

UCSD INSTITUTE AWARDS GRANTS TO 12

By Bruce Lieberman

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

February 10, 2005

Studies about memory, hypnosis and learning by infants are among 12 projects that have won grants from UCSD's new Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind, the university announced yesterday.

The institute aims to elucidate connections between the biology of the brain and the workings of the mind, including memory and consciousness. Fred Kavli, a Santa Barbara physicist and industrialist, created the institute in November with a \$7.5 million endowment.

The awards, averaging \$30,000 each, constitute the first round of annual disbursements. They will fund work by scientists at the University of California San Diego, The Salk Institute, The Scripps Research Institute and The Neurosciences Institute, all in La Jolla. The 12 recipients were among 43 who had applied for grants.

"These are high-risk, high-payoff ventures, the kind of research that is not well supported by conventional sources of support," said Jeffrey Elman, co-director of the institute.

Among the projects selected are experiments to measure the brain activity of patients during neurosurgery, a study on the role of the amygdala among different animal species, research on autism and an exploration of consciousness during hypnosis.

"These efforts will lead to changes in the way we understand the interactions between the brain and the mind," said Nicholas Spitzer, the institute's other director. "The financial support comes at a critical stage in the research projects, enabling people to start investigative programs that they would otherwise be unable to launch."

■Bruce Lieberman: (619) 293-2836; bruce.lieberman@uniontrib.com