

MIT chemist Alexander M. Klibanov to deliver Kaplan Lecture at UCSD, Apr. 20

April 17, 1995

Media Contact: Warren R. Froelich, (619) 534-8564 MIT CHEMIST TO DELIVER KAPLAN LECTURE AT UCSD

Alexander M. Klibanov, a professor of chemistry and member of the Biotechnology Process Engineering Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will deliver the 1995 Nathan O. Kaplan Lecture in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology on April 20 on the campus of the University of California, San Diego.

The lecture, "Enzyme Catalysis and Structure in Organic Solvents," will be delivered at 4 p.m. at the Center for Molecular Genetics Lecture Room.

Klibanov immigrated to the United States in 1977 from Russia where he was a research chemist at Moscow University. He spent two years as a postdoctoral associate in the chemistry department at UCSD before joining the MIT faculty in 1979.

His research focuses around the stability of proteins, the use of enzymes as catalysts in organic chemistry, and enzymes in extreme environments.

Klibanov has published some 170 scientific papers and several patents and is a member of eight journal editorial boards. He has received numerous prestigious awards including the Leo Friend Award, the Ipatieff Prize, the Marvin J. Johnson Award, and the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society, as well as the International Enzyme Engineering Prize. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a founding Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Nathan Kaplan, for whom the lecture is named, was a former professor of chemistry at the UCSD School of Medicine. Kaplan, an internationally known scientist in the fields of cancer research and enzymology, joined the UCSD faculty in 1968.

He was a member of the UCSD Cancer Center and was instrumental in developing the athymic mouse colony at UCSD. These rare hairless mice lack a thymus gland, rendering their immune systems virtually useless. Dozens of human cancers have been introduced into these mice, enabling researchers to study the effects of various anti-cancer drugs on live tumors and allowing scientists to study the mechanisms of human cancer growth.

Following his death on April 15, 1986, a fund was established to support an annual memorial lectureship; the first was held the following year.

(April 17, 1995)