

Nirenberg to Receive 1966 Research Corporation Award



*Marshall W. Nirenberg,
National Heart Institute;
Research Corporation
Awardee for 1966.*

Marshall W. Nirenberg, Chief of the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics at the National Heart Institute, National Institutes of Health, has been chosen to receive the Research Corporation Award for 1966. The \$10,000 award, given annually for outstanding achievements in science, will be presented to Dr. Nirenberg at a dinner in his honor to be given in New York on January 19.

Dr. Nirenberg is being honored for his pioneering experiments on protein synthesis which led to a partial "cracking" of the genetic code and stimulation of further research activity all over the world. The result of this activity is a major advance in the understanding, on a molecular basis, of the mechanism by which genetic information is translated into the various types of proteins that determine the nature of all living matter.

The continuing studies of Dr. Nirenberg have contributed importantly to comprehension of much of the mysterious way information is coded into the nucleic acids and used to direct the incorporation of specific amino acids into proteins. While it is difficult to conjecture the ultimate practical utility of this work, it has been a major contribution toward understanding on a molecular basis how the chemicals of the cell nucleus carry the hereditary message from one generation to the next.

A native New Yorker, Dr. Nirenberg holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in biological chemistry from the University of Michigan. He joined the National Institutes of Health in 1957 as a postdoctoral fellow of the American Cancer Society, remaining at the NIH National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases until 1962 when he went to the NIH National Heart Institute.

Among previous honors received by Dr. Nirenberg are National Medal of Science, President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965; Paul Lewis Award in Enzyme Chemistry, American Chemical Society, 1964; Award for Research in Molecular Biology, National Academy of Sciences, 1962. He has been awarded honorary D.Sc. degrees by the University of Michigan, Yale University, the University of Chicago and Windsor University, Ontario.

THIRTY-FIRST AWARD

The Research Corporation Award to be presented to Dr. Nirenberg is the thirty-first given since the award was established in 1925, and the first ever to be given to a scientist in a government organization. Among past awardees who have later received Nobel Prizes for the work recognized by the foundation's award are Ernest O. Lawrence, Edwin M. McMillan, Willard F. Libby, Melvin Calvin, James D. Watson, Francis H. C. Crick, and Charles H. Townes.

Candidates for the Research Corporation Award are nominated and elected by Award Juries composed of Nobelists and winners of other major science prizes. Members of the 1966 Jury are Harold S. Black, General Precision, Inc.; Melvin Calvin, University of California; Edward C. Kendall, Princeton University; Polykarp Kusch, Columbia University; Willis E. Lamb, Jr., Yale University; James D. Watson and Robert B. Woodward, Harvard University; and Chien-Shiung Wu, Columbia University.

RESEARCH CORPORATION AWARD FOR 1966 FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE

IS PRESENTED TO MARSHALL W. NIRENBERG

For his pioneering work in the discovery of the mechanism through which the code in genetic material determines the proteins synthesized by a cell. His investigations have given a new and productive stimulus to the quest for an understanding, on a molecular basis, of the processes that occur within the living organism.

