

McElroy Lecture to be delivered by Molecular Biologist Martin Gellert

May 4, 1988

Contact: Yvonne Baskin, (619) 534-3120

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST TO DELIVER MCELROY LECTURE AT UCSD

Martin Gellert, a molecular biologist probing the genetic basis of the body's immune system, will deliver the eighth lecture in the William D. McElroy Distinguished Lectureship in Biology series on Wednesday, May 11, at the University of California, San Diego.

For almost 20 years, Gellert has been chief of the Section on Metabolic Enzymes of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology at the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases, a unit of the National Institutes of Health. He will talk on "Immunoglobulin Gene V-(D)J Recombination in Normal and Mutant Lymphoid Cells."

His free public lecture will begin at 4:30 p.m. in Liebow Auditorium of the Basic Science Building at the School of Medicine.

The McElroy lecture series is supported by contributions to the UCSD Foundation given in the name of professor of biology and former UCSD Chancellor William D. McElroy. McElroy resigned his post as chancellor in 1980 to return to research and teaching in the Department of Biology.

Gellert received his bachelor's degree from Harvard in 1950 and his Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University in 1956. He has been a researcher at the NIH since 1959, and section chief since 1969.

His principle research during the past decade has focused on a class of enzymes called DNA gyrases, which establish and maintain the topography of the genetic material and are required for replication and recombination. Most recently, Gellert has been studying recombination in the genes that generate antibodies, key components of the body's immune system.

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and was honored in 1985 with the academy's Richard Lounsbury Award. Gellert is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society of Biological Chemists, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

(May 4, 1988)