

Immediate Release

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Duluth--- A research grant totalling almost \$50,000 has been awarded to Dr. Larry C. Thompson, associate professor of chemistry at UMD, by the U.S. Public Health Service.

The grant will continue for three years a project on "Rare Earth Complexes of Biological Interest." It involves experiments designed to show how some 15 rare earth elements---all metals---interact with other chemical molecules.

Such elements have been found to be products of nuclear fission. One such product, Yttrium 90, has pointed toward the possibility of its use in destroying cancer cells.

Dr. Thompson says that while his interest in rare earth elements is strictly chemical, his findings may have value later to researchers in other fields of study.

Thompson received a \$15,000 grant from the U.S. Public Health Service in 1961 to initiate the study, and last June received \$2,800 from Research Corporation, a private foundation, to buy some of the equipment for the project.

Thompson has two student-assistants helping with the research and will spend full-time on the study during the summers.