Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Awards $90,000 to The Scripps Research Institute to Fund Graduate Studies

La Jolla, CA. January 5, 1995 — The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation of Los Angeles has awarded The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) a $90,000 grant to provide financial assistance for first-year students in its Graduate Studies Program, thereby establishing the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Fellowships.

According to Norton B. Gilula, Ph.D., Dean of TSRI's Graduate Studies, "The diminishing availability of public funding for biomedical research and training makes it imperative that academic research institutions such as Scripps establish relationships with organizations that recognize the value of contributing to the future of the scientific endeavor in this country. We are extremely grateful to the Parsons Foundation for this grant that will strengthen our ability to attract the finest young scientific talent in the world to our program."

Established in 1989, the Graduate Studies Program at TSRI provides rigorous academic training in a five-year program leading to doctoral degrees in macromolecular and cellular structure and chemistry; and synthetic/bioorganic chemistry. 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 are multidisciplinary in nature.
Currently, the Graduate Program has grown to a student population of 100, the desired maximum number to keep it individualized, keenly competitive and of the highest quality. One year ago, in an unprecedented action, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges granted full accreditation to the Graduate Program two years ahead of the customary six-year trial period.

Based in Los Angeles, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation was established in 1961 as a modest gift-giving organization by the late Ralph M. Parsons, founder of the worldwide engineering and construction firm that bears his name. Subsequent to Mr. Parson's death in 1974, the Foundation received the residue of his estate. Since that time, it has been governed by an independent Board of Directors and administrative staff and is no longer affiliated with the Parsons Corporation.

The Foundation's areas of interest include: higher education, particularly in the fields of engineering, science and technology; social impact and health services programs, particularly for disadvantaged youth, women and children, and the elderly; and civic and cultural projects.

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