

School of Medicines Basic Science Building to be dedicated

November 25, 1969

Ceremonies marking the dedication of UCSD's largest structure, the Basic Science Building of the School of Medicine, will be held tomorrow (Wednesday, Nov. 26) at UCSD, with national, state and local dignitaries attending.

UC President Charles J. Hitch and UCSD Chancellor William J. McGill are among speakers scheduled on the program which will begin at 10 a.m. at the Basic Science Building.

Dr. Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, will give the dedication address. Also to be heard are San Diego Councilman Mike Shaefer; Dr. Clifford Grobstein, UCSD vice chancellor and dean of the medical school, and William Jessee, representing the medical school's charter class.

The \$15.5-million structure is the first unit in a projected four-unit medical center at the university. The second unit, now under construction, is the 34.5 million Veterans Hospital rising from a site east of the Basic Science Building. Provided the necessary funding is made available, the complex also will include a clinical sciences building and a campus clinical center, scheduled for construction by the mid-1970's.

Total value of the completed four-unit medical center will exceed \$100-million, according to a university spokesman.

Ground for the contemporary-functional style structure was broken in September, 1966. Two years of planning and three years of construction and outfitting preceded tomorrow's dedicatory ceremonies.

Funding for the structure was a cooperative venture involving the State of California, the Public Health Service, and the National Institutes of Health.

Of the building's 320,000 square feet of floor space, nearly 200,000 are available as usable interior areas. The structure houses teaching and laboratory facilities for medical students, the Biomedical Library, administrative offices for the dean and his staff, the Office of Learning Resources, and five floors of the most modern facilities available for scientific research in the health sciences.

A unique feature of the new structure is the Biomedical Library wing, whose "hyperbolic paraboloid" roof units give the building a distinctive skyline profile. The library presently houses more than 65,000 volumes, and receives some 2,900 current periodicals.

Nine departments are being developed at UCSD's School of Medicine, including community medicine, medicine, neurosciences, obstetrics-gynecology, pathology, pediatrics, psychiatry, radiology and surgery. An internship and residency program is under way at University Hospital, formerly County Hospital, full operation of which was assumed by UCSD in July, 1966 under an operating agreement with the County of San Diego.

The School of Medicine enrolled its charter class in September, 1968. The 47 entrants were selected from more than 1,000 applicants. Present enrollment is 100.