

Dr. Bruno H. Zimm awarded the National Academy of Sciences Award in Chemical Sciences

February 6, 1981

Dr. Bruno H. Zimm, professor of chemistry at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded the National Academy of Sciences Award in the Chemical Sciences, one of 10 awards presented by the Academy honoring individuals for outstanding scientific achievements.

The award in the chemical sciences, and the other prizes, will be presented to the recipients on April 27 during the Academy's 118th annual meeting. They recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to science and its applications.

The award in the chemical sciences to be presented to Zimm was established by the Occidental Petroleum Corporation in honor of Armand Hammer. It carries a \$5,000 prize. Zimm was cited for his "contributions and influence in theoretical and experimental polymer chemistry, notably his work on polymer interactions, polymer visco-elasticity, the helix coil transition in bio-polymers, the theory of light scattering, and the study of extraordinarily large DNA molecules."

Zimm, born in Woodstock, New York, joined the UC San Diego faculty in 1960 after nine years on the staff of the General Electric Research Laboratory. He received an A.B. degree from Columbia University in 1941 and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia in 1944. He taught briefly at Brooklyn Polytechnic, for four years at UC Berkeley and for a year at Harvard University before joining General Electric.

He received the 1960 Bingham Medal of the Society of Rheology which cited him for his advances in moving "from basic factors up through soundly founded theory to define complex phenomena in fundamental and understandable terms." Three years later he was awarded the American Physical Society High-Polymer Physics Prize sponsored by the Ford Motor Company.

Zimm's research interests have included the theory of liquids, solutions, and long-chain molecules, as well as experimental researches on the physical chemistry of very large molecules of both synthetic and natural origin. Most of his work at UC San Diego has been concerned with the physical biochemistry of DNA.

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Chemical Society, the American Physical Society, the Society of Rheology, and the Federation of American Scientists.

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