LA JOLLA, March 29 -- A Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation investigator has been named the recipient of the 1988 Markey Scholar Award, and will receive up to $400,000 in support of his research. The award is given annually by the Lucille P. Markey Charitable Trust of Miami to recognize outstanding young biomedical scientists.

Dr. Merl F. Hoekstra, a postdoctoral fellow in molecular biology in the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic, was one of 17 scientists chosen from 125 candidates nominated by senior faculty members at academic medical centers and biomedical research institutions throughout the United States.
The seven-year award will fund Hoekstra's research into meiosis, a process of cell division by which sex cells are produced. He has developed a model in the laboratory using baker's and brewer's yeast mutant cells that reproduce without meiosis, yet are otherwise normal. The goal of Hoekstra's research is to discover the genetic functions that are involved in this basic biological process.

Hoekstra has been with Scripps Clinic for two years; in addition to his Markey Trust Award, he has a fellowship from the National Cancer Institute. He received his doctorate degree in microbiology from Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago.

As a graduate student, Hoekstra received two travel fellowships from the International Yeast Committee to attend international conferences in Montpellier, France, and Edinburgh, Scotland, and earned first-place honors in two graduate student research competitions. He is a member of the American Society for Microbiology, the Genetics Society of America, Sigma Xi and the Genetics Society of Canada, and the author of numerous papers and abstracts.

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