

# Clayton County native leads hemophilia work

By Pat McTaggart

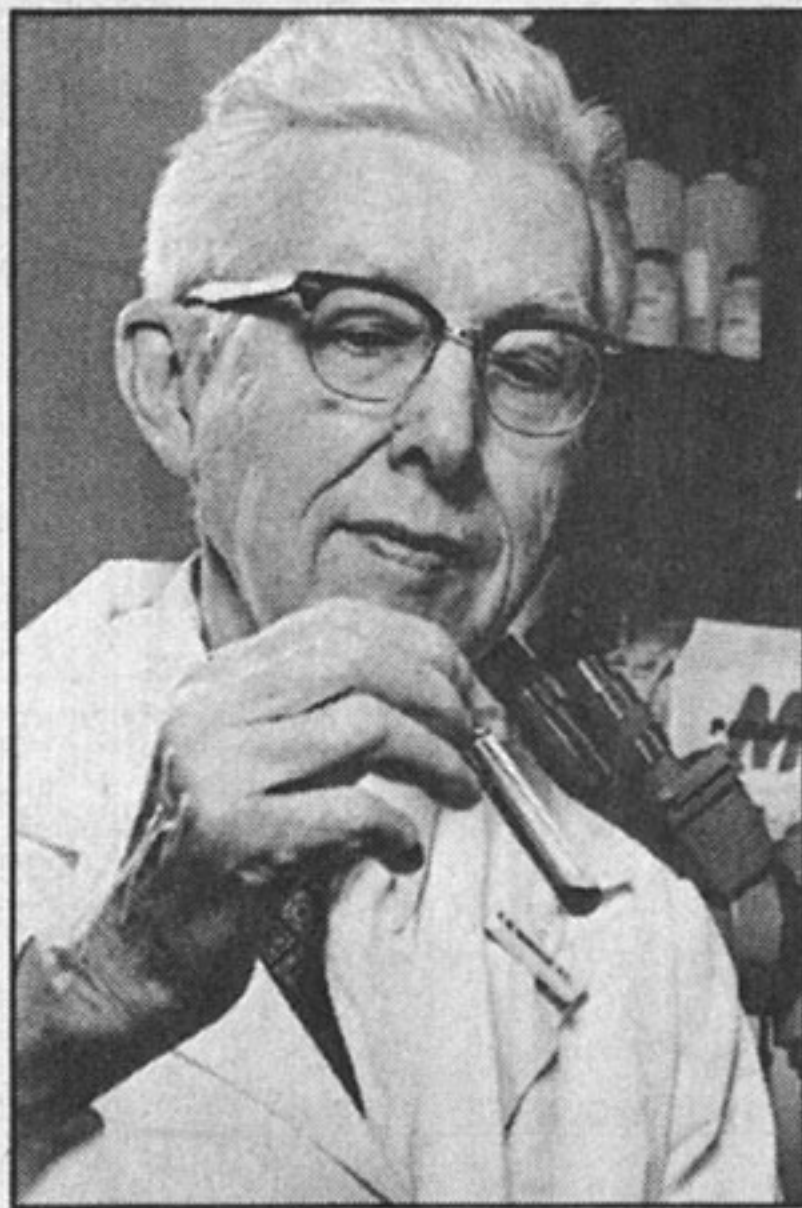
News correspondent

A Clayton County native has led a group of University of North Carolina researchers in discovering an innovative approach for treating hemophilia B.

The team, headed by hemophilia research pioneer Dr. Kenneth Brinkhous, used gene technology to successfully transfer copies of a healthy gene into the livers of dogs afflicted with hemophilia B.

After the healthy genes were introduced and began to reproduce, they produced a blood-clotting protein called "factor IX" that is absent in hemophiliacs because of a gene defect. The protein began to have an immediate effect on the amount of time the dogs' blood took to clot, dropping the time from 55 minutes to about 15 minutes.

"It's good to see some hope at



Dr. Kenneth Brinkhous earned his bachelor's and medical degrees at the University of Iowa.