

'Switch' May Be Answer To Curing Anemia Forms

A biological switch which "turns on" genes to produce a certain type of hemoglobin ultimately may offer the possibility of curing forms of anemia, a scientist told participants in the American Institute of Biological Sciences meetings here.

While such a cure is not now at hand, Samuel H. Boyer IV, associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, told biologists at A&M that experiments with sheep have shown that a mechanism exists by which certain genes can be stimulated to make a particular type of hemoglobin — the substance which carries oxygen to body cells.

At the moment, the switch works only one way. If it can be reversed through research, "There would exist a potentially curative measure for individual homozygous for mutant adult proteins such as sickle cell hemoglobin," said Dr. Boyer in the Wilhelmine Key Invitational Lecture before the American Genetic Association.

In a prior interview, Dr. Boyer explained that both sheep and humans produce a "fetal hemoglobin" in about the first six months of life and that this is later replaced by an adult type of hemoglobin.

Problems of anemia occur in adult-type hemoglobin. If anemic individuals could be encouraged to produce more fetal hemoglobin, the problem would be solved. Plasma from anemic sheep cause healthy sheep of a particular strain to produce anemic-type hemoglobin.

While this prospect is interesting, what is more exciting to biologists is the presently unknown substance in the plasma which seems able to "turn on" genes.

This, in turn, seems to indicate an area in which actual modification of living things might be achieved.

"We now have a model for re-differentiating the individual," declared Dr. Boyer. (Differentiation is the process by which cells "know" to become hair, or eyes, or certain types of hemoglobin).

"We're taking what may be a naive point of view in assuming there may be a whole family of switch substances," said Dr. Boyer.

In general, advances such as this bring the prospect of modification of humans very near, he said.

"One can imagine that we could make people brighter, or happier, or duller or stronger. We can

change man's evolution. This is going to happen and we have two basic problems to face:

"The intelligent use of energy and the intelligent alteration of ourselves."

Dr. Boyer has been secretary of the American Society of Human Genetics and is a member of a number of scientific organizations.

By Tuesday, more than 3,000

persons had arrived at Texas A&M for the 18th annual meetings of the AIBS.

On Thursday and Friday, Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman will tour a number of Texas cities, including Hearne, Rosebud, Waco, Temple, Huntsville and Houston.

More than 1,070 scientific papers are being given in the meetings which last through Friday.

Aggies Obtain Scholarships From San Antonio Fund

The George W. Brackenridge Foundation of San Antonio has awarded 1967-68 scholarships to nine Texas A&M University students from the Alamo City area.

Eight \$250 per semester awards and one \$312.50 to Raymond Cheser will be awarded. Cheser will be an undergraduate in chemistry, enrolling at A&M the first time in September.

Recipients selected for renewal by the Brackenridge Foundation include Kenneth N. Gray in veterinary medicine; seniors Clar-

ence T. Daugherty, civil engineering; Narciso Ramirez, math, and Edward R. Slocum, chemical engineering.

Also, juniors Dennis Dunkelberger, physics, and Walter Riggs, animal science, and sophomores Michael Evans, physics, and Erwin L. Grams, electrical engineering.

The Brackenridge Foundation presentation to A&M, which will administer scholarships through the Student Aid Office, was made by Gilbert M. Denman Jr., trustee.

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Commandant's Reception for Cadets Slated

A commandant's reception for cadet officers attending the pre-1967-68 school year cadet commander's conference at A&M will highlight early September activities.

Col. Jim McCoy, commandant, announced 300 guests have been invited to the 7-9 p.m. reception in the Memorial Student Center Assembly Room Sept. 11.

A receiving line headed by President Earl Rudder will welcome 150 cadet officers, including the Corps staff, Argie Band drum majors, yell leaders and all company and squadron commanders, executive and supply officers.

Also in the line will be Dean of Students James P. Hannigan, Academic Vice President Wayne C. Hall, Business Affairs Vice President Tom D. Cherry, Vice President for Research A. D. Suttle Jr., Colonel McCoy, Col. Vernon L. Head, professor of aerospace studies, and their wives.

"The invitation list includes all deans, department heads and faculty advisors of corps units," Colonel McCoy noted. Also attending will be all officers assigned to Army and Air Force instructor units at A&M.

At the commander's conference, Colonel McCoy will discuss his concept of operations for the coming year and provide orientation on various Corps life aspects, including housing changes.

Company and squadron executive officers will arrive early Sept. 9 to receive incoming freshmen who did not participate in summer conferences. The commandant said all military advisors will be working in the corps area.

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