

October 18, 2007

TO: Faculty and Staff
Division of Physical and Biological Sciences

FROM: Stephen E. Thorsett, Dean

I am very pleased to announce that Professor Anthony (Tony) Fink has been selected as the recipient of the 2006-2007 Outstanding Faculty Award. The award was established in 1993 by the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences and is the division's highest honor for faculty achievement. The award recognizes combined excellence in research, teaching and service.

Dr. Fink received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Queens University in Ontario, Canada. He joined the UCSC faculty in 1969.

In the area of research, Dr. Fink is renowned for his contributions to the understanding of the molecular basis of enzyme mechanisms, protein-folding, molecular chaperones, and diseases involving protein aggregation and deposition. His research has been instrumental to the understanding and treating of diseases such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. His studies have pointed to new directions in Parkinson's disease research, and to that end, Dr. Fink has developed a fruitful collaboration with the Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale, California, where he now holds the position of Adjunct Senior Scientist. Dr. Fink's ultimate goal is to design potential drugs and therapeutic methods that can be used to combat Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

Further strengthening his standing at the forefront of the protein folding research field are his publications in *Nature* and other top journals. Dr. Fink has published over 225 research papers and reviews, several of which have been cited 300-400 times. As evidence of the wide respect in the scientific community for his research accomplishments, Dr. Fink receives many invitations to give talks on his research and in 2004 was elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has been remarkably well funded throughout his career, attesting to the vitality of his research program and the high esteem of his peers. In addition, he was instrumental in the establishment of the state-of-the-art UCSC Proteomics Facility.

Students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels have uniformly given praise to Dr. Fink for his teaching abilities. He is well respected by the students for his approachability and his command of the subjects. A large number of students have commented on his unusual ability to explain difficult concepts clearly. As a mentor he has contributed significantly to both graduate and undergraduate education. He has mentored graduate students (66), postdoctoral associates (54) and undergraduates (>150), many of whom have gone on to very successful careers.

Dr. Fink has an impressive record of service on all levels. Early in his career he served as a preceptor at Merrill College. Later he served as the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Chair. In his role as department chair he helped recruit many faculty who were instrumental in building Chemistry into the department it is today. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA), Dr. Fink was committed to the success of high achieving students, underrepresented students, and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. He also played a key role in leading the campus in developing a plan for comprehensive review of undergraduate admissions. At the divisional level, he recently served on the Biomedical Sciences Building Committee. He served as a member of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and has been active on the Web and Portal Readiness Committee as well as the Strategic Communications Steering Committee. In addition, Dr. Fink has served on numerous qualifying exam committees, thesis committees and ad-hoc committees. As affirmation of his research expertise, he is

regularly invited as a reviewer of journal articles, books and proposals in his field of research. He is currently the Executive Editor of *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* (Protein Section) and has served on the editorial boards of *The Protein Journal*, *The Biochemical Journal* and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. He has served on many study sections and panels for NSF and NIH.

In summary, Dr. Fink is a distinguished scientist who is held in high regard for his excellence in research, teaching, and service. He is truly an important asset to our campus and to the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences. I hope you will join me in congratulating Dr. Fink on this recognition of his accomplishments.