

NE 128.0616566
5-31-66

News Release

GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST

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AD1-1471
Extension 25

Al Mitchell
Director of Information

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH REQUESTS FURTHER
STUDY OF NEGATIVE PION AS RADIOBIOLOGY TOOL

DALLAS--

Additional study of the negative pi-meson, a sub-atomic particle, will be reported to the Office of Naval Research under a new grant to the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. The negative pi-meson is also termed "pion."

Prof. Chaim Richman is the principal investigator in GRC's pion dosimetry and radiobiology program, which is now in its fourth year. Using the 184-inch cyclotron of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at the University of California, Professor Richman is measuring effects of the particle beams on bean-root and mouse tissue.

The pion beam has a unique peaking effect, in which energy is released at depths within tissue structures; little damage is done to surface tissue and intervening structure.

The ONR grant, covering one year of research, was effective May 1. Grant amount is \$15,000.

Prior support for pion research has come from the Atomic Energy Commission and the American Cancer Society. The AEC also announced a related grant earlier in May.

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