

UCSD and the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences sign cooperative teaching and research program for graduate studies

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UCSD AND THE SALK INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SIGN COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

A new cooperative graduate teaching and research program in biology has been agreed to between the University of California, San Diego with The Salk Institute for Biological Sciences.

As envisioned, the new program is expected to attract some of the best young people seeking to establish careers in biological research.

"This program merges Salk, which is a powerhouse in molecular and cellular biology, with UCSD's biology department, one of the leading departments anywhere in molecular and cellular biology," said Ted Case, chairman of UCSD's biology department.

"Historically, there has been a good relationship between UCSD biologists and our faculty," said Renato Dulbecco, president of the Salk Institute. "This new program formalizes the productive collaboration between our two institutions."

Dulbecco and UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson are scheduled to sign the agreement 2:30 P.M., December 14, during ceremonies at the Salk Institute. The press is invited.

Under the agreement, 27 of the Salk Institute's 47 faculty members have chosen to participate in the program, joining the 60 members of UCSD's biology faculty. Both institutions had their origins some 30 years ago, and a few members of the Salk faculty have held adjunct positions at UCSD from the early days.

"The exceptional breadth of scientific expertise of the combined faculties will make this one of the country's premier programs for research training, creating new opportunities for students in the laboratory and classroom," said Immo Scheffler, professor of biology at UCSD and one of the principal architects of the new program.

The agreement, retroactive to July 31, 1991, permits graduate students in biology at UCSD to study in several Salk laboratories previously unavailable to the students. Salk professors participating in the program will be involved in teaching both graduate-level and undergraduate-level biology courses at UCSD, offering greater depth and variety to an already strong program.

One key contribution Salk will make to the new program is its strength in molecular neurobiology. Salk scientists study the molecules used for communication among brain cells. These molecules are crucial for learning and memory and are involved with such disorders as Alzheimer's disease and mental illness.

"Our strengths at Salk really complement the strengths at UCSD, which include plant biology, microbiology and population biology," said Bart Sefton, a professor of molecular biology and virology at Salk and an adjunct professor at UCSD.

"With this agreement, the program becomes more diverse than it's been and hopefully more competitive as a result," Sefton said.

Added Case: "By combining these programs, it provides an extremely attractive magnet for national attention, for grants and graduate students."

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