

Harvard biologist J. Woodland Hastings to deliver McElroy Distinguished Lecture in Biology at UCSD May 6

April 30, 1998

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: Harvard biologist J. Woodland Hastings to deliver McElroy Distinguished Lecture in Biology

DATE/TIME: May 6, 1998, 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Liebow Auditorium, Basic Science Building

University of California, San Diego

LOGISTICS: The media is invited to attend this presentation. Interviews with

Hastings may be arranged in advance.

BACKGROUND: The William D. McElroy Distinguished Lecture in Biology features a scientific speaker of international stature. The program was established in 1980 following the retirement of Dr. McElroy from the Chancellorship of UCSD. Currently, the lecture is a biennial event.

BIOGRAPHY: J. Woodland Hastings, professor of biology at Harvard

University, has spent much of his career studying bioluminescence, the ability of living organisms to emit light. Among other things, he has been interested in how chemical energy in such organisms is converted to light energy; the biological functions of bioluminescence; and the genetic control of the synthesis and expression of such systems. Researchers in his lab are now trying to clone genes associated with luminescence in small light-emitting marine organisms called dinoflagellates.

His interests also involve the study of circadian (daily) rhythms, very fundamental but poorly understood systems in higher organisms. Jet lag is a symptom of the disruption of our circadian system. Indeed, many life forms possess a temporal control mechanism that controls many biochemical and physiological processes. Hastings' research is focused on the basic molecular and cellular mechanisms responsible for these rhythms the biological clock.

Among his many honors, Hastings has been named a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, an NIH Fellow, NATO Senior Fellow in Science, Alexander Von Humboldt Fellow, and a Yamada Foundation Fellow. He also received merit awards from the National Institutes of Mental Health, and was named a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He is co-editor of three books and about 400 full-length publications in professional journals.

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