

Training program fusing the disciplines of chemistry, biology and physics.

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An advanced training program fusing the disciplines of chemistry, biology, and physics in a study of little-understood biological processes will be launched soon at the University of California's San Diego campus.

A recent grant from the National Institutes of Health will make possible the program in the Department of Chemistry at UCSD. It will enable 10 pre- and postdoctorate students to participate in general course work and intensive research in the fields of physical biochemistry and molecular biology, Chancellor Herbert York announces.

Co-directors of the program are Martin D. Kamen and Bruno H. Zimm, both Professors of Chemistry in the School of Science and Engineering.

One important aspect of the training program will be research on the relations between structure and function of bacterial haem proteins in the processes of photosynthesis.

Other emphasis will be placed on research of nucleic acids-- the chemical material that carry the genes in living organisms. Experimentation in this field should shed light on the mechanisms of replication of nucleic acid in the reproduction of living organisms.

"The program is based on the assumption that research and training in modern biology require the close cooperation of investigators in the three fundamental sciences-- chemistry, biology, and physics," says Drs. Kamen and Zimm. "The organization of the program is made possible by the unique association of workers in all three disciplines which exists today on the UCSD campus."

The program will obtain advice and stimulation from the staff and facilities of not only the various departments at UCSD, but also from surrounding scientific research institutions. Included in this group will be the Departments of Biology, Marine Biology, Oceanography and Earth Sciences at UCSD, the Scripps Research Clinic in La Jolla, and the projected institute for virus research to be directed by Dr. Jonas Salk.

"It is reasonable to suppose that the San Diego campus will soon become a major area for training in all aspects of molecular biology," the co-directors point out.

The current grant of \$89,304 is for a period which concludes on June 30, 1964. However, additional funds for each of four following years will be made available for the training program if they are appropriated by the Division of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health.

The staff of the training program., besides Dr. Kamen and Dr. Zimm, will include Dr. David M. Bonner, Professor of Biology; Dr. S. Jonathan Singer, Professor of Biology; Dr. Stanley L. Miller, Associate Professor of Chemistry; Dr. John A. DeMoss, Assistant Professor of Biology; and Dr. Stanley E. Mills, Assistant Professor of Biology.