LA JOLLA, CA July 11, 1989 -- The 900-member Building Industry Association of San Diego has announced its endorsement of a $19 million fundraising campaign for Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation's new Lusk Research Campus, according to BIA president Michael Helmer of the Helmer Company.

The Lusk Research Campus will be built on 20 acres of undeveloped land across the street from Scripps Clinic's current facilities at 10666 N. Torrey Pines Road.

According to Helmer, the BIA is encouraging its membership to join in the fundraising effort to support the research center's construction.

"Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation represents excellence in health care and biomedical research," Helmer noted. "The BIA is impressed with their track record and is excited about the prospect of supporting this important research center."

The BIA's immediate past president, William Davidson of Davidson Communities, added that BIA members have helped the City of Hope Hospital in Los Angeles for many years, "and now we believe it's important to support a local organization, as well.
We will continue our association with City of Hope, but look at our endorsement of the Lusk Research Campus as a top priority for our membership to support."

The Lusk Research Campus is named in recognition of a $3.5 million gift from John D. and William D. Lusk of The Lusk Company in Irvine, a firm that has been very active in San Diego real estate development.

The Lusk Research Campus will include several biomedical research buildings, including an 91,000 square foot laboratory to house the new Department of Chemistry. Scripps Clinic recently announced that world-renowned synthetic bio-organic chemist Kyriacos C. Nicolaou, Ph.D., of the University of Pennsylvania will head the new department. He will be joined by as many as 30 other chemists, including Chi-Huey Wong of Texas A & M University.

The endorsement of the BIA was initially sought by long-time Scripps Clinic trustees and supporters Ernest W. Hahn, chairman of the Hahn Company, and William E. Nelson, chairman of Scripps Bank in La Jolla.

"The reason Bill Nelson and I have chosen to lead the fundraising program to raise $19 million from private sources is because we believe very much in the future of San Diego," Hahn said.

"Long before I moved to San Diego, I was involved with Scripps Clinic," he noted. "It's one of the finest medical
centers in the world, as well as a major contributor to the growing field of biotechnology."

"The Lusk Research Campus represents an extraordinary opportunity for Scripps Clinic to play an even greater role in the enhancement of San Diego's quality of life," he said. "The BIA was excited at the prospect of playing a key role in this important research center."

Nelson added that "the home building industry understands better than most how talented and creative people can contribute to improved quality of life in a community."

"Their linkage with Scripps Clinic and its programs for research and a healthy lifestyle directly appeals to the positive forward vision of the BIA," he said.

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