

Ceremony to celebrate \$3 million grant awarded to UCSD's Institute for Biomedical Engineering

October 8, 1993

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: A ceremony to celebrate the awarding of a \$3 million grant to the Institute for Biomedical Engineering at UCSD from The Whitaker Foundation to establish a center of excellence in tissue engineering. The ceremony also will mark the founding of the Institute's new Industrial Liaison Program.

DATE/TIME: Monday, Oct. 11, 2 p.m.

LOCATION: UCSD Price Center Ballroom

SPEAKERS: Richard C. Atkinson, UCSD chancellor; Ruth Whitaker Holmes, chair of the board, The Whitaker Foundation; Miles Gibbons, Jr., president, The Whitaker Foundation; Marvin Cassman, acting director, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health; Dov Jaron, past director, Division of Biological and Critical Systems, National Science Foundation; Pierre M. Galleti, M.D., president-elect, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering; Robert Hillman, chair, Institute for Biomedical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board; executive director, Gensia, Inc.; M. Lea Rudee, dean, School of Engineering, UCSD; John F. Alksne, M.D., dean, School of Medicine, UCSD; Richard E. Attiyeh, dean, Office of Graduate Studies and Research, UCSD; George Palade, M.D.; dean, Scientific Affairs, School of Medicine; member, Institute for Biomedical Engineering, UCSD; Nobel laureate; Shu Chien, M.D., director, Institute for Biomedical Engineering, UCSD; Norton B. Gilula, dean of graduate studies, The Scripps Research Institute; Jeff Emery, Whitaker Fellow, Graduate Student in Bioengineering, UCSD.

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BACKGROUND:

The Biomedical Engineering Development Award from The Whitaker Foundation will fund the recruitment of four new bioengineering faculty, the establishment of new core facilities, and the introduction of tissue engineering science in graduate education, including the initiation of new courses. The four-year program also will support activities to strengthen the Institute for Biomedical Engineering's ties with industry, including forming collaborations to develop joint research programs and products for clinical use. The institute recently founded an Industrial Advisory Board formed by leaders in San Diego area industry to help foster interaction between researchers in academia and industry who are working in biomedical engineering.

The award will focus on three areas of tissue engineering: the cardiovascular system, somatic tissue (structures that include skin, muscle, cartilage, tendon, ligaments, bones and joints) and the neuroendocrine system.

The Institute for Biomedical Engineering at UCSD was established in November 1991 by the University of California Board of Regents. It now includes an interdisciplinary group of more than 80 researchers from

engineering, molecular, cellular and integrative biology, and medicine. Researchers from the La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation, The Salk Institute, and Scripps Research Institute also are participating in the program.

In tissue engineering science, researchers are using principles and methods of engineering and life sciences to better understand the structure-function relationships in normal and pathological tissues and to develop biological substitutes to restore or maintain tissue functions. Areas of investigation include such things as growing skin from biological cells for use in wound healing in burn patients, developing blood substitutes for use in trauma patients, and developing tissue grafting techniques to treat brain dysfunction after injury.

A private foundation based in Mechanicsburg, Pa. and Washington, D.C., the Whitaker Foundation was established in 1975 by U.A. Whitaker, the founder of AMP Inc. The foundation promotes interdisciplinary research and education involving biologists, engineers, physical scientists and physicians through several different types of biomedical engineering programs.

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