New York University News Bureau
Washington Square, New York, N. Y. 10003

Contact: Herbert Kadison
NYU Medical Center
679-3200, Ext. 2328

For Release: TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1971, AFTER 12 NOON

Immunization against serum hepatitis has been achieved by scientists at the New York University Medical Center.

The progress in the studies which led to active immunization against serum hepatitis is considered to be a significant accomplishment toward the development of a vaccine for the control of the disease much as poliomyelitis has been controlled by vaccines.

Dr. Saul Krugman, professor and chairman of the department of pediatrics at the New York University Medical Center, disclosed the immunization findings of his research group in a special Honors Program lecture at the NYU Medical Center (Alumni Hall, 550 First Avenue, NYC) on Tuesday, March 23, at 12 noon. His co-workers in the group, which has been studying hepatitis since 1956, are Dr. Joan P. Giles, research associate professor of pediatrics at the NYU School of Medicine, and Dr. Jack Hammond, director of the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island.

During studies conducted by the researchers, Dr. Krugman said, recent observations indicated that the boiling for one minute of serum made from the MS-2 (serum hepatitis) strain of virus destroyed the infectivity of the substance without affecting its antigenicity--the ability to stimulate production of antibodies against the disease in the body.

The studies described in Dr. Krugman's report indicate that viral hepatitis, Type B or serum hepatitis (MS-2 strain) was prevented by active and passive immunization. Active immunization was induced by the inoculation of a boiled (inactivated) preparation of MS-2 serum in distilled water; two inoculations were more