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## Luce Foundation Awards Students Asian Year Funds

Since the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Americans have learned the hard way that their understanding and perception of Asia and its inhabitants are painfully inadequate.

World War II, the Korean Conflict, the war in Vietnam and China's emergence as a world power have all combined to bring this point home.

Two students enrolled in the School of Medicine are among 15 young Americans chosen by the Henry Luce Foundation of New York to participate in a new scholarship program designed to give a greater number of this country's future leaders broadened insights and sensitivities into the cultural differences which lie between East and West at a formative time in their careers.

The students are Diana S. Cooper of Bethlehem, Pa., a 1974 Duke graduate who has postponed her entrance into the School of Medicine to participate in the Asian program, and Ned S. Stoughton of Berkeley, Calif., who has already completed three years of medical training.

The two will spend a full year in different areas of the Far East studying, working and travelling in programs of their own design with the support of the Luce Foundation. Other members of the highly select group, whose interests range from journalism and theology to architecture and the law, will do likewise.

In the words of a foundation spokesman, "at the end of the year, these scholars will be expected to return to the United States not as Asian experts but as citizens and future leaders in their professions whose perception of Asia, of America and of themselves will have been substantially sharpened as a result of their experience."

Although specific plans will not be  
*(Continued on page 2)*



**TYING THINGS TOGETHER**—Ironworkers Frankie Pittman (left) and James Williams are pictured making reinforcement cages for concrete columns to be used in the construction of the Seeley G. Mudd Building (the medical center's new library) and the Edwin L. Jones Cancer Research Building. Both buildings are scheduled for completion in mid or late 1975. *(Photo by David Williamson)*

## Tindall and Turner Get Lilly Grant

# 'Heartbreak of Psoriasis' To Be Target Of Clinical Studies by Dermatologists

"The Heartbreak of Psoriasis," ad men from Madison Avenue have called it.

That phrase, which sounds humorous to many television viewers who have

never had the skin disease, may be one of the most accurate the skin-cream sellers have ever come up with.

When the disease covers faces, hands or sex organs, it can indeed break the hearts of those who have it.

In ancient times, victims of psoriasis were not distinguished from lepers and often they were forced into leper colonies where they had to live in contact with the much more notorious and dangerous disease, according to Dr. John P. Tindall, an associate professor of dermatology at Duke University Medical Center.

More recently, there are cases on record in which psoriasis sufferers became depressed enough to commit suicide, he said.

Psoriasis is a chronic skin ailment characterized by red or silvery patches which can affect only an inch or so of a person's body, or it can cover vast areas. It is caused, Tindall said, by skin cells which reproduce at a rate from four to seven times that of normal skin cells.

The build-up of these "extra" cells is what gives the disease its unsightly appearance.

Although there is no cure for psoriasis, dermatologists have been able to retard it by using a drug they call methotrexate. Unfortunately, however, this drug, which has spared thousands of sufferers the

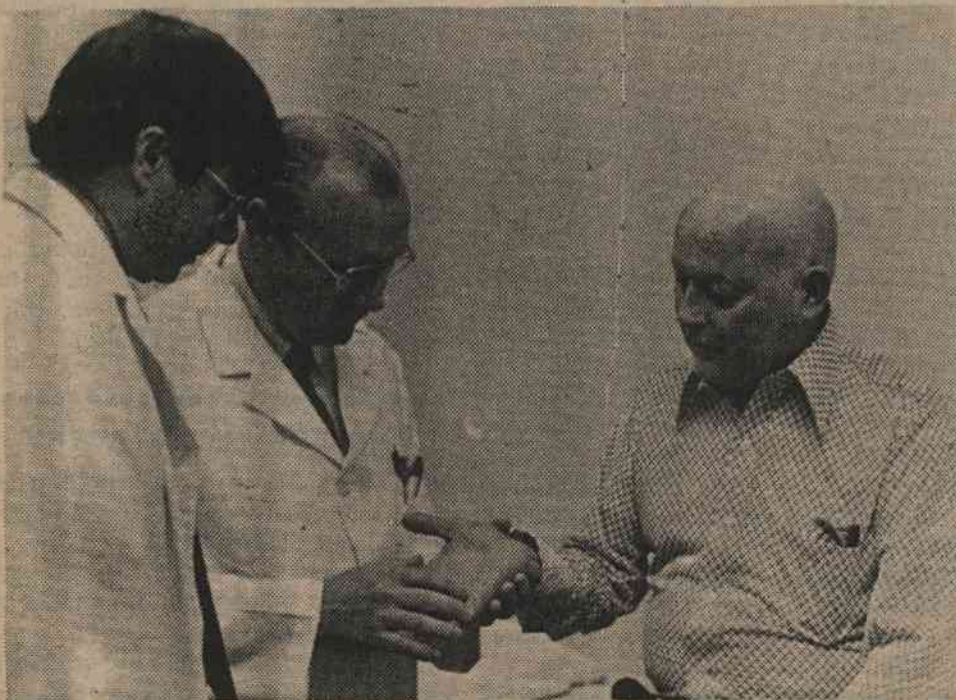
embarrassment of scaly skin, has come under attack from researchers and clinicians who believe it can cause liver damage in certain patients.

Now, with the aid of a three-year grant which may amount to more than \$75,000 from the Eli Lilly and Co. drug firm of Indianapolis, Ind., Tindall and Dr. Harrison Turner, a resident in dermatology at Duke, will be able to carry on studies of a "new" drug which promises to be very effective in curbing psoriasis while at the same time sparing the livers of those who cannot use methotrexate.

The drug is called mycophenolic acid, and it's not really new at all. Discovered in 1896 as a product of fermentation, this weak organic acid began life as an anti-cancer agent. When it showed only specialized usefulness against cancer, the possibilities of other uses were examined.

The first clinical trials of mycophenolic acid were conducted in Indianapolis. Researchers there found that of the 29 patients treated with the drug, 15 were almost completely relieved of their symptoms, 13 showed a definite improvement and only one patient showed a slight improvement.

Seeking more conclusive evidence of the drug's performance, the Duke  
*(Continued on page 2)*



**PALM READING BY SPECIALISTS**—Dr. Harrison Turner, a dermatology resident, (at left) and Dr. John P. Tindall, associate professor of dermatology, examine a patient with a skin disorder in a hospital clinic. Harrison and Tindall are the recipients of a large grant from the Eli Lilly and Co. drug firm of Indianapolis, Ind., aimed at finding new drugs for combating psoriasis. *(Photo by Dale Moses)*