

2013 Dickson Awardee: Mel Green

Mel Green earned a BS in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1958 and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois in 1962. In 1963, after a year as a post-doc at CalTech, he became the fifth member and first molecular biologist of the UCSD Biology department. His primary research interests were in the areas of gene regulation and viral causation of cancer, cancer and AIDS chemotherapy, and the basis of ligament wound healing. Green was cited by the awards committee for a myriad of important contributions to the university and community following his retirement from full-time service in 2001.



Following retirement, from 2001 to 2009, Mel taught Biology courses each year. In 2001-2002 he served as Professor in Residence for Avanir Pharmaceuticals. His play, Academic Matters, was given a stage reading as part of the Revelle College 40th anniversary celebration in 2003. In 2006, Mel created the Emeriti Mentor Program by mentoring five students on his own. His initiative was supported by Chancellor Fox and, by 2008, it grew into a multifaceted program of mentoring Chancellor's Scholars – students from challenging backgrounds in need of guidance, professional advice, and just sympathetic friendly encouragement. The program has steadily grown to 50 emeriti mentors and over 100 mentees

Mel has served as a mentor and served on EMP Executive Board. From 2006 to 2009 he served as Director of the Hughes Scholars Program in Student Affairs after assisting in obtaining the grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Foundation. The goal of this program was to increase the representation in the biological sciences of underrepresented students and first-generation college students. In 2011 he was a founding member of the New Music Society at UCSD, and in 2012 he published a book entitled Will It Be on the Exam? 21 Stories about Unforgettable Students. The book was distributed free of charge to the EMP mentors and mentees and to 400 summer bridge students in 2012.