

UCSD professors in natural sciences recognized for excellence

August 25, 1999

Media Contact: Jan Jennings, (858) 822-1684,

UCSD PROFESSORS IN NATURAL SCIENCES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE Chemistry/Biochemistry
Professor elected to Russian Academy of Sciences

Murray Goodman, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego, has been elected a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences in recognition of his "scientific merits." He becomes one of only a limited number of foreign members in this prestigious society.

"Let us express our confidence that your election as a foreign member of RAS will contribute to further strengthening of ties between scientists of our two countries," Russian Academy of Sciences president Yu. S. Osipov wrote in a letter commending Goodman.

Goodman has made a number of trips to Russia since 1959 in the pursuit of international science and the continued efforts to contribute to a Russo-American scientific exchange.

Goodman's areas of research expertise include efforts to improve drugs to relieve pain, combat rejection in organ transplantation, treat illness with fewer side effects and define the molecular basis of taste, including sweetness. The work in his laboratory involves the use of computer simulations to design and analyze new candidate drugs and various sensing techniques to determine their molecular structure. He then takes the candidates to colleagues in pharmacology, oncology and other clinical sciences to learn how they act in living cells.

Goodman has been on the UCSD faculty since 1970. He received his doctorate in organic chemistry from UC Berkeley. He is the author of hundreds of scientific articles and a member of numerous professional and honorary societies.

The Russian Academy of Sciences, celebrating its 275th anniversary, was founded in 1724 by Tsar Peter the Great as the supreme scientific institution in Russia. It is the center of fundamental research in the natural and social sciences in the Russian Federation.

M. Brian Maple, a UCSD professor of physics, received the ninth Frank H. Spedding Award for excellence in rare earth research at the 22nd Rare Earth Research Conference sponsored by the chemical company, Rhodia Rare Earths.

Maple was cited for "the discovery of novel materials and new phenomena that have advanced the understanding of superconductivity, magnetism and their mutual interaction, as well as valence fluctuation, heavy fermion and other strongly correlated electron phenomena in f-electron materials."

Maple is director of UCSD's Institute for Pure and Applied Physical Sciences (IPAPS) and the Center for Interface and Materials Science (CIMS). He received master's and doctorate degrees from UCSD.

Fred C. Driscoll, a UCSD professor of physics, has been selected as a Distinguished Lecturer in the second annual Distinguished Lecturers for Plasma Physics Program for 1999-2000 sponsored by the Division of Plasma Physics of the American Physical Society.

The Distinguished Lecturers will speak at various U.S. colleges and universities during the 1999-2000 academic year. Driscoll will lecture on Pure Electron Plasmas: From Ideal 2D Fluids to Crystallized Molasses.

(August 25, 1999)