

## **UCSD assistant professor James T. Kadonaga receives \$500,000 Presidential Faculty Fellow Award**

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### **KADONAGA RECEIVES \$500,000 PRESIDENTIAL FACULTY FELLOW AWARD**

James T. Kadonaga, an assistant professor of biology at the University of California, San Diego, was named today as one of the first 15 scientists and 15 engineers to receive the Presidential Faculty Fellow Award.

Each award carries a grant from the National Science Foundation of \$100,000 per year for five years.

Awards are granted to "young faculty members who demonstrate excellence and promise both in scientific or engineering research and in teaching future generations of students to extend and apply human knowledge."

Kadonaga, who joined the UCSD faculty in 1988 as a Lucille P. Markey Scholar in Biomedical Sciences, is being awarded for his work in genetics and biochemistry.

The major focus of his work revolves around gene regulation, or how the trillions of cells in the human body know when to divide or when to shut down.

Recently, Kadonaga co-authored a study describing the role of proteins called histones in gene regulation. The study offered potential new insights into how cells organize and specialize to become tissues and organs, and what happens when they go awry, as in cancer.

Kadonaga said the new award would be used to conduct "some more adventurous research" that might not otherwise be funded.

"I want to look at early steps when genes get turned on," he said. "Some of those changes are fairly ill-defined and people are having a difficult time trying to figure out what is going on."

Kadonaga received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from MIT and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1984. He was a Fellow of the Miller Institute for Basic Research in Science at UC Berkeley from 1984 to 1986.

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