MAJOR LAND ACQUISITION TO NEARLY DOUBLE SIZE OF SCRIPPS CLINIC

LA JOLLA, CA Jan. 17, 1989 -- Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation has announced the $16.1 million purchase of just under 21 acres of undeveloped land across from its existing facilities at 10666 North Torrey Pines Road in La Jolla.

Nearly doubling the size of its current 25 acre Torrey Pines campus, the new property will be called "The Lusk Research Campus" in recognition of a $3.5 million gift from John D. Lusk and William D. Lusk of The Lusk Company, an Irvine, California real estate development firm.

The southernmost 10-acre portion of the area will be named "The Lita Annenberg Hazen Science Center" to honor a $3 million gift from Hazen, a New York and Los Angeles resident and member of the Scripps Clinic Board of Trustees, who has made numerous contributions to medicine, research and the arts.

The land was purchased from Wimpey/Gentry II, a general partnership comprised of Gentry Construction Co. of California and George Wimpey of Texas, Inc.
Current plans for the new site call for an 80,000 square foot laboratory for a Department of Neuropharmacology and the Center for Bio-Organic Chemistry, as well as a facility for parking. If funding sources can be identified, additional plans may include research and clinical buildings, a conference center, and a day-care center for children of Scripps Clinic employees.

The purchase transaction included the trade of 10.1 acres of undeveloped land Scripps Clinic owns just north of the new site, for a slightly larger area within the boundaries of the new parcel.

The Lusk and Hazen contributions were the lead gifts in a $19 million campaign by Scripps Clinic to secure the entire purchase and site development costs from private sources, according to Dr. Charles C. Edwards, Scripps Clinic president and chief executive officer. Under the leadership of Ernest W. Hahn, southern California real estate developer, civic leader, and member of the Scripps Clinic Board of Trustees, $10.6 million has already been committed, he added.

"This event could not have come at a more opportune time," Edwards said. "When we moved to Torrey Pines Mesa in the mid 1970s, it seemed that there was more than enough space for all the growth we could imagine. However, it took less than a decade to fill it with new health care facilities and research laboratories."

The undeveloped land on the east side of North Torrey Pines Road has long been considered by Scripps Clinic as the only
possible space for enlarging the campus, which is confined on three sides: to the west by the Torrey Pines Golf Course, to the north by the Sheraton Grande Hotel now under construction, and to the south by the Torrey Pines Center office complex.

The new site came on the market after San Diego real estate developer George Gentry acquired 57 acres of Torrey Pines property from Royal Dutch Shell Petroleum.

The Neuropharmacology Department planned for the site will focus on normal and abnormal functions of the brain and nervous system. Scripps Clinic researchers believe they can gain enormous insight into brain function by determining how therapeutic, as well as abused drugs can influence neural cells and tissues.

Ultimately, the neuropharmacology studies could lead to the development of new drugs in collaboration with investigators at the new Center for Bio-Organic Chemistry, the researchers add.

A rapidly growing branch of molecular biology, bio-organic chemistry is concerned with the synthesis of small organic molecules of specific shapes rather than particular chemical properties. Investigators at the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic (RISC) and elsewhere have made impressive studies in determining and analyzing the three-dimensional structure of proteins and other biological macromolecules. This approach is the cornerstone of the revolutionary concept of "rational" drug design, the creation of pharmaceuticals based on full knowledge
of their molecular interactions within the body.

The lead donors for the new property which will house these studies have been friends of Scripps Clinic for many years. John D. Lusk, board chairman and chief executive officer of The Lusk Company, donated $100,000 for hematology research and $45,000 to the Arthur Marlow Memorial Fund. In addition, he's been a member of the Research Council since 1984. His son William is board vice chairman of The Lusk Company, and has joined his father in Scripps Clinic functions. Active community leaders, the Lusks recently donated $4 million to the University of Southern California Graduate School of Business to establish a special program in real estate management.

Lita Annenberg Hazen first became a donor to Scripps Clinic when she joined the Research Council in 1983, and just four years later made a $1 million gift to establish an endowed chair in immunochemistry, now held by Dr. Richard Lerner, director of the Research Institute.

Her philanthropic achievements are many. The Mount Sinai Medical School in New York, long a recipient of her generosity, has named a building in her honor. In addition, she founded the International Lita Annenberg Hazen Award for Clinical Research, funded the Neuroscience Institute in New York, and established the Laboratory of Oncology and Hematology at the Marion Davies Children's Clinic at UCLA. Hazen is also a benefactor of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and a conservator of the New York Public Library.

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PHOTO CAPTION

LA JOLLA, CA Jan. 17, 1989 -- The nearly 21 acres of land purchased by Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation is located across the street (lower outlined portion of photo) from its current campus at 10666 North Torrey Pines Road in La Jolla.