

## **Dr. Elliott C. Lasser appointed as professor and chairman of the Department of Radiology at UCSD School of Medicine**

**June 18, 1968**

Dr. Elliott C. Lasser, chairman of the Department of Radiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has accepted an appointment as professor and chairman of the Department of Radiology at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, it has been announced by Dr. Clifford Grobstein, Dean of the UCSD School of Medicine.

Dr. Lasser will begin his duties at UCSD on July 1. The new UCSD School of Medicine is scheduled to accept its initial first-year medical students this fall. Some 64 hospital interns and residents are currently working at University Hospital under the direction of the School of Medicine.

In addition to his duties at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Lasser also serves as a consultant in radiology at the Oakland Division of the Veterans Administration Hospital and as Director of Radiology at the Presbyterian-University Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Lasser's major interest is in general diagnostic radiology, but he works in all areas of the field. Within the framework of diagnosis, he is particularly interested in gastrointestinal radiology and neuroradiology and has spent time in Sweden working in this latter area.

His research in radiology has had a basic biological orientation that cuts across many fields in medicine. He is opposed to placing strict boundaries around the recognized specialties of medicine, since such traditional boundaries are conceptually constricting and outdated. His own research, for example, extends into biochemistry, pathology and immunology.

Dr. Lasser has been particularly interested in X-ray contrast media. The increasing sophistication of medicine and surgery has brought with it a more proficient use of detailed radiologic techniques in the course of which the utilization of these contrast media has increased tremendously.

According to Dr. Lasser, it is important for radiologists to increase their store of fundamental information on these media, pertaining to matters of toxicity and distribution within the body.

"Ten years ago the information was zero," Dr. Lasser said. "We thereupon approached this from a very basic level and, in so doing, have had to reach into many areas of medicine. This is why I enjoy working in a medical school setting where there is an ample supply of knowledgeable associates to help guide the way.

Dr. Lasser will begin his work at UCSD with a group of 10 or 11 associates this fall. The number will grow to about 18 in the Department of Radiology in the next three or four years, he said. Dr. Lasser received a B.S. degree from Harvard University in 1943 and an M.D. degree from the University of Buffalo Medical School in 1946. He served as an intern at the Buffalo General Hospital and took his residency in radiology at the University of Minnesota Hospitals.

He served as an instructor at the University of Minnesota in 1952 and as associate chief of Diagnostic Radiology at Roswell Park Memorial Institute in 1953. He was named Chief of Diagnostic Radiology at Roswell a year later and held that post until 1956 when he moved to Pittsburgh.

Dr. Lasser also served as an associate at the University of Buffalo Medical School in 1953-54 and as assistant professor at Buffalo in 1955-56. He is a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and was a visiting professor of histochemistry in the Pathology Department at the Stanford University School of Medicine during the 1963-64 academic year.

He is a member of numerous professional societies and associations including the American Medical Association, the Radiological Society of North Americas, the American Roentgen Ray Society, the American College of Radiology, the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association of University Radiologists. He has published some 50 papers and a book dealing with his research.