

"The Grape Escapade" staged by UCSD Cancer Center Associates

April 13, 1996

Media Contact: Pat JaCoby, 534-7404

A sell-out crowd of 560 persons was on hand at the Sheraton Harbor Island Resort tonight as the UCSD Cancer Center Associates staged the 1996 "Celebrities Cook for the UCSD Cancer Center."

Thirteen chefs representing premier California wineries and/or wine country restaurants presented the hors d'oeuvres which led off "The Grape Escapade" benefit dinner dance.

The guest chefs, their restaurants and California locations included Fred Halpert, Brava Terrace, St. Helena; Ralph Tingle, Bistro Ralph, Healdsburg; Martin Courtman, Chateau Souverain-Cafe at the Winery, Geyserville; Philippe Jeanty, Domaine Chandon, Yountville; Charles Saunders, Eastside Oyster Bar & Grill, Sonoma; Todd Muir, Madrona Manor, Healdsburg; Roy Breiman, Meadowwood Resort, St. Helena; Bob Hurley, Napa Valley Grill, Yountville; Andrew Cottone, Pairs Parkside Cafe, St. Helena; Douglas Lane, Ristorante Piatti, Sonoma; Rosemary Campiformio, St. Orres, Gualala; Steve Pickell, Thornton Winery-Cafe Champagne, Temecula, and Kimball Jones, Wente Vineyards Restaurant, Livermore.

The celebrity chefs were introduced by Liz Pursell, Channel 8 reporter, who served as master of ceremonies.

Attendees were greeted by Rusti Bartell-Weiss, event chair, and John F. Alksne, M.D., dean of the UCSD School of Medicine. Serving as Weiss' co-chairs were Marie Burnett and Bobbi Rossman. Honorary co-chairs were Harriet and Richard Levi, Peggy and Peter Preuss and Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan.

Dancing to "The Zippers" followed the dinner. The menu featured spring greens with roasted pepper salad; an entree of Colorado lamb rack with Port Wine sauce, and a chocolate crusted hazelnut mousse dessert.

The event site was marked in the parking lot with a hot air balloon replica inscribed with "The Grape Escapade." Tables were centered with black wrought-iron candelabrum topped with burgundy and white flowers and battery-operated candles. Guests entered the Grand Ballroom through a "wine arbor," and similar white lattice panels backed the chefs' booths. A burgundy and white theme was carried throughout the decorations.

The annual "Celebrities Cook" benefits research work conducted by the UCSD Cancer Center, one of 17 federally designated clinical and research cancer centers in the U.S., and one of only three such in California. It is considered one of the nation's premier centers for both basic and clinical research, and for conventional and investigational treatments for cancer patients.

(April 13, 1996)