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Otto L. Stein receives extension on his research at Brookhaven National Laboratory

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Dr. Otto L. Stein, assistant professor of botany at Montana State University, Missoula, has received a one-year extension of his appointment as research collaborator at Brookhaven National Laboratory, an Atomic Energy Commission installation at Long Island, N. Y., MSU officials said.

Dr. Stein, a specialist in cytology and morphogenesis, was a U. S. Public Health Service research fellow at the laboratory from 1955 until his appointment to the MSU faculty in January 1958. When he came to MSU, the laboratory designated him research collaborator, which entitles him to use the laboratory's extensive research facilities at any time and to collaborate with Brookhaven scientists on research projects.

The MSU botanist took advantage of his affiliation with the laboratory to do research there last summer, and he intends to return periodically. He is now processing at MSU some of the data he compiled at the laboratory. His research is supported by a grant of $10,200 awarded him by the AEC last spring.

Dr. Stein's special field of interest is in the effects of both acute and chronic irradiation on plant growth. In his experiments he subjects plants to a single, short exposure of irradiation. In other experiments he exposes plants to constant low dosages for 24 hours a day for two or three months. He then compares the plants to study the differences in the organization of plant growth that result from the two methods of irradiation.

Dr. Stein studies the irradiated plants for signs of the development of abnormal growths or tumorous tissues, changes in the pattern of cell division, and any other manifestations produced by irradiation.

Research on plant growth brings to light new knowledge about plant cells, Dr. Stein said. Because the cell is the basic unit of both plant and animal organisms, what is learned about plant cells may have ultimate application to human cells.