly a volunteer organization supported by United Givers and private donations to help county residents who have cancer," Miles said.

He said home nursing equipment, dressings and financial aid, including out-of-state assistance, are available through the MCCA on request.

A year-round MCCA educational program is held in Missoula for interested organizations. Bill Morrison, MCCA president, may be contacted for additional information by phoning 549-9926 in Missoula.

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