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OU professor receives NASA grant

Frank Giblin, professor of biomedical science and associate director of Oakland University's Eye Research Institute, recently won a grant from NASA for a total of \$150,000 for his project, "Protection against UV and X-ray cataracts using dynamic light scattering as a marker."

"NASA is interested in the effects of radiation on the lens of the eye since space travel appears to be associated with an increased risk for cataract formation," Giblin said. "NASA's interest is in being able to protect the lenses of astronauts from any radiation-induced damage."

Astronauts traveling to Mars pass through the radiation of the Van Allen space belt, which has radiation levels 800 times higher than Earth.

Along with Giblin, two other doctors will assist in the research that uses a laser device to investigate the increase in the size of proteins in the eye. The doctors also will test the ability of various agents to prevent cataractous changes in the lens caused by radiation.

SUMMARY

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