2020 Dickson Awardee: Morton Printz

Morton Printz received his training in pharmacy and biophysics at the University of Pittsburgh and completed a post doctorate at Dartmouth University. He was an assistant professor of biochemistry at Rockefeller University until 1972, when he was recruited to UCSD in the new Department of Medicine Division of Pharmacology. He is widely recognized for his research on stress, central nervous system molecular pharmacology, genes and genetic hypertension. He received many grants from NIH to conduct these studies. His research has been recognized internationally and Morton has served on numerous editorial boards. He has published extensively and in his long academic career has been devoted to mentoring and promoting the career of younger colleagues.

Since he retired in 2008, Mort has been active in community affairs and UCSD activities. He served as a member and chair of the Torrey Pines Community Planning Board and was a member of the community planning board advisory committee on transportation, putting in great time, patience, and willingness to make our community a better places to live. Additionally, Morton was also appointed to serve on a UC Systemwide Committee that negotiated an agreement on a proposed UAW Representation of Postdoctoral Fellows.

Professor Printz has devoted extensive amounts of time to the UCSD Emeriti Association, its Emeriti Mentor Program, and the UCSD Chancellors Scholars Program. Morton was a “first generation” scholar in his own family, and knew first-hand the challenges that first generation scholars experience in beginning their university studies. He was thus strongly committed to these mentoring programs and has continued to mentor young undergrads so that their careers at UCSD and beyond can blossom.