

UCSD physicist Scott Renn awarded 1996 Hellman Faculty Fellowship

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UCSD PHYSICIST AWARDED 1996 HELLMAN FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

Scott Renn, an assistant professor of physics with the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded a 1996 Hellman Faculty Fellowship.

The 12-month award of \$15,000 is granted on the recommendations of a review committee for the Hellman Faculty Fellowships in the Physical and Life Sciences and Engineering.

The award is primarily intended to support young faculty research and creative activities, as described in a submitted proposal. Funds may be used for summer salary support, research equipment, research assistance, travel and other research-related expenses.

Renn's research is focused on a variety of areas, including the physics of semiconductors and the structure of liquid crystalline materials, such as those used in watches and laptop computer displays. He is particularly interested in a new class of liquid crystals called twisted crystals, which may play an important role in biological materials.

While scientists had once thought that atoms in crystals formed very regular patterns, twisted crystals have a type of ordering that is very systematic but much more complex than a simple lattice. Renn also studies the electronic properties of nanometer-sized semiconductor devices. In such tiny devices, the usual laws of electronics are significantly modified by quantum mechanical effects usually not observed in larger systems.

Renn joined the UCSD faculty in 1992 after completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University. The following year, he was awarded a Sloan Research Fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

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