SCRIPPS RESEARCHER ONE OF FIVE NATIONWIDE SELECTED FOR CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE INVESTIGATOR AWARD

LA JOLLA, CALIF. June 29, 1992 -- Angray S. Kang, Ph.D., of The Scripps Research Institute is one of only five researchers nationwide, and the only Californian, to receive a 1992 four-year investigator award from the Cancer Research Institute (CRI).

Founded in 1953 to promote the field of cancer immunology, the New York City-based CRI recognizes and supports top-quality research that focuses on clarifying the link between the immune system and cancer.

The Investigator Award Program, which began in 1986, provides cancer immunologists at the assistant professor level with $50,000 a year for four years "to provide flexibility and a degree of stability in what is essentially a make-or-break period in the life of a scientist," according to the CRI. A five-member panel of scientists evaluated 74 applicants this year and selected five who they believed would make "an exceptional contribution to the science of cancer immunology."

Kang's research involves a novel approach for making human antibodies and antibody "like" molecules against cancer tumors. His goal is to create agents that recognise specific cancer
targets and facilitate their destruction. In a similar vein, the research could be extended to treat other diseases such as infections and autoimmune disorders.

In his proposal to the Cancer Research Institute, Kang said this molecular cloning approach will "open the way to generate human antibodies for use in immunotherapy."

Kang received his undergraduate training at the University of London and his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom, in 1988. He has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Universities of Durham and Sheffield in the United Kingdom, and from 1989-90 was a visiting postdoctoral fellow at The Scripps Research Institute. He became an assistant member of Department of Molecular Biology at The Scripps Research Institute in September, 1990.

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