

Two UCSD faculty members elected to the National Academy of Sciences

April 28, 1992

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TWO MEMBERS OF UCSD FACULTY ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Two members of the faculty of the University of California, San Diego have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Y. C. Fung, professor emeritus of bioengineering at the University of California, San Diego, and Stephen F. Heinemann, an adjunct professor of neurosciences with the UCSD School of Medicine, were among 59 new members elected to the prestigious organization.

Members are elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. With the addition of Fung and Heinemann, 56 members of the UCSD faculty now have been elected to the organization.

Fung, known by some as the "father of biomechanics," works in a field known as rheology, the science of flow and change of fluids and matter. His other research interest focuses on the mechanics of soft tissues in the heart, lung and blood cells.

In recent years, Fung began the huge task of describing the entire system of blood circulation in the heart, including the shape, measurement and mechanical properties of coronary blood vessels.

Among the questions Fung is seeking to answer is how changes in blood pressure might deform, and actually destroy, the lining of blood vessels.

Fung, who has been awarded numerous honors and awards, also is the author of a new book titled "Biomechanics - Motion, Flow, Stress and Growth." The book is the third volume in a series; the other two were published in 1981 and 1984.

Heinemann, also director of the Molecular Neurobiology Laboratory at The Salk Institute, has been conducting research on neurotransmitters in the brain that could shed light on several psychiatric disorders.

The National Academy of Sciences was established in 1863 by a congressional act of incorporation, signed by Abraham Lincoln. The organization was set up to act as an official adviser to the Federal Government in any matter of science or technology.

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