



***** For Immediate Release*****

OVER 6,000 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA POSTDOCS REACH TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON HISTORIC FIRST UNION CONTRACT

August 2, 2010 – Postdoctoral Researchers Organize/UAW (PRO/UAW), the union representing more than 6,000 postdoctoral researchers in the University of California system, reached a tentative agreement with university administrators over the weekend.

The tentative agreement will be put before the PRO/UAW postdocs for ratification in the coming week. Details will be forthcoming upon ratification.

“This is a great tentative agreement,” said Xiaoqing Cao, a cancer researcher from UCLA and member of the PRO/UAW bargaining committee. “We’ve improved compensation and our rights at UC and have helped set standards for postdocs across the country.”

“Our members conduct the cutting-edge research that makes UC a great University and moves society forward,” said Jim Wells, UAW Region 5 Director. “We are pleased to see these newest members getting more of the respect, compensation, and recognition that they deserve for the important work they do.”

Postdoctoral researchers provide valuable research on cancer, stem cells, climate change, alternative fuels, and many other cutting-edge fields in science and engineering. Postdoctoral researchers at the University of California represent some 10 percent of postdocs in the United States.

“This agreement demonstrates that when workers come together to form unions -- no matter where they work – they can achieve great things,” said Bob King, UAW President.

The UAW represents over 45,000 members in higher education including postdoctoral researchers, teaching assistants, researcher assistants, faculty, administrators, clerical workers and other support staff.

###