

## **Bioluminescence researchers honored at UCSD**

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### UCSD BIOLUMINESCENCE RESEARCHERS HONORED

Two University of California, San Diego scientists who pioneered research on the biological production of light were honored recently at the Fifth International Symposium on Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence in Florence and Bologna, Italy.

A special half-day symposium in honor of William D. McElroy, professor emeritus of biology and former chancellor at UCSD, was held at the University of Bologna as part of that institution's 900th birthday ceremonies. During the event, McElroy was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Bologna.

An annual memorial lecture was also instituted at the meeting in honor of Marlene DeLuca, wife of McElroy and professor of chemistry at UCSD for 15 years until her death last November.

DeLuca and her research team garnered worldwide attention in 1986 when they isolated the gene that makes fireflies glow and introduced it into a tobacco plant. The gene is considered an extremely valuable research tool for tracking and exploring the function of other genes in plants and animals.

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