

Nobel Laureate Manfred Eigen will discuss the origins of genetic information on Feb. 28

February 22, 1995

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: Nobel Laureate Manfred Eigen, director of the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, will discuss the origins of genetic information.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 28, 1995; 4 p.m.

(Reception, 3:30 p.m.)

LOCATION: Robinson Building Complex Auditorium, UCSD campus

BACKGROUND: Eigen will deliver the first Hans E. Suess Memorial Lecture in a series dedicated to the late UCSD chemistry professor and renowned researcher who died in 1993. Eigen's talk is titled "How to Generate Genetic Information."

Eigen won the Nobel Prize in 1967 for his research on very rapid chemical reactions. In recent years, his interests have focused on explaining the processes of self-organization that could lead to a better understanding of the origin of biological information. The problem is crucial for understanding the origins of life...and also the origins of thought. Eigen will discuss results and examples of a theory, based on nonlinear dynamics, that show parallels between the organization of genetic information and the organization of human thought.

Hans Suess was a leading researcher in the fields of cosmochemistry, nuclear chemistry and geochemistry. He was responsible, among other things, for developing and improving the method of radiocarbon dating that is used today in a variety of scientific arenas including anthropology and geophysics. In 1956, in collaboration with Harold Urey, he wrote the paper about the "Abundances of Elements," considered one of the most influential contributions to cosmochemistry to date. A paper written by Suess and Roger Revelle called attention to the "greenhouse effect," climate change caused by man's growing use of fossil fuels.

Contact: Warren R. Froelich, University Communications

(619) 534-8564

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