

Martin D. Kamen, UCSD Professor to receive Charles F. Kettering Research Award

May 31, 1963

Martin D. Kamen, Professor of Chemistry, University of California, San Diego, is one of ten scientists chosen to receive a Charles F. Kettering Research Award., intended to encourage creative research on photosynthesis and related problems in biology.

The awards, made on the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences-- National Research Council by the Charles F. Kettering Foundation of Dayton., Ohio, consist of unrestricted research grants in an amount up to \$5,000 per year for an indefinite period. This is the first year they have been given. They are designed to give individual scientists additional flexibility in carrying out their research by making available "venture or emergency capital" to meet unanticipated needs.

At the request of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, the Academy-Research Council's Committee on Photobiology, working under the Division of Biology and Agriculture, drew up criteria for the award and nominated the recipients. The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers devoted to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare.

Kamen, 49, has been a member of the UCSD faculty since 1961. He is co-discoverer of carbon-14, which scientists have used to trace the mechanisms of biological reactions. Recently his research on photosynthesis earned for him the 1963 American Chemical Society Award for Nuclear Applications in Chemistry, "for outstanding contributions to the application of nuclear isotopes in the field of chemistry."

One unusual feature of the Kettering Foundation Awards lies in the fact that they are given annually for an indefinite period-- until the recipient's retirement, in fact, if he continues his work in photosynthesis and if funds are available.