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Montana State University scientists research on one of the organisms that cause bacillary dysentery

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A group of Montana State University scientists headed by an associate professor of microbiology may contribute to the solution of a major world health problem through research on one of the organisms that cause bacillary dysentery, MSU President H. K. Newburn announced.

Dr. Mitsuru Nakamura of the microbiology faculty has been awarded a $13,455 research grant from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, U. S. Public Health Service, to study "Physiology of Shigella sonnei," Dr. Newburn said. Shigella sonnei is one of the culprits responsible for the type of dysentery that accounts for a high mortality rate in infants in many parts of the world. The disease is found primarily in unsanitary environments and is often spread by infected food handlers.

Dr. Nakamura and his associates are studying the fundamental biology of Shigella sonnei in order to understand the mechanisms by which this bacterium causes disease. The Public Health Service has agreed to support the study for two additional years at $11,730 a year.

Working with Dr. Nakamura on the project are Marius Glen Peacock, Missoula, graduate student in microbiology, who is studying the chemical protection of ultraviolet irradiated Shigella; Mrs. Carol M. Ramage, Missoula, graduate student and U. S. Public Health Service pre-doctoral research fellow, who is studying the factors that influence lactose-fermentation of Shigella; Miss Mary Ann Craig, New York, Research Corporation Fellow, who is studying the genetics of antibiotic resistance in Shigella, and Miss Dixie Dawson, Billings, undergraduate research participant, who is studying the production of auxotrophic mutants of Shigella and survival of Shigella in the frozen state.

(more)
Four undergraduate research participants, partly supported by another grant (from the National Science Foundation), are studying the effects of physico-chemical factors on the survival of Shigella. They are Judy Seerup, Bozeman; Danny Lipp, Missoula; Jane Farnum, Polson, and Martha Oke, Great Falls.

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