

Media Advisory, Martin Kamen will be receiving the Enrico Fermi Award, April 24 in Washington, D.C.

April 22, 1996

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: Martin Kamen, professor emeritus at UCSD, will be receiving the Enrico Fermi Award--a \$100,000 check, gold medal and presidential citation.

DATE/TIME: 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 24

LOCATION: State Department Diplomatic Reception Rooms Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: The Fermi Award is the government's oldest science and technology award; it is granted for lifetime achievement in the field of nuclear energy. Aside from Martin Kamen, this year's other award winner is Ugo Fano, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago.

Martin Kamen is being cited for his discovery of Carbon-14, which changed biochemistry in a fundamental way. Carbon-14 is used today to understand all biochemical reactions that involve carbon. Chemists, biologists, archaeologists, geologists and others use Carbon-14 for applications as varied as dating archeological finds to tracking carbon dioxide in the environment. Kamen discovered the long-lived radioisotope in 1940 in collaboration with the late Sam Ruben. He developed Carbon- 14 as a tracer in biological systems and used it in his own research to understand metabolism and photosynthesis.

Hazel O'Leary, secretary of energy, will present the awards to the winners. White House Science Advisor Jack Gibbons will attend.

MEDIA OP: The winners will be available before the ceremony for interviews and photo opportunities.

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