

Scholander elected member of National Academy of Sciences

April 26, 1961

Per F. Scholander, Professor of Physiology at the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, today was elected a member of the nation's foremost scientific body, the National Academy of Sciences, dispatches from Washington said.

Scholander is the thirteenth member of the research staff at La Jolla to be so honored. His appointment brings to 68 the number of University of California faculty who are members of the National Academy.

Dr. Scholander was born in Sweden, but moved to Norway at an early age and attended the University of Oslo, where he received a degree in medicine in 1932. He found an intellectual outlet during this period in the study of lichens, and after collecting expeditions to Greenland and Spitsbergen he took a Ph.D. in botany in 1934. He then turned to comparative physiology, where his subjects have ranged from whales to single cells, from the tropics to the arctic, and from the rise of sap in tall trees to the secretion of gas by fishes at the bottom of the sea.

In 1939 he came to the United States as a Rockefeller Fellow to continue studying respiratory problems in diving animals with Dr. Laurence Irving at Swarthmore College. He became a U. S. citizen in 1945 after serving as an aviation physiologist in the U. S. Air Force during World War II.

Just after the war, Dr. Scholander started his work on climate adaptation in arctic and tropical animals at the Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow, Alaska, and the Canal Zone Biological Area, on Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone. He then spent several years at the Harvard Medical School and at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution before he returned to the subject of acclimatization and began to consider its application to man as professor of the new Institute of Zoophysiology at the University of Oslo. In 1956 he conducted controlled experiments in the Norwegian mountains on the reaction of men to cold, and the following year he took an expedition down to Australia to investigate the aborigines whose ability to live naked in a freezing winter climate has caused so much comment.

Dr. Scholander came to the Scripps Institution from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in February 1958.

Other members of the staff at La Jolla who are members of the National Academy are David M. Bonner, Professor of Biology, Milton N. Bramlette, Professor of Geophysics, Carl H. Eckart, Professor of Geophysics, Walter M. Elsasser, Professor of Theoretical Physics, who is presently on leave in New Mexico, Carl L. Hubbs, Professor of Biology, Joseph E. Mayer, Professor of Chemistry, Maria Goeppert Mayer, Professor of Physics, Walter H. Munk, Professor of Geophysics, Roger Revelle, Director of the Scripps Institution., Harold C. Urey, Professor of Chemistry-at-Large, Bruno H. Zimm, Professor of Chemistry, and A. Baird Hastings of Scripps Clinic, who also holds an appointment as a Research Associate on the University staff.