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PRESS RELEASE

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Academic Senate Announces Recipients of Teaching Award *2002-2003 Distinction in Teaching Awards Honor Outstanding UCSF Faculty*

SAN FRANCISCO – The UCSF Academic Senate is proud to release the names of the recipients of this year's Distinction in Teaching Award, an annual award recognizing exceptional UCSF faculty members who have shown a distinction in teaching in such areas as course material, teaching versatility, overall effectiveness and availability, use of outstanding teaching aids, and a commitment to mentoring both students and junior faculty.

UCSF students and faculty make nominations for this prestigious award, which is awarded by a student and faculty committee selected by the Academic Senate Committee on Academic Personnel. This year, for the first time, two different award categories were created. Category 1 recognizes faculty who have been at UCSF for five years or less; Category 2 recognizes faculty who have been at UCSF for five years or more.

The recipient of the Distinction in Teaching Award for Category 1 is **Igor Mitrovic, MD**, Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Physiology and Stomatology. An Honorable Mention was awarded to Margo Vener, MD, MPH, Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Two recipients were selected for Category 2: **Susan B. Masters, PhD**, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, and **Melvin M. Scheinman, MD**, Professor in the Department of Medicine. An Honorable Mention was awarded to Ellen M. Scarr, RNC, MSN, FNP, WHNP, Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Health Care Nursing.

Dr. Mitrovic, Dr. Masters, Dr. Scheinman and recipients of Honorable Mentions will be honored on June 19, 2003 at 4 p.m. in N-225 during the UCSF Division Meeting of the Academic Senate.

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Biographical Information for UCSF 2002-03 Distinction in Teaching Award Recipients

Category 1: Dr. Igor Mitrovic

Igor Mitrovic, MD joined the UCSF faculty in 2001, after a postdoctoral fellowship in pain research in the Basbaum laboratory at UCSF. Dr. Mitrovic was chosen to be one of the first full time professorial teachers in the department because of the demands of creating and administering the new integrated curriculum in the Medical School. Dr. Mitrovic has shown extraordinary initiative in addressing some of the most serious gaps in the new curriculum, including the reduced attention given to the scientific thought and experiments that were the basis for beliefs about physiology and pathophysiology. At the end of the first year of the new curriculum, Dr. Mitrovic, after considerable consultation with both students and faculty, offered a proposal to bring basic laboratory science to the many medical students who lacked the educational background to do research during a summer or an additional year. His proposal was refined and has substantially been implemented.

In addition, Dr. Mitrovic has substantial teaching responsibilities in the School of Dentistry. He has already received the School of Dentistry award for excellence in teaching from the class of 2004 and the class of 2005, and he has been nominated for the UCSF School of Medicine Kaiser award for excellence in teaching. One colleague noted that Dr. Mitrovic “has more office hours than anyone I know, and students are continually streaming in and out of his office. He makes students feel extremely comfortable, and lends them friendly support that they don’t often get from other faculty. In this capacity, Igor plays a role in the students’ lives that is important beyond measure. He serves as both mentor and confidant, and continually bends over backwards to make time to help. He says this is what he loves best about his job, and it shows.”

Category 2: Dr. Susan B. Masters

Susan B. Masters directs all of the professional teaching operations in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, overseeing courses that are presented to UCSF medical, pharmacy and dental students. She has developed websites for her courses and works personally with lecturers and conference leaders to ensure the accuracy of their material, to help them improve their lecture skills, refine their syllabi and clarify their exam questions. The level and depth of her involvement has been described as “astonishing.” Dr. Masters was one of the principle architects of the highly successful new curriculum in the School of Medicine, and has made an indelible mark on curriculum planning and execution.

Dr. Masters is also a master teacher of students and a teacher of teachers. She is equally skilled in lectures, conferences, or one-on-one settings. She has a remarkable ability to encourage and teach students and lecturers alike to strive for their best. Since 1996, Dr. Masters has won or been nominated for nineteen teaching awards. Last year, she was honored as one of the elite charter members of the School of Medicine Academy of Medical Educators, and she was awarded the prestigious Kaiser Teaching Award. One student has commented: “I have been extremely impressed with Dr. Masters as a teacher and mentor. From a student’s perspective, she is a fine example of the ideal UCSF faculty member—aside from being an expert pharmacologist, Dr. Masters is an exceptional lecturer, student advocate and mentor. I can say without reserve that Dr. Masters has been one of my best teachers at UCSF.”

Category 2: Dr. Melvin M. Scheinman

Melvin M. Scheinman has exerted a profound influence on cardiac teaching at local, national and international levels. He is the first person to have performed catheter ablation in human beings, and is considered a pioneer in the field of electrophysiology. In addition, his work helped to establish the use of intravenous amiodarone in patients with ventricular tachycardia; this treatment has become the routine of care today.

Dr. Scheinman is in charge of the ECG elective course for senior medical students. Only 5 students may take the course each month, and the course is always filled or overfilled. He also teaches house officers and students in his scheduled Rhythm Rounds and CCU Rounds. He has created a formal didactic program including review of basic sciences, important clinical advances and journal club. He also spends one to two hours each week with the cardiac electrophysiology fellows in analyses of difficult tracings. These sessions are extremely popular and are credited as accounting in part for the great competition for cardiac electrophysiology slots at UCSF. Dr. Scheinman's effectiveness as a teacher has been recognized many times over the years. He has won the Cardiology Faculty Teaching Award in two of the last four years. As one of the American Heart Association's teaching scholar awardees, he helped produce innovative video teaching aids relative to treatment of patients with acute myocardial infarction.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Scheinman has received many teaching awards, including the Dean's Special Commendation for Teaching Excellence, the UCSF Kaiser Teaching Award, and the American Heart Association Paul Dudley White Citation for international Service, as well as twice receiving the Senior Student Commendation for Excellence in Teaching. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In 2000, he received the Mirowski Award for Excellence in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology. In 2001, he was awarded the prestigious Gifted Teacher Award of the American College of Cardiology and was also selected to give the Plenary Lecture at the annual North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology (NASPE) Scientific Session, one of the most prestigious honors awarded by NASPE. As one of his colleagues said, "Dr. Scheinman has an inexhaustible capacity for excitement about teaching, an intellectual curiosity and integrity and always encourages alternative explanations." One of his students summed up Dr. Scheinman's impact: "Dr. Scheinman has influenced a generation of academic electrophysiologists. Most major universities sport at least one 'Scheinman fellow,' and many centers have a former fellow as their chief. He loves to teach, feeling that it is very important to impart his knowledge to younger physicians so they can also practice medicine at a high level. He is an extremely patient man and never finds it necessary to belittle those who know less than him. A brilliant man and creative thinker, he nurtures junior people and allows them to reach their fullest potential."