

## UCSD faculty members honored by science association

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### UCSD FACULTY MEMBERS HONORED BY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Six faculty members from the University of California, San Diego, have been awarded the distinction of "Fellow" by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The scientists were elevated, according to AAAS, "because of their efforts toward advancing science or fostering applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished."

The new AAAS Fellows are Robert Fahey, Andrew McCammon and Jay Siegel of UCSD's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Devendra Lal of Scripps Institution of Oceanography; M. Brian Maple of the Department of Physics; and Joshua Fierer of UCSD's School of Medicine and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The group will be honored Feb. 14 at a Fellows Forum during the 1998 AAAS annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Members can be considered for Fellow status, an honor started in 1874, through nomination by the AAAS steering group within their discipline, by three Fellows or by the association's executive office. Each steering group reviews nominations and compiles a list for the AAAS Council, which votes on the final list.

Fahey, an emeritus member of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has been affiliated with UCSD since 1963. He was elected a Fellow for, among other accomplishments, studies of the chemical and biological importance of compounds known as thiols, which protect cells against oxygen toxicity. Fahey earned his doctoral degree in organic chemistry from the University of Chicago.

McCammon, the Joseph E. Mayer Chair of Theoretical Chemistry and a Senior Fellow of the San Diego Supercomputer Center, has developed a method for predicting how molecules recognize and bind to one another, a technique that is being used to help scientists design new drugs. He is being honored for "outstanding contributions to the theory of liquids, macromolecules and protein structure and function." McCammon, who joined UCSD's chemistry and biochemistry department and department of pharmacology at the UCSD School of Medicine in 1995, received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in physics and chemical physics from Harvard University.

Siegel has been a faculty member at UCSD since 1986. He was named a Fellow for work in physical-organic chemistry and stereochemistry, among other areas. Siegel, a Senior Fellow at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, recently researched the molecular structure of cage-like carbon molecules called buckyballs. He earned his doctoral degree from Princeton University and did post-doctoral work at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland and Universite Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France.

Lal, a professor of nuclear geophysics at Scripps, uses natural nuclear processes to understand planetary physical and chemical functions. He was elected "for application of cosmic-ray-produced radioisotopes to problems ranging from ocean circulation to the history of the sun and for extraordinary versatile and prolific research and leadership in nuclear geophysics." Lal, a Scripps professor since 1967, received a doctoral degree in physics from Bombay University.

Maple, honored with the Bernd T. Matthias Endowed Chair in Physics in 1990, was recognized by AAAS "for excellent research in condensed matter physics, especially on topics of superconductivity, magnetism, high-pressure physics and surface science." He directs UCSD's Institute for Pure and Applied Physical Sciences (IPAPS) and the Center for Interface and Materials Science (CIMS) within IPAPS. Maple received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from UCSD.

Fierer was honored for research on disease-enhancing plasmids (extrachromosomal genes) in salmonella bacteria and their role in the development of severe salmonella infections. A graduate of the New York University School of Medicine, Fierer has been affiliated with UCSD since 1969 and is now Professor of Medicine and Pathology in Residence at UCSD's School of Medicine and head of the Division of Infectious Diseases in UCSD's Department of Medicine. He was a member of the Universitywide Task Force on AIDS from 1991 to 1996 and chairman of the organization from 1994 to 1996.

With six new members, UCSD's faculty now has 75 AAAS Fellows.

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