Media Advisory


When: Friday, June 18, 1993, 10:00 a.m.

Where: The Evans Conference Room
Heart, Lung and Vascular Center
Green Hospital building
Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation
10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla

Oliver Sacks, M.D., physician and writer, will be in La Jolla this Friday as a guest speaker of the Great Neuroscientists Lectureship, a series of lectures on important advances in neurosciences for the scientific community. It is sponsored by the Department of Neurobiology at The Scripps Research Institute.

He has agreed to meet with the media on the morning of this presentation for approximately one hour.

Dr. Sacks’ goal is to humanize medicine; to recognize the link between body and soul. In 1970 he published his first book, Migraine, in which he explored the neuropsychiatric components of migraine headaches. While completing the book he went to work in a New York hospital where he encountered a group of patients who were to have a profound effect on his life’s work. Survivors of the epidemic of sleeping sickness that swept the world in the early 1900s, many of these patients had spent decades as "frozen figures, human statues." They became the subject of his book, Awakenings, which later was made into a feature film of the same name, starring Robin Williams and Robert DeNiro.

In addition to Awakenings, Dr. Sacks published an autobiographical account of a mountaineering accident, A Leg to Stand On, which describes his own experience as a patient, as well as The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, a collection of case studies of people whose worlds are dramatically altered by neurological disorders.

Born and educated in England, Dr. Sacks came to the U.S. in 1960 and has made his home here. He completed an internship in San Francisco and a residency in neurology at UCLA. For many years he has served as Clinical Professor of Neurology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at New York University Medical Center.

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