

UCSD biology professor William Harris awarded Fogarty Fellowship from NIH

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UCSD BIOLOGY PROFESSOR AWARDED FOGARTY FELLOWSHIP FROM NIH

William Harris, professor of biology at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded a prestigious Senior International Fogarty Fellowship from the National Institutes of Health.

The fellowship will allow Harris to spend nine months in England working in the laboratory of Robert White at Cambridge University.

Harris and White are expected to study genes in certain regions of the brain that "turn on" other, unknown genes that help determine the character and actions of other regions of the brain.

For example, the researchers hope to determine which genes control the pathways of nerve cell axons as they navigate through the developing brain. They hope to find the unknown target genes and learn how they work.

Similar work has been done with *Drosophila* (fruit flies), but Harris and White are seeking more information about the process in vertebrate embryos.

Harris joined the faculty of UCSD in 1980 after completing his postdoctoral work in neurobiology at Harvard Medical School, and receiving a Ph.D. in biology from the California Institute of Technology, and a B.A. in biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1986, Harris received the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship Award, and in 1983 was awarded a fellowship from the Sloan Foundation. Harris serves on several editorial boards including the *Journal of Neurobiology*, *Neurogenetics*, *Neuron*, *Neuroreports* and the *Journal of Neurotransplantation*.

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