

has come increasingly to the fore because of its prevalence among drug addicts who contract the disease from infected needles.

The rise in the presence of the disease presents a problem in the matter of blood transfusions. The need for whole blood has increased dramatically due to the greater use of operative procedures such as open heart surgery where one patient may need as many as 10 to 12 pints of whole blood. Too often, blood obtained from commercial blood banks is contaminated with hepatitis virus and a significant percentage of open heart patients contract the disease after surgery.

"These studies on active and passive immunization for the prevention of viral hepatitis, type B (serum hepatitis), represent the culmination of 15 years of effort by the New York University Medical Center group," said Dr. Krugman. "These findings were built on a broad base of knowledge stemming from contributions by many investigators in the field of hepatitis research. It started with studies by Findlay, MacCallum, Hävens, Paul Neefe and Stokes in the 1940's. It was followed by Murray in the early 1950's and by our group in the late 1950's and 1960's. More recently in the late 1960's the crucial breakthrough of the discovery of Australia antigen and its association with viral hepatitis by Blumberg and associates and its specific association with serum hepatitis by Prince was followed by an explosion on knowledge about the morphology, biophysical and biochemical properties and specificity of the antigen. The subsequent development of sensitive tests for the detection of antigen and antibody provided the technology for the continued pursuit of our studies on the natural history and prevention of viral hepatitis."

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NOTE TO EDITORS AND WRITERS: DR. KRUGMAN WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LECTURE. IF YOU WILL IDENTIFY YOURSELF TO HERBERT KADISON, NYU MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE LECTURE ROOM PRIOR TO THE LECTURE HE WILL INFORM YOU AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.