

Medical School Groundbreaking

September 26, 1966

Nearly eight years of intensive study and planning aimed at the building of a major School of Medicine on the San Diego campus of the University of California will culminate Wednesday, September 28, with groundbreaking ceremonies for the School.

The ceremonies will mark the start of the third School of Medicine in the University's system, joining those in San Francisco and at UCLA. A fourth school is planned for the Davis campus.

Construction of the \$13 million Basic Science Building, the first project in the School of Medicine complex and the largest building to date on the San Diego campus, is scheduled to begin within several weeks.

Governor Edmund G. Brown and Dr. Philip R. Lee, Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, are scheduled to give major addresses at the ceremony beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the building site in the Matthews Campus area. UCSD Chancellor John S. Galbraith, Medical School Dean Joseph Stokes III, County Supervisor DeGraff Austin, San Diego Mayor Frank Curran, Vice Chancellor Robert H. Biron and University Regent DeWitt A. Higgs will also take part in the ceremony.

In 1958 the University of California began detailed studies into the feasibility of establishing in the San Diego area its third School of Medicine. Following careful review of the feasibility studies, the establishment of the school at San Diego was formally voted by the Regents of the University in February, 1962.

The schematic drawings for the Basic Science Building were begun two years ago. It will be built on a portion of the 577 acres formerly occupied by Camp Matthews, the Marine Corps rifle range, just east of Revelle College and north of New Miramar Road. Scheduled completion date for the building is fall, 1968, in time for the first class of 32 medical students to enter the school.

The building will provide 190,000 assignable square feet of space for office and laboratories for 42 faculty and 192 first and second year medical students. In addition, it will house administration space, other student facilities, the Biomedical Library and other educational resources for the entire medical center complex as well as for the Biology Department of the general campus.

The west and south wings of the reinforced concrete building will be two-stories with full basement. The north wing, or main section, will be five-stories with full basement with the possibility of two additional stories at a later date.

Architects for the Basic Science Building were Robert E. Alexander and Associates. Mac Alfred Cason, AIA, is chief campus architect and Herbert P. Fifield is University project architect for the Basic Science Building.

In addition to the Basic Science Building, the School of Medicine architectural master plan calls for a clinical science building and a veterans hospital, both to be completed by 1970, and a 350-bed campus hospital which will provide highly specialized patient care, teaching and research facilities, to be completed two years later. Additional research and associated buildings are also included in the plan.

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