WATERFORD AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

LA JOLLA, CALIF. Oct. 18, 1990 -- The Research Institute of Scripps Clinic has named Alfred Gilman, M.D., Ph.D., chairman, Department of Pharmacology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, as the recipient of the 14th annual Waterford Biomedical Science Award.

Gilman, who is the Raymond and Ellen Willie Professor of Molecular Neuropharmacology, was presented the award at a dinner Oct. 17 at the La Valencia Hotel, La Jolla.

Waterford Wedgwood USA, Inc., established the award -- a crystal trophy hand blown in Dublin, Ireland, and $15,000 -- in 1976 to encourage fundamental research that leads to practical medical advances. The Research Institute of Scripps Clinic was chosen to administer the award.

Gilman was recognized for his investigations into the molecular mechanisms by which information brought to the surface of cells by hormones, neurotransmitters, and other external ligands is translated into energetic biochemical responses within the cell interior. Gilman and his colleagues have identified the key components and events in this activation process, including the profoundly important discovery and characterization of the MORE
"G-proteins," a set of complex molecules that now appear to underlie elemental forms of sensory transduction, such as light perception and olfaction, as well as interneuronal and interendocrine regulation.

In addition to conducting research, Gilman is editor of The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, a text first co-authored by his father. Gilman received his medical degree and doctorate in pharmacology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He has received numerous awards for his achievements in research and science education, including the Abraham White Distinguished Lecturer and Scientific Achievement Award from George Washington University, the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Award, the Louis Gross Horowitz Prize from Columbia University, and the Passano Foundation Award. Gilman is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the academy's Institute of Medicine, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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NOTE: Members of the press are welcome to attend a lecture by Dr. Gilman on "G-Proteins and Regulation of Adenylyl Cyclase" at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 17 in the Amphitheater at Scripps Clinic, 10666 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. Call (619) 554-8133 for more information.