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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. John J. Munoz, a top scientist in allergy research, will join the Montana State University faculty in July as chairman of the Bacteriology Dept. and director of Stella Duncan Memorial Fund Research, President Carl McFarland announced.

The new head of the Bacteriology Dept. comes to the University from New Jersey, where he has been research associate in charge of the antigen-antibody unit of the Research Division of Sharp and Dohme, part of the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research.

At the University he will direct and participate in basic research financed by the Stella Duncan Memorial Fund, which was created by Mrs. Stella Duncan Johnstone, an MSU alumna, who died in California in 1948. Mrs. Johnstone left the major portion of her estate to the University. In addition to the memorial fund, the bequest included more than 200 articles of artistic value and about 325 books to be retained as a museum known as the Stella Duncan Collections.

Mrs. Johnstone, a victim of bronchial asthma, stipulated that the memorial fund be used to finance research with a view to discovering the causes of asthma, allergy, hypersensitivity, and hay fever. In January 1957, the faculty committee on Stella Duncan Research adopted a resolution stating that the fund was to be used only for basic research as opposed to clinical research.

Dr. Munoz became interested in the problems of allergy and hypersensitivity when he was on the staff of the University of Illinois Medical School, Chicago. There he did research supported by grants from the U of I Graduate School, and he also taught graduate courses in immunology and serology to graduate students and to medical doctors specializing in the allergy field. He left the University
of Illinois in 1951 to accept a position with Sharp and Dohme, where he directed a group of six scientists working on a variety of theoretical and practical problems, principally in the development of new vaccines.

Dr. Munoz has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Louisiana State University, a master's degree in bacteriology from the University of Kentucky, and the degree of doctor of philosophy in medical bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin. He is the author of 25 published papers and a member of Sigma Xi, the New York Academy of Science, the Society of American Bacteriologists, and several other professional societies.

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