

## UCDRA General Meeting

February 3, 2003

Program Committee Chair Barbara Nichols introduced Dr. Frederick Murphy, Professor of Virology in the School of Veterinary Medicine who was invited to make a presentation on the subject of Bioterrorism. Dr. Murphy is heading the UCD effort to apply to NIH for a grant to build a biocontainment facility at UCD. The NIH has funds to build several high containment facilities and UCD hopes to obtain funds to build one of the large facilities on the West coast as part of the Western National Center for Biodefense and Emergency Diseases.

Dr. Murphy discussed how easy it is to obtain anthrax spores or viruses that are highly harmful to human life and which can easily be dispersed so as to hurt or kill hundreds of thousands of people. The UCD proposal is to build a high containment facility in which deadly viruses, diseases, and spores can be studied and methods developed for containment and control of their disbursement.

The proposed facility would include three entities: UCD, the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, and the California Department of Health Services. When the anthrax scare occurred, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta was overwhelmed and unable to analyze and control the problem. With the proposed NIH facilities assistance and cooperation on future bioterrorism problems would enable control of the problem. The proposed site is the present Equestrian Center site.

UCDRA Business Meeting.

President Bob Eernisse convened the UCDRA Business meeting after Professor Murphy's presentation. The minutes of the joint UCDRA/Emeriti

meeting of October 23, as they appeared in The UCD Retiree, were approved. It was reported that UCDRA membership was now at the level of 403 members and that our assets are \$9,000, after spending for gifts, scholarships, and other UCDRA activities costs.

Deanna Falge-Pritchard reported that a Retiree Center proposal has been sent to the Chancellor. Dennis Shimek and Provost Hinshaw and an administrative group are reviewing it. We will hear back about their reaction to the proposal in March. In Dennis Shimek's absence, Bob Eernisse presented to Howard Frank a plaque recognizing his service to the University while serving as President of UCDRA.

After this presentation, the meeting was adjourned by President Bob Eernisse.