The Fletcher Jones Foundation Awards $300,000 to The Scripps Research Institute to Fund Graduate Studies

La Jolla, CA. December 15, 1993 — The Fletcher Jones Foundation of Los Angeles has awarded The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) a $300,000 grant to provide endowment for its graduate education/doctoral program that focuses on the interface of biology and chemistry.

Richard A. Lerner, M.D., President of The Scripps Research Institute noted that, "We are extremely pleased to receive this contribution from the prestigious Fletcher Jones Foundation which has a reputation for its support of private collegiate education. Their gift will strengthen our ability to attract the finest young scientific talent in the world."

According to John P. Pollock, President of The Fletcher Jones Foundation, "We are proud to assist The Scripps Research Institute in its dynamic and important research efforts. We can think of no better way of doing so than to support the education and training of the scientific leaders of tomorrow."

Norton B. Gilula, Ph.D., Dean of TSRI’s Graduate Studies, notes that the diminishing availability of public funds for biomedical research and training mandates that institutions such as Scripps establish relationships with enlightened organizations that understand the value and significance of contributing to the future of the scientific enterprise in this country.

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He continued, "The students' exposure to a body of knowledge in emerging disciplines at TSRI will prepare them well for the next century of bioscience. They will bring the power of chemistry and molecular biology to bear on future challenges in academia, government and biotechnology."

Established in 1989, the Institute's doctoral program is unlike any other in the United States. Combining its strength in the integration of such disciplines as cell and molecular biology, structure and chemistry, TSRI developed a Graduate Program in Macromolecular and Cellular Structure and Chemistry. In an effort to utilize the capabilities of an internationally recognized chemistry faculty with a record of achievement in contemporary areas of chemical, biological and structural research, a doctoral program in chemistry was established three years later.

These programs provide students from throughout the world with the opportunity to study and work with a faculty investigating some of the most basic and profound problems in animal and plant systems. All aspects of the curricula stress their multidisciplinary nature.

Since its inception, the Graduate Program has grown to a population of 90 students, with a desired maximum of 100 students to keep it individualized, keenly competitive and of the highest quality.

In March, 1993, in an unprecedented move, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges granted full accreditation to TSRI's Graduate Program two years before the customary six-year trial period.

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The Fletcher Jones Foundation was founded in 1969 by the will of Fletcher Jones, co-founder of Computer Sciences Corporation, prominent entrepreneur and art collector. The fortune he amassed in his brief lifetime of 41 years became the source for the approximately $30,000,000 funding of the Foundation.

In keeping with the intention of its founder and benefactor, the Trustees of the Foundation have made substantial contributions and endowments to the private colleges and universities of California. Of particular significance are the Fletcher Jones Professorships, established in 1977, at such institutions of higher learning as Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, Pomona College, Claremont McKenna College, Scripps College, Harvey Mudd College, and the University of San Diego.

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