

Research foundation head and UCSD alumnus Peter Preuss is named alumni representative to UC Board of Regents

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RESEARCH FOUNDATION HEAD AND UCSD ALUMNUS PETER PREUSS IS NAMED ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE TO UC BOARD OF REGENTS

Peter Preuss, an alumnus of the University of California, San Diego ('68), and president and founder of The Preuss Foundation, Inc., of Solana Beach, CA, a brain tumor research institute, was named an alumni representative to the Board of Regents of the University of California, it was announced today.

Preuss, a resident of Rancho Santa Fe, was elected to one of two two-year alumni posts Tuesday night by the University of California, San Diego Alumni Association Board of Directors. Alumni Regent positions are rotated among UC's nine campuses, and allow the holders full voting privileges in the second year. Preuss will be a Regent-designate for the first year, beginning July 1, 1993. The second alumni representative is David Flinn of the California Alumni Association, Berkeley.

Preuss said, "I believe it's very important that everyone connected to the University, especially its alumni, help Californians understand the importance of the University in our economy, especially in the generation of jobs in fields outside of academia. In biotechnology and high technology fields alone, San Diego has become a leader in the international arena, and in most instances, these firms were spin-offs from research done at UCSD."

UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson said of the appointment, "I am extremely proud that Peter has been selected alumni representative to the Board of Regents. He is a staunch supporter of the University of California and a generous contributor of his time, energy and financial resources. Peter is a keen observer of the times, and we are grateful for the insight and vision he will bring to the Board during these challenging days."

Bob Kelly, president of the UCSD Alumni Board of Directors and senior vice president of Sharp Health Care, San Diego, said, "The UCSD Alumni Association is pleased to have such a qualified person representing UCSD on the UC Board of Regents. Peter is an example of the high quality of UCSD's graduates."

Born in Berlin, Preuss' story reads like the "American Dream" fulfilled. He arrived in the United States in 1965, the holder of a one-year fellowship from the German government. A mentor, professor Helmut Rohrl, whom Preuss met at the Technical University of Hanover, Germany, was in the process of transferring from a midwestern university to UCSD, a new university in La Jolla, and invited Preuss to take his graduate studies at UCSD.

The rest, as they say, is history. After receiving his master's degree in mathematics at UCSD in 1968, Preuss decided to remain in San Diego and entered the Ph.D program in the UCSD mathematics department. He soon became a teaching associate and handled a full series of classes in first year calculus. He was invited back to teach the next year, and incorporated an introductory computer programming segment into the curriculum.

Preuss left UCSD in 1970 to found a computer software company, ISSCO, which became highly profitable after a U.S. Supreme Court decision forced IBM to "unbundle" its software and open the market to competitors. During his career with ISSCO, it was Preuss' practice to hire young science graduates from UCSD. In 1986, he sold the company, which by then had 32 offices worldwide, for more than \$60 million.

A family illness involving cancer--and his concerns about the disease--led Preuss to apply his energies to the founding of a new entity, a brain tumor research facility in Solana Beach, The Preuss Foundation, Inc. Recently, he was instrumental in having the international Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research open a center in San Diego as an integral part of UCSD. The branch has an annual budget of more than \$4 million, which is entirely funded by the Ludwig Foundation of Switzerland.

Since 1984, when Preuss joined the UCSD Cancer Center Foundation Board, he says his "commitment to UCSD has grown every year."

Preuss' association with UCSD includes a term as president of the UCSD Cancer Center Foundation, a one-year post which ends this month. He has been active in the UCSD CONNECT Program, serving as consultant to the director, and serving on the Financial Forum Selection and Steering committees.

He is the co-founder of the UC San Francisco Brain Tumor Research Center and the Preuss Laboratory for Molecular Genetics (at UCSF), for which he raised \$4.5 million.

Preuss has contributed more than \$1.5 million to UC, in the areas of The Preuss Laboratory for Molecular Genetics and research grants to various campuses, including UC Irvine, UCLA, UC San Francisco and UCSD. He donated the Preuss Plaza Tide Pool at the new UCSD Scripps Institution of Oceanography Stephen Birch Aquarium Museum.

Preuss was named UCSD's Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, in 1984. He is the recipient of the Certificate of Appreciation in Biomedical Research, UCSD, and received the Certificate of Appreciation, UCSD Health Sciences, both in 1991. He and his wife Peggy have been members of the UCSD Chancellor's Associates for over a decade; he also is a member of the UCSD Board of Overseers.

The University of California Board of Regents is the governing board of the University of California, and consists of 26 members, two alumni representatives appointed for two-year terms, and one a student representative appointed to a one-year term by the Regents.

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