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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

UC POSTDOCS WIN EFFORT TO PREVENT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA FROM EXEMPTING POSTDOCS FROM NEW OVERTIME RULE

Postdoc Union Vows to Continue Fighting for a Fair Wage

Berkeley, CA – Today, the Department of Labor released its long-anticipated new overtime rule under which the majority of postdoctoral researchers at University of California – those making less than the \$47,476 threshold – will qualify for overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act unless they get a pay raise. UC officials had petitioned the DOL for an exemption for postdocs but the final rule includes postdocs.

“We fought back and won when UC tried to deny postdocs overtime protection and the right to be compensated fairly for the groundbreaking work they do,” said Anke Schennink, President of UAW Local 5810. “While we applaud the new overtime rule and the benefit it will bring to millions of people, including postdocs, on average UC pays postdocs below what the National Academy of Sciences recommends. We will continue to push for fair pay during our next round of bargaining which begins at the end of May.”

Postdocs must be paid more than \$47,476 annually to remain exempt from overtime rules. UC has until December 1, 2016 to comply with the new regulations, and may raise postdoc salaries above the new threshold to avoid paying overtime. The National Academy of Sciences recommends that postdocs be paid a starting salary of at least \$50,000 per year, which is consistent with increasing the salary of postdocs above the \$47,476 a year overtime threshold.

UC has claimed that salary increases for postdocs would lead to a decrease in positions for postdocs, although that claim has yet to be proven. In fact, the number of postdocs at UC has increased after their salary scale was raised several years ago. Another nationwide analysis of postdoc hiring trends found that annual salary increases for postdocs did not lead to fewer postdoc positions.

UAW Local 5810 represents 6,000 postdoctoral researchers at all University of California campuses. Postdocs are the backbone of UC's research mission, helping the UC system bring in nearly \$6 billion in research grants each year.

For more information, visit UAW 5810 online at www.UAW5810.org, or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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