

## **Kresge Foundation awarded \$500,000 challenge grant to the building program of the Institute for Research on Aging**

**December 12, 1986**

Media Contact: Winifred Cox, 534-3120

### UCSD INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON AGING RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT

The Kresge Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 challenge grant to the building program of the Institute for Research on Aging at the University of California, San Diego.

The grant is contingent upon the university raising, by July 1987, an additional \$2,168,204 needed to complete the project's funding.

The institute, which is affiliated with the School of Medicine, plans to build a \$6 million facility on the UCSD campus to bring together scientists from a variety of disciplines who are engaged in aging research.

Considered one of the leading centers of aging research in the world, the UCSD effort involves over 70 scientists in departments throughout the School of Medicine and general campus. A national leader in Alzheimer's disease research, the institute is also well known for its studies of arteriosclerosis, arthritis, osteoporosis and the chronobiology of aging.

Funding for the new research building is a major goal of UCSD's \$30.4 million 25th Anniversary Capital Fund Campaign. The Weingart Foundation of Los Angeles has pledged \$1.4 million to equip and furnish the building and the Los Angeles based Ahmanson Foundation has pledged \$250,000 toward the project. Although substantial gifts have also been given by corporations and individuals, the university still must raise over \$2 million by July in order to qualify for the Kresge challenge.

Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson said of the award, "This is a wonderful boost to our efforts to provide a facility for forefront research into diseases affecting our aging population. To complete this fund on the required time schedule will require a major effort on the part of all the people interested in seeing this facility become a reality."

To enhance the interdisciplinary nature of the institute, the proposed building will be located near the School of Medicine's Basic Science Building, two major centers for molecular biology research, and campus biology laboratories. The 27,300 square-foot building will provide 37 research laboratories, offices, an educational information center and conference facilities.

The Kresge Foundation is an independent, private foundation based in Troy, Michigan. In 1986 the foundation awarded \$44.1 million to capital and equipment projects in higher education, health care, arts and humanities, social service, science and conservation, religion and public policy. The foundation traditionally awards grants on a challenge basis, thereby insuring completion of the projects.

(December 12, 1986)