

School of Medicine welcomes first class

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The School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego, will welcome its first class of medical students this fall, almost ten years after the first detailed studies were begun into the feasibility of establishing a third UC school of medicine.

The first building of the School of Medicine complex, the Basic Science Building, will be completed early next year. Most of the classroom and laboratory work during the students' first two years will take place in the \$15 million building.

A future Clinical Science Building and a future Campus University Hospital will comprise a closely integrated complex on the campus.

The University Hospital of San Diego County, located 13 miles south of the main campus, will provide students with opportunities beyond those at the campus medical center. Many aspects of medical care are best taught in a hospital.

The future Veterans Administration Hospital will further extend the range of clinical facilities for the medical school. Each will attract and specialize in different categories of patients, and each will supplement the others for comprehensive approaches to diverse methods of patient care, clinical investigation and teaching at varying levels of medical student and post-graduate education.

A Biomedical Library included within the initial basic science construction project serves the faculty of the entire UCSD campus and the School of Medicine. The projected size for the fall of this year is 60,000 volumes and more than 3,000 periodicals.

The curriculum of the UCSD School of Medicine is divided into two major parts: the core curriculum and the elective programs. The core curriculum embodies those aspects of medical education deemed essential to every medical student regardless of background or ultimate career direction. This includes courses in biological, physical and social sciences and introduction to clinical medicine in the first two years; clinical, social and community medicine in the third year; and some advanced clinical training in the fourth year.

The elective programs offer each student a set of choices suited to his unique background, ability and career objectives. Each student is expected to select a "concentration area" which combines those didactic and research experiences at UCSD or elsewhere which best suit his needs.

The challenge of creating a new school of medicine is exciting and especially so today in view of the tremendous advances in the biological sciences during the past 20 years. In planning for the UCSD School of Medicine, the aim has been to establish an open dialogue between UCSD and the medical profession in San Diego County, so that communication can be effectively maintained and problems freely discussed.