

Four faculty members from UCSD elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences (plus biographies)

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Four faculty members from the University of California, San Diego have been elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors that can come to any American scientist.

The four are: Dr. Andrew A. Benson, Professor of Biology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Dr. Jr. Freeman Gilbert, Professor of Geophysics at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Dr. Stanley L. Miller, Professor of Chemistry; and Dr. Jarvis E. Seegmiller, Professor of Medicine in the UCSD School of Medicine.

The four new members bring UCSD's total National Academy of Sciences membership to 36. The ratio of members to total faculty is one of the highest, if not the highest, in the country.

In all, 95 new members were elected at the Academy's annual meeting bringing the Academy's total membership to just over 1,000. Of those elected, 13 were from University of California campuses. In addition to UCSD's members, three were elected from the Berkeley campus, and two each from the Davis, San Francisco, and UCLA campuses.

Benson joined the staff of Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1962 as Professor of Biology in the Marine Biology Research Division. In 1965 he was appointed chairman of the Division and Department of Marine Biology and served until June, 1969; he held this position again from 1970-71. From 1966 to March, 1970, he was Associate Director of Scripps Institution and, as such, was responsible for the coordination of biological research and teaching activities at Scripps. He also served in advisory capacity to the Director.

Benson is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry and Neurophysiology from California Institute of Technology. He is noted for his scientific work on photosynthesis, the synthesis of labeled organic compounds, isotope applications in agricultural research, new plant lipids, membrane research and the use of neutron activation analysis in biochemical applications. Currently most of his activities are directed toward understanding energy metabolism in marine organism by focusing on their production and utilization of wax.

Gilbert, Professor of Geophysics and acting Associate Director of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics at the UCSD, joined the UCSD faculty in 1961. He received a B.S. degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the field of geophysics in 1953 and a Ph.D. in geophysics from MIT three years later. He has been the recipient of Fulbright, Guggenheim (twice), and National Science Foundation fellowships. He is the author of some 50 papers dealing with his research on seismological problems.

Miller joined the UCSD faculty in March, 1960, as Assistant Professor. He received a B.S. degree from University of California at Berkeley in 1951 with highest honors in Chemistry. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, in 1954, after working under the direction of Dr. Harold C. Urey.

At UCSD Miller has served as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor, all in the Department of Chemistry. In addition to teaching, Miller is continuing research in the synthesis of organic compounds under primitive earth conditions, and is also working on the properties of gas hydrates.

Seegmiller, Professor of Medicine in the School of Medicine and Director of the school's division of rheumatology, first joined the UCSD faculty in July, 1969. He is a graduate of the University of Utah and received his M.D. degree from the University of Chicago. His interest in biomedical research began in medical school under Dr. E. S. Guzman-Barron, with whom he spent a summer at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. Seegmiller is internationally known in research fields pertaining to hereditary diseases and gouty arthritis.

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