

Dr. Martin D. Kamen named recipient of Charles F. Kettering Award

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Dr. Martin D. Kamen, professor of biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego, has been recognized for his work in the field of photosynthesis by the American Society of Plant Physiologists.

Kamen, a member of the UCSD faculty since 1961, was named recipient of the "Charles F. Kettering Award for Excellence in Photosynthesis' in recognition of his contributions to this fundamental problem." The award was presented at the society's annual banquet held recently at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

One of the earliest discoveries made by Kamen and an associate was that of the long-lived radioactive carbon isotope, Carbon 14, which the Encyclopaedia Britannica called, "Probably the most important isotope from the standpoint of future possibilities." In his teaching and writings, Kamen has exerted a great influence on the thinking of biochemists by contrasting the relatively slow reactions common to all biochemistry with photosynthesis: the absorption of light by a pigment molecule and its subsequent speedy and efficient conversion into chemical energy.