

UCSD receives industry support for Molecular Biology Symposium by Eli Lilly & Company, University of California and San Diego's biotechnology community

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UCSD RECEIVES BROAD INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Eli Lilly & Company, the University of California, and San Diego's biotechnology community have teamed up to underwrite a major molecular biology symposium at the University of California, San Diego.

The symposium, which will take place May 7-8 to mark the opening of a new facility for the UCSD Center for Molecular Genetics, will feature talks by nine noted scientists on recent advances in molecular genetics and bioengineering. The program will include Nobel Laureate Joseph Goldstein, a pioneer in the study of the genetic control of blood cholesterol levels.

Eli Lilly, an international pharmaceutical company, and its San Diego subsidiary, Hybritech, Inc., are the major underwriters for the conference. The UC Biotechnology Research and Training Program also provided substantial support.

Other firms supporting the symposium are Beckman Instruments, Inc., Division of Smith Kline; Biovest Partners; Girard Capital, Inc.; Johnson & Johnson; Kelco Division of Merck & Co., Inc.; Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield & Byers; Molecular Biosystems, Inc.; Mycogen Corporation; Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company; Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch; Research Facilities Design; Stratagene Cloning Systems; Syntro Corporation; Trammell Crow Company; and the UCSD CONNECT Program.

"We are grateful to the firms and organizations who have helped make this special symposium possible," said Donald Helinski, director of the Center for Molecular Genetics. "Their generous support is evidence of the productive and broadening relationship between UCSD and high technology firms with interests in San Diego."

Once it is in full operation in the new facility, the center is expected to serve as fulcrum and resource for the roughly 50 laboratories engaged in basic and applied research in molecular genetics in the UCSD Departments of Biology and Chemistry and the School of Medicine .

In addition, the center will foster further development of its relationship with the county's burgeoning biotechnology industry, one of the four largest in the nation. Industrial scientists, like academics, will have access to center services, which include seminars and symposia, a computerized gene data base, a "pay as you go" gene and protein synthesis center, and training in the latest techniques of gene manipulation.

The symposium will be held in Liebow Auditorium in the Basic Science Building at UCSD's School of Medicine. The fee for industrial participants is \$100 and includes lunch on both days of the symposium.

Thursday morning (9 to noon) speakers and their topics will be Dr. Ora Rosen, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, characterizing the receptor in human cells that is involved in insulin function; Dr. Goldstein, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, isolating genes that regulate cholesterol levels in humans; and Dr. Alfred Gilman, the University of Texas Health Science Center, components and mechanisms by which a cell responds to hormones and other outside stimuli.

The afternoon session (2 to 5) will feature Dr. Phillip Sharp, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, molecular events in a cell responsible for transferring information from a gene to its product; Dr. Brian Matthews, University of Oregon, unraveling the three dimensional structure of proteins; and Dr. Mark Ptashne, Harvard University, protein-DNA interaction and gene regulation in bacteria and yeast.

Addressing the Friday morning session (9 to noon) will be Dr. David Hogness, Stanford University School of Medicine, identifying key genes controlling the development of a complex organism; Dr. Gerald Rubin, University of California, Berkeley, powerful use of genetics and molecular biology to dissect the development of the visual system; and Dr. David Botstein, MIT, identifying and mapping genetic defects associated with specific inherited diseases.

For additional information on the symposium, call (619) 534-0396.

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