

# Professor Continued from Page 1

grant of \$25,000 a year for five years. In addition, the NSF will provide an additional \$37,500 each year to match funds solicited from industry and other private sources on a matching basis.

The award has the potential to generate \$500,000 for Hawley's research.

"It really doesn't mean that much. I would be more excited probably if I got a really interesting result in the lab," she said.

Hawley, 32, became part of the University faculty fall term 1986, having completed her doctoral degree from Harvard in 1982. Hawley is also a part of the Institute of Molecular Biology.

"As soon as I found out I got the award, I went out and bought some more equipment," she said.

"She is an outstanding young scientist, and we are very pleased to have her," said Aaron Novick, director of the Institute of Molecular Biology. The University conducted a national search for Hawley's position and received hundreds of qualified applicants. Her award confirms the quality of the University's selection, he said.

Though still basic research, Hawley is studying why in some cells proteins are made and why in other cells different proteins are made, she said, because all cells contain the same genetic material. Her interest lies in the conversion of information that is encoded in the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which holds the coded genetic material, to the final product, which is cell protein.

Hawley's research is expected to increase the understanding of the mechanism of gene expression and transcription and be applied to the research of hereditary diseases and some forms of cancer.

In some hereditary diseases, proteins that should be made in

a particular cell at a particular time are not made, possibly because of incorrect signaling, Hawley said.

"The gene is there. If the information could be transmitted, then the correct protein could be made, but the signals necessary to transmit the information is missing or mutated," she said.

Some forms of cancer are caused by the inappropriate production of certain proteins in the wrong cells or at the wrong time, she said. Studying the mechanisms of gene expression and transcription could lead to greater knowledge of the causes of these conditions, she said.

"Winning awards is nice especially when they end up contributing money toward research, but what I am really interested in ... the research I am doing," Hawley said.

Hawley said her interests in biochemistry grew as an undergraduate biology major, until "It became apparent to me that the really interesting questions in biology were the biochemical questions," she said.

"I don't remember a point in my life where I made a conscious decision that this was what I was going to do; it just sort of evolved, and I think I would pick some topic that I liked and go on and get a Ph. D. and end up in an academic environment. It was just a matter of selecting a topic."

Having already spent more than 10 years in research laboratories, Hawley expects to continue her research just as long new discoveries are made.

"You have to have patience because the answers usually don't come quickly. Once you have reconciled yourself to that it is not frustrating — usually. But then it's a challenge."

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