

## **S. Jonathan Singer elected to Newton-Abraham Visiting Professorship in Medical, Biological and Chemical Sciences at the University of Oxford**

**April 23, 1984**

FOR RELEASE APRIL 26, 1984

Dr. S. Jonathan Singer, professor of biology and American Cancer Society Research Professor of Biology at the University of California, San Diego, has been elected to the Newton-Abraham Visiting Professorship in Medical, Biological and Chemical Sciences at the University of Oxford, England, for 1984-85.

Singer, one of the nation's leading molecular and cell biologists, will travel to Oxford with his wife, Ruth, in October to be in residence during the 1984-85 academic year. While there he will serve in the Department of Biochemistry and, in addition, will be granted the Oxford degree of Master of Arts, thus making him a member of the university faculty for all purposes. During his tenure he will be actively involved in the stimulation of research and will deliver a number of classroom lectures and the public Newton-Abraham Lecture in his field of study.

The Singers will reside in a house provided by the University of Oxford on the campus during their academic year. Their daughter, Julianne, is currently enrolled at Oxford as a student in literature.

Singer received an A.B. degree in chemistry from Columbia College in 1943 and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1947. He began his career as a physical chemist, largely concerned with synthetic polymers but soon developed an interest in problems interlacing both chemistry and biology. He early gained an international reputation through his work as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Linus Pauling at the California Institute of Technology, and was a co-discoverer, with Pauling and Dr. Harvey Itano, of the abnormal hemoglobin of sickle cell anemia.

Singer's most important work has been carried out at UCSD where he has studied the problems of membrane structure. Studies begun in 1966 led Singer to propose in a 1972 paper a new theory for the molecular organization of cell membranes: the fluid-mosaic model of membrane structure. This theory has become widely accepted since then, and is the basis for very active research all over the world on the ways that membranes function.

In 1976, Singer was awarded a lifetime research professorship by the American Cancer Society. Considered an outstanding teacher, Singer played an important role in the development of UCSD in the 1960s in the search for new faculty in the areas of humanities and social sciences and twice served as chairman of the Department of Biology, in 1964-65 and again in 1971-72.

Singer was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1969 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1971.

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(April 23, 1984)