Carl Larson accepts Montana State University research post

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The appointment of Dr. Carl L. Larson as director of the Stella Duncan Memorial Institute and professor of microbiology at Montana State University was announced Wednesday by MSU Academic Vice President Frank C. Abbott.

The Butte native who won an international reputation in public-health medicine terminated 23 years of service with the National Institutes of Health in October. He directed the Rocky Mountain Laboratory at Hamilton from January 1950 until October 1961, when he went to Bethesda, Md., as chief of program evaluation for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He spent the 1960-61 academic year in France as a visiting scientist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

At MSU, Dr. Larson will direct basic research financed in part by a bequest to the University from Stella Duncan Johnstone, an alumna who died in California in 1948. Mrs. Johnstone, a victim of bronchial asthma, stipulated that the fund be used for research in asthma, allergy, hypersensitivity and hay fever.

Upon his arrival in Missoula this week, Dr. Larson commented, "The research facilities at the University compare favorably with those at any major research center in the country and are superior to some I have seen at top-rated institutions."

"Stella Duncan research opportunities at MSU are limited only by the financial resources that will be available to support them," he added.

Dr. Larson launched his career with the National Institutes of Health in 1939 as assistant chief of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Bethesda. While he was director of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, he was tapped for an additional assignment as director of the Division of Biologies Standards. He headed the newly organized division in Bethesda for six months in 1955 while its program was getting under way.

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Dr. Larson was born in Butte in 1909. He attended Montana School of Mines for two years and went on to earn a bachelor's degree at Montana State College in 1932. He was awarded a doctor of medicine degree by the University of Minnesota in 1939 and an honorary doctor of science degree by MSU in 1954. He is a member of several professional and honorary societies and the author of more than 70 publications in the fields of immunology and microbiology.

Dr. and Mrs. Larson and their daughter Mary, 9, took up residence in Missoula this week. Their son Peter is a student at MSC.