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Carl L. Larson receives a U. S. Public Health Service Research Career Award to study tuberculosis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Carl L. Larson, director of the Stella Duncan Memorial Institute at Montana State University, has received a U. S. Public Health Service Research Career Award to continue basic research on tuberculosis, MSU officials announced.

The current award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, effective December 1, will provide $18,717 for the coming year and is renewable for an additional year. The grant supplements a USPHS award of $83,105 in 1963 in support of Dr. Larson's work.

Dr. Larson, in collaboration with Dr. Edgar Ribi of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, is working to perfect a vaccine that will give immunity to tuberculosis without producing sensitivity. Several months ago he and his colleague succeeded in producing a killed vaccine that proved effective and much less sensitizing than BCG vaccine in tests on laboratory animals. BCG has the disadvantage of being a live vaccine that produces a positive skin reaction to tuberculosis, Dr. Larson explained.

In sounding a note of cautious optimism about promising development of the research, Dr. Larson stressed that TB researchers speak of optimism in terms of years, not months. Their vaccine will not be tested on humans for some time yet, but Drs. Larson and Ribi are encouraged by their results so far.

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