DR. JOHN CURNUTTE PRESENTED OUTSTANDING YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

LA JOLLA, CA June 26, 1990 -- Rancho Bernardo resident John T. Curnutte, M.D., Ph.D., was presented the Outstanding Young Investigator Award at the inaugural meeting of the International Congress on Inflammation June 20 in Barcelona, Spain.

Curnutte is associate program director of the General Clinical Research Center at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation and a member of Scripps Clinic's Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine.

The $5,000 award recognized Curnutte's 18 years of research on the mechanisms of and treatment for chronic granulomatous disease, a genetic disorder characterized by an inability to fight frequent infections.

Seen primarily in boys, but also in some girls, the disease usually occurs in early childhood, but has been delayed until the early teens in a few patients. Prognosis has previously been poor, but with aggressive antibiotic treatment some children have lived into their teens or early twenties.

Patients come from throughout the world to be seen by Curnutte, who is now investigating the use of interferon gamma to

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fight the disease. He says researchers hope the new drug will help children live much longer.

Curnutte received both his M.D. and Ph.D. from Harvard University, where he also did his undergraduate work. His internship and residencies were spent at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, with research fellowships at Children's Hospital Medical Center and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, both in Boston, and at Harvard Medical School.

He was an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Michigan Medical School prior to joining Scripps Clinic in 1986 as an assistant member of the Department of Basic and Clinical Research.

Curnutte holds memberships in the American Federation for Clinical Research, the American Society for Cell Biology, the American Society of Hematology, the Central Society for Clinical Research and the Society for Pediatric Research.

He has also been honored by the Society for Pediatric Research with a Starter Grant Award 1984-86, and currently holds a designation as an Established Investigator 1986-91 with the American Heart Association.

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