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## Production of hormone tested on Discovery trip

**United Press International**  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — A refrigerator-sized medicine factory aboard the new space shuttle Discovery promises to set the pace for commercial space development with the production of a potential "breakthrough" medicine.

McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Co. and Johnson & Johnson's Ortho Pharmaceuticals Corp. hope their continuous-flow electrophoresis system will produce enough of the product, a hormone, during its six days aboard Discovery starting Wednesday to begin clinical tests with humans.

"It's a very exciting hormone," said James Rose, McDonnell Douglas project manager. "It is a natural biological body hormone. It's not available today and would be considered a breakthrough material."

Although Rose declined to identify the hormone, he did say in questioning at a news conference that it would have life-saving capabilities.

Charles Walker, the first privately sponsored shuttle flier, will operate the electrophoresis system throughout Discovery's inaugural mission.

And just in case the factory breaks down, he's trained and equipped with critical spare parts to conduct a space overhaul.

Housed on Discovery's lower deck, the electrophoresis system had been scheduled to fly again in November with Walker on board to tend it.

But the shuttle's blastoff about June 26 and the subsequent cancellation of what would have been its second mission forced a change in plans.

"We require between flights a minimum of three weeks of turnaround time on the ground," Walker said. "Because of the June launch delay, flying again in November would not be feasible."

"It takes that long back in the laboratory facility at the Cape to clean the equipment up, replace some minor components and get it ready to go back into an orbiter for reflight. So we requested re-manifesting as soon as possible to give us that minimum three weeks time early next year."

Continuous flow electrophoresis operates on a well-understood principle. The material to be separated is released into a continuous flow of fluid that runs from the bottom of the test chamber to the top.

As it flows upward, an electric field across the fluid induces particles, which carry an overall positive or negative charge, to migrate toward one side of the chamber or the other.

They do so at different rates and tubes strategically positioned at the top of the chamber are able to draw off extremely pure samples.

Although the process is used to produce experimental amounts of drugs on Earth, the quantity and purity of production is limited by such gravity-caused effects as settling and convection. In orbit there is no gravity.

The boxy electrophoresis system has flown on four previous shuttle missions to work out the bugs and Rose said this week's flight is a critical stepping stone to the success of the program.

## Kids sleeping with parents; a part of American culture

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — For better or worse — no one knows which — children sleeping with parents isn't unusual in America.

The practice, co-sleeping, has been documented by researchers from the Rainbow Babies and Children Hospital, Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland.

"Co-sleeping was a routine and recent practice in 35 percent of white and 70 percent of black families," said Cleveland doctor, Dr. Betsy Lozoff, in a report in Pediatrics, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Her findings were based on an interview-study of going-to-bed patterns of some 150 children 4-years-old and under in the Cleveland area. Allowing children to sleep with parents is contrary to advice from assorted pediatric health professionals who often advise parents not to sleep with their youngsters.

"Spock (Dr. Benjamin Spock, expert on baby care), for instance, rec-

ommends that 'babies get used to falling asleep in their own beds, without company, at least by the time any 3-month colic is over', and that 'it's a sensible rule not to take a child into the parents' bed for any reason,' advice which is echoed in many other sources," Lozoff said.

The recommended approach — babies falling asleep in their own beds — is different from practices Lozoff said she observed in Latin America and Asia while doing medical and anthropologic research.

In those countries, she found infants generally were not expected to go to bed by themselves at a regular time or place or to sleep alone during the night.

Instead, they were held until asleep and slept with their parents or other family members. In such families bedtime struggles and crying in the night were not apparent among the babies and toddlers, she said.

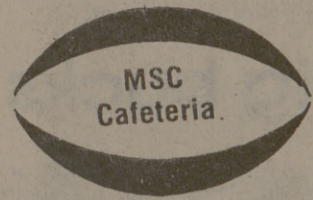
Further research showed that in a sample of more than 100 societies, the American middle class is "unique in putting the baby to sleep in a room of his own," the Cleveland doctor said.

The group said even though co-sleeping was routine in the American culture until the 20th century, concerns about the potential ill effects of the practice have been discussed by some pediatricians and child psychotherapists.

Concerns range from the practice interfering with a child's independence to co-sleeping becoming a habit or even an addiction that is difficult to break. Other concerns are that children who sleep with Mom and Dad may be more likely to witness sexual intercourse — "a frightening experience for some," the report said.

Concerned child development experts also have said co-sleeping may be overstimulating to children. Some have said the practice may reflect disturbances in the mother-child relationship, or in the parents' relations.

Among white families in the Cleveland study, investigators said the practice of co-sleeping was associated with high school educated and non-professionally trained parents, family stress, maternal ambivalence, and disruptive sleep problems.



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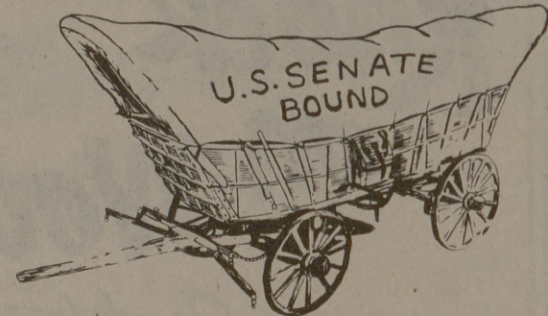
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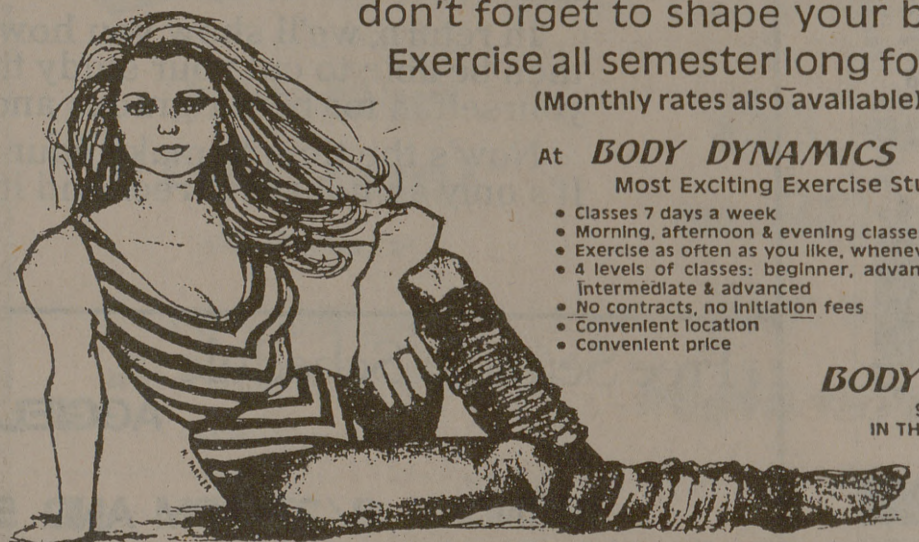
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