

A&M flu study in final stage

by Jennifer Carr
Battalion Staff

A study in progress here is one of the final steps in testing a new flu vaccine before it is approved, virologist Dr. John M. Quarles says.

The study measures the comparative effectiveness of a vaccination administered through nose drops and the same vaccination administered through inoculation. Once testing is completed, the vaccine will go through a series of approvals that will take three to five years. Quarles, who is the coordinator of the Texas A&M study, said he hopes the study — administered through the Baylor College of Medicine's Influenza Research Center — will show the nose drops are more effective than the inoculations in preventing the flu virus.

"We are testing the nose drop vaccine to see if it's better than the shots," Quarles said.

The theory behind increased effectiveness for the nose-drop form of the vaccination is that the nose, mouth and throat are the places where the flu virus is contracted and grows. Administering the vaccination directly to those areas could then increase the amount of antibodies — organisms that fight the virus — in that area.

Another advantage to nose drops, which ultimately would increase their effectiveness, is the possibility that more people will take the vaccination since they won't have to receive a shot. The nose drop form of the vaccine also can be manufactured more quickly than the shot form.

Texas A&M students have been used to test the vaccine three times in the past, Quarles said, but this is the first time the nose vaccine has been compared with the vaccine administered in shot form.

To keep the study entirely random, each student answers the same questions, gives a blood sample and receives both a shot and nose drops, one or both of which are placebos.

Quarles said 617 students are participating in the flu study this year. Approximately one-third of the students received the vaccine through inoculation, one-third received the vaccine in

nose drops and the remainder of the group, which acts as a control, received placebos.

The study is double-blind, which means the students and the doctors treating them do not know who received the vaccination and who was given a placebo. But the person who administers the vaccinations keeps records.

The double-blind method prevents bias from the doctor and student during treatment, Quarles said. At the end of the study, the students are told which form of the vaccine they received, he said.

"Actually, we are aware of which form of the vaccine the student received," Quarles said, "but we put away the forms and don't consider it, although we can break the code if we need to."

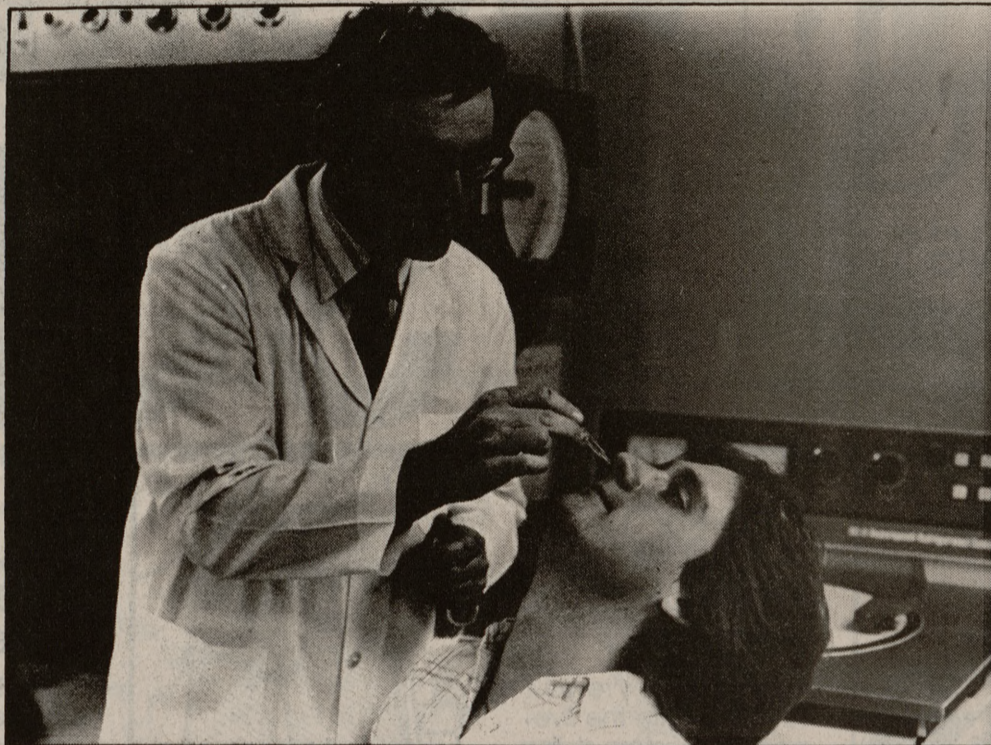
The studies are not a serious risk to students and may even help them, Quarles said, because the vaccines could prevent them from getting the flu. Students who catch the flu while participating in the study probably would have caught it anyway. In the three weeks since the vaccine was administered, none of the participants has gotten the flu.

Students receive \$5 each time they give a blood sample and \$2 each week they report to the A.P. Beutal Health Center, Quarles said. Each student probably will make about \$60 from the study. The flu season runs from January through spring break and the study runs from mid-October through spring break, Quarles said.

Students are not paid for getting the flu, Quarles said. The only study where students were paid for checking into the health center when they were ill was in an interferon study conducted two years ago, he said.

Quarles said many students have participated in more than one study, which gives him a chance to monitor the results over a period of years, rather than just for one flu season. In cases where study results might be biased by students who have received a vaccination in a previous study, students are screened to prevent their participation.

He estimated that of approxi-



Staff photo by Irene Mees

Rick Chamblin, a second-year graduate student in veterinary microbiology and immunology from College Station, receives flu immunization drops from Dr. John M. Quarles in the old Creamery Building.

mately 3,000 students screened for this study, 800 to 1,000 were rejected because they had participated in a previous study. A student might also be rejected for the study if he has had the flu recently and already has built up antibodies.

The flu studies are conducted at Texas A&M because it is relatively close to Baylor Medical School, which does the flu research, and because Quarles was interested in the research and developed the testing procedure. The studies begin when Quarles came to Texas A&M almost seven years ago.

Texas A&M also is ideal because it has a large population with good communication, Quarles said. The health center also facilitates research because it serves as a focal point for the study.

Quarles said most students

participate in the studies because they are interested in helping with the research, rather than just for the money. He said some students who originally participated in the studies now help administer them.

Each study must be considered by three committees before it can be administered on campus. Human research committees from the National Institute of Health and from Baylor and Texas A&M are composed of both doctors and laymen who must approve each study. Any changes made in the study must then be approved by all three committees.

Only vaccines and drugs that have been tested in controlled situations are administered in the studies, Quarles said. Field studies such as this one are the final phase of testing, and are used to see how the test drugs or

vaccines work in natural situations.

They usually are the end results of 15 to 20 years of government safety-testing and would not be administered if researchers weren't reasonably sure they would work.

The vaccine now being tested has about a 60 to 80 percent success rate in the field. Quarles said he hopes to increase this rate by the use of nose drops and by giving boosters four weeks after the initial dose. A 75 percent success rate is considered good, he said.

Vaccinations prevent disease by allowing a small amount of the virus' antigen, a protein that stimulates the production of antibodies, into the system. If people are exposed to the same disease later, they will already have the antibodies they need to kill the virus.

ARCHIE'S TACO BELL
GREAT TACO THEFT

Make a steal with unlimited quantities of 39¢ tacos on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12 — 13. Bring these coupons; otherwise you'll get caught.

This coupon good for
39¢ TACOS
QUANTITIES UNLIMITED
Not good with any other offer. Offer good Nov. 12, 13 11 A.M. — 11 P.M.
ARCHIE'S TACO BELL
GOOD ONLY AT ARCHIE'S TACO BELLS.

This coupon good for
39¢ TACOS
QUANTITIES UNLIMITED
Not good with any other offer. Offer good Nov. 12, 13 11 A.M. — 11 P.M.
ARCHIE'S TACO BELL
GOOD ONLY AT ARCHIE'S TACO BELLS.

This coupon good for
39¢ TACOS
QUANTITIES UNLIMITED
Not good with any other offer. Offer good Nov. 12, 13 11 A.M. — 11 P.M.
ARCHIE'S TACO BELL
GOOD ONLY AT ARCHIE'S TACO BELLS.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
• CIFAS UNIVERSITY •

"CLASSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH"
The University is located in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Our Medical Program is tailored after the traditional U.S. Model of Medical Education and is fully accredited.

OPENINGS AVAILABLE
"Our Medical School is WHO Listed And Approved For V.A. Benefits."

For More Information and Application Form please write to:
CIFAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEAN OF ADMISSIONS
12820 WHITTIER BLVD., SUITE 14 • WHITTIER, CALIF. 90602

GIG 'EM AGGIES
BEAT ARKANSAS

FUN • FOOD • DRINK =

TECS
CULPEPPER PLAZA

INTERVIEWING ON CAMPUS
for
JUNIOR EXECUTIVES

Enjoy your job and spare time too!

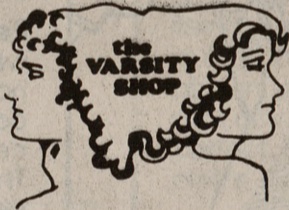
SALARY: Starts \$20,000 to \$27,000 increasing annually to \$31,500 to \$40,000 in four years.
QUALIFICATIONS: Seniors in engineering, science and business. ALL MAJORS CONSIDERED. Recent grads looking for first job as well as those contemplating a job change (under age 34) are encouraged to apply. Qualification test required. U.S. citizens only. Equal opportunity employer.

BENEFITS: Club privileges including 18-hole golf courses, swimming pools, handball, racketball, tennis, beaches, sailing and flying clubs, full medical and dental care, unlimited sick leave, 30 days annual paid vacation, post-grad educational programs and retirement in 20 years.

JOB: Several positions available in the following areas: Management (technical and non-technical), aviation, finance and personnel management; engineering, nuclear engineering, flight training and medical fields.

LOCATION: Openings on both coasts and in Gulf area. We pay relocation expenses.

See the Navy Management Opportunities team in the Rudder Tower Placement Center, visit our booth in the MSC on 16 & 17 November or call 822-3423 for more information.



Pre-Holiday
Special
\$10.00 OFF
ALL PERMS

for the month of November
(with Student ID)

Come in this month and receive Free gift!
Professional Personalized Hair Service
for Men and Women

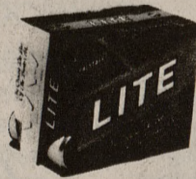
Carolyn Ramirez, Sandra Torres, Laura Torres and Dawn Marie invite you to come in and take advantage of this Pre-Holiday Special!

301 Patricia 846-7401
Behind Northgate
Walking Distance from Campus

ICE HOUSE

GERMAN IMPORTED **\$3.99**
BECKS Light & Dark 6 pack

New Falstaff Lite **\$3.85**
12 pack **\$3.85**



Pearl Bottles **\$1.75**
6 pack **\$1.75**



KEG SPECIAL
Coors Light
16 gal. **\$37.25**

Largest Import selection in town!
Specials Good through Sat. Nov. 13

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 'TIL MIDNIGHT
3611 S. College 846-6635

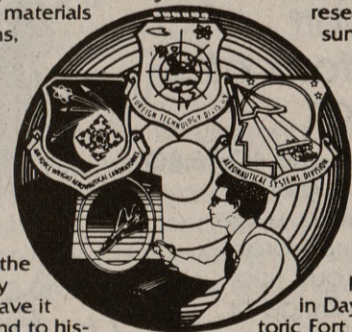
THE CAREER-OPPORTUNITY COMPARISON TEST

- Can you be working as a civilian in the most state-of-the-art environment in the world?
- Will your professional responsibilities be challenging and career-building in an entry-level position?
- Will your initiative be encouraged and your capabilities visible?
- Will you be offered a fine selection of accessible institutions where you can continue your education tuition free?
- Will the comprehensive training program you receive immediately accelerate your pay level?
- Can you be shown exactly how far your potential will take you in 5 years?

Check Out These
PERFECT SCORE
CIVILIAN ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND ACTIVITIES

Electrical Mechanical Aerospace **Industrial Electronic Materials**

The Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has an assignment worthy of all the nights you've spent burning the midnight oil—the planning, research, development, testing and acquisition of all U.S. Air Force aeronautical weapon systems. Immediate civilian positions exist in turbine and ramjet engine technology, flight vehicle aerodynamics, structures, flight control and control design, materials research, navigation, communications, surveillance, reconnaissance and weapons de-areas offer opportunity...for setting...and for your abilities.



Our civilian professionals have Ohio, a super you like to breathe all around. If city style, you can have it from King's Island to his-into a short drive. And Cincinnati with it's professional sports, culture and night life is right next door.

There's no red tape in coming on board. We can hire you without Bureaucratic delay. The Aeronautical Systems Division has been mighty good at getting places fast. Let us tell you how we can do the same for your career.

WE ARE INTERVIEWING ON CAMPUS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18
IN THE PLACEMENT OFFICE.
SIGN UP FOR AN APPOINTMENT
OR CONTACT: Recruiting Co-ordinator
Aeronautical Systems Division

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433
(513) 255-6974 255-6975

We Are An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F