

Four Area Scientists To Get Space Honors

Four area university scientists will join a select handful of U.S. colleagues Thursday to win the "Silver Snoopy" award for contributions to manned space flight.

The silver pins will be accompanied by a personally signed letter from Apollo 13 commander James Lovell (written before last week's troubled flight).

The winners are Dr. Francis S. Johnson and D. John H. Hoffman of the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD); Dr. F. O'B. Montgomery Jr., of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas, and Dr. Pauline Beery Mack, of Texas Woman's University (TWU), Denton.

Snoopy awards to university staff members are "rare," said a spokesman for the sponsor, the Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC), Houston, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Only four of these awards

have been made previously to university scientists, NASA said.

The awards are named for "Snoopy the Astronaut," a registered emblem provided by cartoonist Charles Schulz for use in recognizing those contributing "professional excellence" daily to the manned space program.

Thursday's awards will be presented at TWU's UTD, and the medical school by Francis M. Lucas, of the U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research, and Hiram D. Farrar, Dallas representative of NASA.

Dr. Johnson has directed a broad program of Earth and planetary research and has been linked to the space program since 1962.

With Dallas Evans of the MSC in Houston, he directed the cold cathode experiment set out on the moon by Apollo 12 astronauts last November.

Dr. Hoffman participated in data analysis in the Explorer program and is now working on building a new mass spectrometer for NASA.

Revolving around the biosatellite program, the research of Dr. Montgomery has often concentrated on the influence of weightlessness on human cells.

Dr. Mack has studied extensively psychological effects upon astronauts in flight and has conducted bed rest experiments to provide insight into the effect of long confinement on men in space.