Government Grants Biologist Read Rare Financial Compensation Gift

By RICHARD DARILEK

A career professorship and job payment guarantee—This is the substance of the United States Government's recent grant to Rice biology professor, Dr. Clark P. Read.

AWARDED BY the National Institute of Health, principle research arm of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Public Health Service, the professorship secures Dr. Read's salary at Rice as long as he remains engaged in research here. Subsequent to Congressional appropriation, the money is paid to the University and Rice in turn pays Dr. Read.

The financial guarantee is a package deal including the cost of fringe benefits to the University, and placing the recipient on a twelve-month independent salary basis.

Obtained through the joint application of Dr. Read and Dr. Roy V. Talmadge, Biology Department Chairman representing the University, the career professorship is completely void should Dr. Read ever leave Rice. On the other hand it can cover him through the standard retirement age of 65.

DR. TALMAGE termed the professorship "an honor," for few of them have been awarded by the government to a university professor. He suggested that "the career professorship could be considered the same as an endowed chair in the humanities."

Indeed, according to the terms of the grant, the guarantee is awarded on the basis of their work and merit to fundamental and experienced investigators who combine a successful teaching and research career.

In general, Dr. Read has en-

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deavored to formulate a system of rational pharmacology. Heretofore, he said, most pharmacology has been empirical, laboring to advance by means of a hit and miss development. Most of the time it has missed, for according to Dr. Read, "99% of the drug combinations tried in this manner have not been worth a thing." Dr. Read is working on the development of some foolproof scientific method.

SPECIFICALLY, though, his work has centered on the relation between a parasite and the host in which it lives, with chemistry—the delicate balance of chemical substances within the host and their degrees of favorability to the parasite—as the determining factor of his new conceptual relationships.

He is seeking to explain the whole transport mechanism by which small molecules are absorbed by a cell across the membrane.

Personally, Dr. Read views his career professorship as an aid not only to himself but also to Rice, by bringing about a release of funds normally allocated by the University to pay his salary.

PRESIDENT PITZER in a recent news release further revealed that the funds so released by the award would be used at Rice in the same general area of biological research.

Dr. Read's program at Rice has been supported by research and training grants from the National Institutes of Health since 1953, and both were renewed this year.

DR. READ received his B.A., M.A., and Ph. D. degrees from Rice, and returned to the University in 1959 as Professor of Biology after teaching Zoology at the University of California at Los Angeles and Parasitology at Johns Hopkins University.

In addition to his research and teaching at Rice, he was Professor of Parasitology at the Baylor University College of Medicine in 1961-62, and is presently Chairman of the Department of Zoology, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where he has spent recent summers.

HE IS A member of the American Society of Parasitologists, The American Society of Zoologists, Society of General Physiologists, The American Society of Tropical Medicine, the National Academy of Science Committee for Post-Doctoral Fellowships, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine.

With over 70 publications to his credit, Dr. Read was a Rice Institute Fellow in 1948, Atomic Energy Commission Fellow in 1949-50, Guggenheim Fellow in 1960, and received the Henry Baldwin Ward Medal in 1959. He is also Chairman of the Study section in Tropical Medicine and Parasitology, U.S. Public Health Service.