

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST

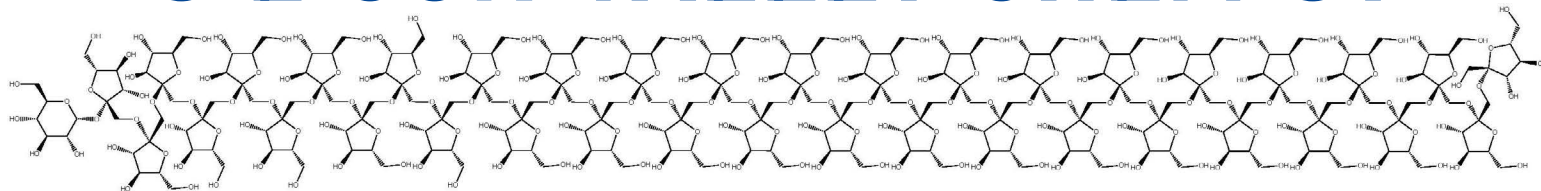


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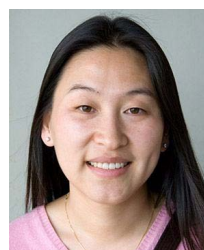
GGPF Webinar on Thursday, July 23, 2020, 7:30 PM

Controlled Randomness: The Secret To Protein-like Heteropolymers

Prof. Ting Xu, UC Berkeley, Dept of Material Science & Engineering & Chemistry

Abstract:

The functionality of polymeric materials has expanded with progress in block copolymers, sequence control, and controlled polymerization. Efforts to understand sequence-structure-function relationships are under investigation. This seminar addresses the role of controlled randomness for heteropolymers to achieve protein-like behavior. The approach includes protein-polymer interactions using model peptide-polymer conjugates, protein stabilization in non-native environments, and statistically controlled randomness to design polymers as synthetic membrane proteins. Applications include bioremediation, water treatment, robust catalysis, disposable electronics, and rapid ion transport.



Background reading

- Segmental Heterogeneity in Random Heteropolymers Can Enable Effective and Selective Proton Transport, *Nature*, 2020, 577, 216. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1881-0>
- Random Heteropolymer Enables Protein Function in Foreign Environments, *Science*, 2018, 359, 1239. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aao0335>
- Reusable Enzymatic Fiber Mats for Neurotoxin Remediation in Water, *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, 2018, 10, 51, 44216. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsami.8b18484>
- Peptide-Polymer Conjugates: From Fundamental

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Chair's Message

Matt Greaney



Hello, and congrats on making it through the first half of one of the most unusual years I've ever been around for. As we enter the second half of 2020, we are still navigating uncharted territory. Vibrant social movements around the globe have put a spotlight on injustice and inequalities that are pervasive throughout so many aspects of society, including STEM. At the same time, the Coronavirus pandemic rages on, putting so many at risk and preventing the restoration of what was considered normal just a few months ago. Indeed, these are unprecedented times, but opportunity presents itself in the strangest ways.

Most scientists agree that racism and prejudice have long plagued the STEM fields. Current ACS President, Luis Echegoyen, released a statement on behalf of the Society acknowledging and condemning this disappointing truth, citing the country's recent example of the despicable killing of George Floyd (<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/acs-statement-on-the-killing-of-george-floyd.html>). Acknowledgement is the first step. Continued discussion, open dialogue, and commitment to addressing the systemic problems are steps along the path forward to bring about real

continued on next page

August 17 - 20

ACS Fall 2020 Virtual Meeting & Expo Moving Chemistry From Bench to Market

The American Chemical Society has decided to move the ACS Fall 2020 Meeting & Expo to a virtual platform. There will be no physical events held in San Francisco associated with the meeting.

continued on next page

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 15** SciFinder-n Webinar (Free)
Hidden polymers -pro tips for finding them using SciFinder-n
[View details and register](#)
Upcoming *CAS Webinars*
- Jul 23** GGPF Webinar
Controlled Randomness: The Secret toward Protein-like Heteropolymers
Prof. Ting Xu, UC Berkeley
7:30 pm (Free) Registration required.
Sponsored by the Golden Gate Polymer Forum
- Aug 17-20** ***ACS Fall 2020 VIRTUAL Meeting & Expo***

Controlled Randomness, continued from front page

Science to Application, Annual Review of Physical Chemistry, 2013, 64, 631.
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-physchem-040412-110108>

- Directed Co-Assembly of Heme Proteins With Amphiphilic Block Copolymers Toward Functional Biomolecular Materials, *Soft Matter*, 2011, 1, 172.
<https://doi.org/10.1039/C0SM00817F>
- Amphiphilic Peptide-polymer Conjugates with Enhanced Processibility and Protein Stability, *Macromolecular Rapid Communication*, 2011, 32, 344.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/marc.201000603>

Registration:

- registration required www.GGPF.org
- deadline: Monday, July 21, 5:00 pm (or earlier if capacity is reached)
- free of charge; donations (\$5) accepted

Contact: Nadine Ding, ni.ding@abbott.com

GOLDEN GATE POLYMER FORUM



ACS Fall 2020 Virtual Meeting & Expo, continued from front page

The decision was based on the established COVID-19 reopening plans of the State of California and the City of San Francisco, as well as direct input from San Francisco city and public health officials.

It is in keeping with the Society's core value of safety by ensuring the safety of its members, staff, and the citizens of San Francisco.

The **ACS Fall 2020 VIRTUAL Meeting & Expo** will be held August 17-20, 2020, completely online. Details for attendees, presenters, and organizers will be announced over the coming days and weeks and will be available on the ACS National Meetings website.

For more details, see [Frequently Asked Questions](#).



Chair's Message, continued from front page

change. Within our SVACS Executive Committee, we are having an ongoing open discussion about acknowledging and addressing the lack of diversity within our local section (members and representation) and identifying approaches and programs to ensure we do better. That said, there has been a long-standing effort within SVACS to support the scientific development of the greater community with an emphasis on financially challenged and under-represented groups. One successful example of these efforts is SVACS involvement with Project SEED (Summer Experiences for the Economically Disadvantaged) where high school students, often from underrepresented groups, are placed with real scientists to work in real laboratories for the summer. Many of our SVACS outreach efforts serve underrepresented communities (<https://svacs.org/local-outreach-efforts-2>), but we recognize that we can do more. I invite anyone interested in taking part in these discussions and contributing their ideas and experiences to contact myself or other Executive Committee members, and I'll reiterate that everyone is welcome at our monthly ExComm meetings.

On our activities and events front, we held our annual joint meeting with the Golden Gate Polymer Forum and our first web-only based seminar on June 24 featuring Dr. Molly Morse, CEO of Mango Materials (<https://www.mangomaterials.com/>). Molly shared her experience taking

OnDemand Events

ACS Webinar: **10 Essential Scholarly Publishing Tips from an ACS Editor** Mary Beth Mulcahy (ACS Chemical Health & Safety) and Kali Miller (ACS Publications)

OnDemand; posted **June 3, 2020**. Access limited to ACS members.

ACS Webinar: **Maximizing your Digital Presence: LinkedIn Profiles for Chemists**

Sandra Long (Post Road Consulting) and Tom Halleran (ACS)

OnDemand; posted **May 20, 2020**. Access limited to ACS members.

ACS Webinar: **Navigating Your Chemistry Career in a COVID-19 World** Joe Martino (ACS) and Tom Halleran (ACS)

OnDemand; posted **April 22, 2020**. Open to all.

ACS Webinar: **mRNA Technology for Infectious Diseases: Therapeutic Applications and Vaccine Development**

Jim Thomson (Moderna, Inc) and Venkat Krishnamurthy (Astrazeneca)

OnDemand; posted **May 28, 2020**. Access limited to ACS members.

The **3D Printing Revolution: Advances in Material Design and Methods**

Timothy Long (Virginia Tech), Rigoberto Advincula (Case Western Reserve University), and Tomonori Saito (Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

OnDemand; posted **April 16, 2020**. Access limited to ACS members.

ACS Webinar: **Chemistry and the Economy: 2020 Mid-Year Update**

Paul Hodges (International eChem) and William Carroll (Carroll Applied Science)

OnDemand; posted **June 5, 2020**. Access limited to ACS members

ACS Webinar: **Recovery and Contingency planning for Post-COVID-19 Activities**

Neal Langerman (Advanced Chemical Safety) and Harry J. Elston (Midwest Chemical Safety)

OnDemand; posted **April 21, 2020**. Open to all.

Mango Materials from a lab concept to a commercial demonstration scale, and she shed some light on the fermentation technology they have developed that converts waste off-gas like methane into high value organic molecules used as building blocks in the plastics industry. Over 75 people logged into the zoom meeting room, and feedback was positive. We also took the opportunity to recognize GGPF member and SVACS Councilor, Dr. Jane Frommer, for being awarded the 2020 Perkin Medal for her innovations in applied chemistry resulting in outstanding commercial development. Congrats Jane!

Finally, I wanted to remind everyone that the 2020 Fall National ACS meeting is still a go, albeit 100% virtual in nature. The virtual format National meeting will be held online from Aug 17-20. More information can be found at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/national-meeting.html>.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or other members of the SVACS Executive Committee with any comments, requests, or suggestions you may have. We love hearing from and interacting with our local section members, and we always hope to see you (even virtually) at our next event.

Stay well.

Matt Greaney

2020 SVACS Chair

2020-2022 SVACS Councilor

ACS Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs member

Volunteer Spotlight – July 2020

July's Volunteer Spotlight shines on Ean Warren, who has served the Silicon Valley ACS for the last almost thirty years of which he spent a fabulous couple roaming around Europe.

If you've been a part of SVACS, you are used to getting emails from Ean or seeing him help out with our multitude of projects. Ean has been a part of SVACS since 1993. He has served as the chair of the section in 2000 and 2014. He has been a long-standing councilor and has put in a tremendous amount of work to provide networking and



educational opportunities at local and national levels like the trivia night, book club, Connect with Chemists, the Younger Chemists Committee Fun Run/Walk, and the Committee on Environmental Improvement's Chemistry and the Environment Film Series. Some years ago, he turned into a web designer and revamped our website. There is so much that Ean does, we could fill pages with his initiatives and accomplishments.

Ean holds the position of Hydrologist Emeritus at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) where he has spent his time studying oceans, effects of oil spills and biodegradation of hydrocarbons commonly found in crude oil-contaminated groundwater and can tell you how microbes once made a house explode.

A couple of years ago, Ean decided to travel the world. Despite being in a different time zone, he always managed to attend all the executive committee meetings and support the smooth functioning of SVACS.

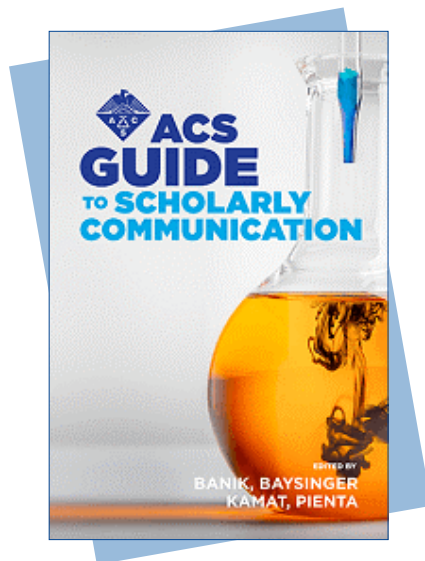
Ean is moving with his family to Salt Lake City and will not be serving SVACS any longer as the councilor. Instead, he will utilize his energy to invigorate the ACS section in Utah. We wish him all the very best for all his future endeavors. We will miss him terribly and he will always have a place here!!!

Special Member Access to the New ACS Guide to Scholarly Communication

The *ACS Guide to Scholarly Communication* is an essential reference that covers everything from classic journal authoring topics, to styling conventions, and modern publishing topics such as open access, preprints and data. The Guide provides students, researchers, educators, and librarians with instruction and advice needed to master the art of scholarly communication. And the new Guide is completely updated and modernized, covering all instructions from previous editions.

New! ACS Members can get personal access to the Guide at the special rate of \$65 per year. If you are not a current member, you may purchase the ACS Guide when submitting your application for membership. Current members may include the ACS Guide at the time of renewal or by contacting Member Services at service@acs.org or by phone 800-333-9511 (US)/614-447-3776 (outside US).

Learn more. See full list of *ACS Membership benefits*.



ACS Long Term Member Recognition

SVACS Members with Fifty or More Years of Membership in 2020

In response to growing awareness and concern due to COVID-19, SVACS continues to follow the precautionary guidelines of the CDC and other public health organizations. Our annual fete, where we honor and recognize our 50+ year members has been postponed. We are still hopeful that we would be able to hold our annual picnic — just at a later date when the public-health crisis (hopefully) eases. We, however wanted to ensure that we recognized our members with fifty or more years of service in 2020!

The following ACS Silicon Valley Members will receive certificates of recognition issued on behalf of the ACS Board of Directors in grateful appreciation for fifty or more years of affiliation with the American Chemical Society.

Fifty Years of Service

Dr. David B. Chung
Dr. Ronald Lee Dieck
Dr. Mohammad H. Ghandehari
Man King Go
Robert Charles Harney
Dr. Robert Reagan Holloway
Anna Podlovits Jaklitsch
Jerry L. Jones
David Allen Kamp
Dr. Ram Rakshpal
Gregory Paul Smith
Steven Andrew Spencer
Dr. Anne Barrett Swanson
Shou Nan Ueng
Dr. Charles Gordon Wade
Dr. Will Todd Wipke

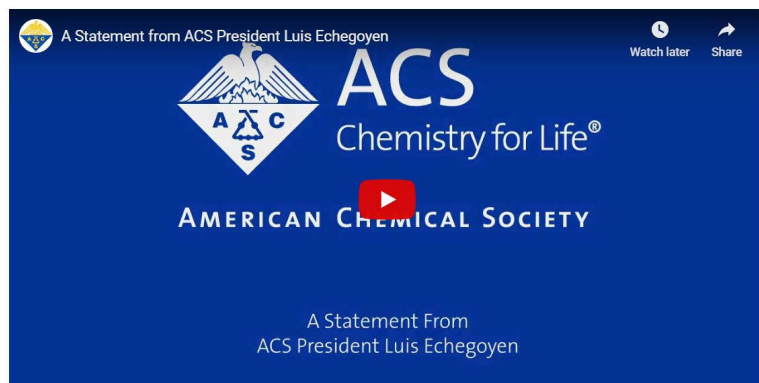
Sixty Years of Service

Dr. Alexandre Blumstein
Guy Vincent Ferry
Marius W Kendall
Dr. Robert H Schwaar
Michael Sullivan Story
Dr. Thomas T Tidwell
George Low Tong
Dr. Mary Jane L R Wegener
Herman H Weyland

Seventy Years of Service

Dr. Robert F Landel
Dr. Joe B Lavinge
Daniel Lazare

As an ACS Local Section, we echo
**ACS President's statement on the killing of George Floyd
and the long-standing issue of systemic racism**
We will be evaluating our activities to insure that we are promoting
the ACS core values of diversity, inclusion, and respect



Click to view: <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/acs-statement-on-the-killing-of-george-floyd.html>

Video Transcript

The following is a transcript from the video message delivered by ACS President Luis Echegoyen on June 4, 2020.

Hello, my name is Luis Echegoyen and I am the President of the American Chemical Society. I am speaking with you today during very sad days for the US and the World. The horrific killing of George Floyd has shed additional light on hundreds of years of racism and injustice occurring in our country.

As President of the American Chemical Society, I want to be clear that we stand in solidarity with our Black and Brown members, staff and communities during these times. We recognize the issues of systemic racism that have plagued our society as a whole and even within our own scientific organization.

ACS deplores the abuse of power that resulted in the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. We mourn their deaths and those of countless other Black and Brown Americans who have been victims of abuses of power and authority.

We condemn racism, discrimination, and harassment, in any form or manifestation. These behaviors rob our fellow citizens of the opportunity to reach their full potential, of their place in society, and sometimes, of their lives.

ACS is dedicated to supporting, promoting and ensuring diverse, inclusive and respectful chemistry learning environments and workplaces. It is, in fact, a core value of the Society.

ACS will use its platform as one of the world's largest professional scientific organizations to lend a voice to those who are voiceless, and speak

truth to power. We will continue to speak out to condemn injustice, racism, bigotry, discrimination, intolerance and harassment.

In the wake of this most recent horrific tragedy, ACS renews its commitment to its core value of Diversity, Inclusion and Respect. We recognize that some progress has been made thus far, but issues of systemic racism continue despite that progress. We commit to continuously evaluate our policies and practices to actively remove systemic barriers to participation by all in the ACS community.

Diverse chemistry learners and professionals continue to experience rejection, isolation, aggression, and harassment by their peers leaving them disillusioned and their work undervalued. We commit to finding new ways to use our influence and resources to bring about needed change and diversity in the STEM community and beyond to bring about greater opportunities and advancement for African Americans, as well as for Latinos, Native Americans and other under-represented populations around the world.

For those of us who are old enough, we remember the riots in the 1960s, and it is very sad to say that as a nation we have not made significant progress in addressing systemic racism. As a Latino, I understand and acknowledge the frustrations, the fear, and the trauma that comes with discrimination and injustice.

We are in this together. Let us renew our commitment to empower all people with the right to live a life of peace, dignity and respect free from discrimination, racism, harassment and intimidation.

Thank you very much.

Inspiring Black Scientists



100 inspiring Black scientists in America

By Antentor O. Hinton Jr on Cell Press' CrossTalk Blog. Posted February 3, 2020.

"A few months ago, an African-American colleague of mine was speaking with an undergraduate student. During the conversation, the student raised two poignant questions: (1) are there any other Black science professors, and (2) if they do exist, why aren't we learning about their accomplishments in our curriculum?"



100 more inspiring Black scientists in America

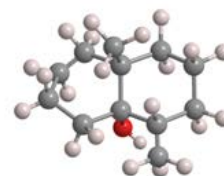
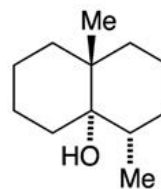
By Antentor O. Hinton Jr on Cell Press' CrossTalk Blog. Posted Jun 19, 2020.

"The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless other Black people and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) has called America to attention. In the throes of these uprisings, we're forced to assert, again, the value of Black lives—in this specific instance, scientists of color."

CHEMISTRY

Quiz

I can trap disease-carrying mosquitoes.



What molecule am I?

Answer

Publishers Against Racism

World-leading publishers join the Royal Society of Chemistry in commitment to make research publishing more inclusive and diverse

"We have gathered publishers of more than 4,400 scholarly journals and tens of thousands of books in a landmark commitment to reduce bias.

Publishers responsible for tens of thousands of peer-reviewed journals and books have signed an agreement with us to take a proactive stance against bias, as we commit to working together to better reflect the diversity of our communities and

to remove barriers for under-represented groups.

The *joint statement* will impact scholarly publishing on a global scale, having been initiated by the Royal Society of Chemistry and signed by the American Chemical Society (ACS), BMJ, Cambridge University Press, the Company of Biologists, Emerald Publishing, Elsevier, Hindawi, IOP Publishing, Oxford University Press and Royal Society Publishing."

Posted June, 2020. Click on title link to read the full statement.

ACS Publications editors-in-chief outline steps to confront racism in chemistry publishing

The American Chemical Society published an *editorial* signed by all of its editors-in-chief and deputy editors acknowledging the deleterious impacts that racism and discrimination have had on scientists from underrepresented communities, especially Black chemists. The editorial includes demographic data of publications and calls for action to combat discrimination.

"We all have a responsibility to eradicate racism and discrimination in the science and engineering community; indeed, in order to make a real difference we need to be antiracist," the editors write in the editorial. "The tragic events we have seen in the Black community provide great urgency to this goal. The work will be difficult and will force us to confront hard realities about our beliefs and actions. And we fully expect that you, and everyone in the community, will hold us accountable."

News release posted June 18, 2020. Click on title link to read the full statement.



Welcome to the Silicon Valley Section of ACS

Each month, the section receives a spreadsheet from national ACS with the names of members new to our section. The members are either new to ACS, have transferred in from other areas, or are the newest members -- students. To welcome you to the section and get to know you, the Executive Committee offers new members a free dinner! To encourage you to attend a monthly section seminar meeting, we would like you to be our guest. When you register, make certain to mention that you are a new member and you and a friend will be our guests. The seminar meetings are held at a number of local venues. If you are unable to attend in the evening, perhaps you would join us for an outreach event, like judging a science fair, proctoring the Chemistry Olympiad or participating in a National Chemistry Week event in October. Then, there is our annual beer & wine tasting and awards picnic in July. The local section is a volunteer organization. Please attend an event, volunteer to help and get to know your local fellow chemists. Welcome!

NEW ACS MEMBERS

John Michael Bennett
Andrew Bockus
Sarah Bunger
Jennifer Dougherty
Nour Fezzani
Giresh Ghooray
Jennifer Hadix
Dr. Patrick Holder
Brian Hong
Jun Hu

Anna Hurlley
Julia Levine
Longbo Li
Dr. Stefan Lutz
Dr. Rashid Mavliev
Anthony Napoli
Rama K. Penta
Dr. Dmitry Pervitsky
Stephanie Pitch
Ryan Scamp

Sanjay Sethuram
Alice Snelling
Claire E. Spitzer
Mark Thomas
Karen N. Van Hecke
Chris Warner
Lisa Wissner
Dr. Congqi Yan
Lauren Yu

Worth Knowing About

Steve Boyer

DataWarrior – an open-source program with chemical intelligence for data visualization and analysis

Have a spreadsheet of molecules that you want to visualize and further work with their structures? Try this powerful resource that is available for free to the public: **Data Warrior**. Developed by Dr. Thomas Sander, it is hosted on openmolecules.org.

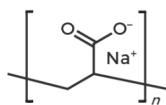
DataWarrior combines dynamic graphical views and interactive row filtering with chemical intelligence. Scatter plots, box plots, bar charts and pie charts not only visualize numerical or category data, but also show trends of multiple scaffolds or compound substitution patterns. Chemical descriptors encode various aspects of chemical structures, e.g., the chemical graph, chemical functionality from a synthetic chemist's point of view, and 3-dimensional pharmacophore features. These allow fundamentally different types of molecular similarity measures. DataWarrior supports the enumeration of combinatorial libraries as the creation of evolutionary libraries. Compounds can be clustered and diverse subsets can be picked. Calculated compound similarities can be used for multidimensional scaling methods. Physicochemical properties can be calculated, structure activity relationship tables can be created, and activity cliffs can be visualized.

THE CHEMISTRY OF DISPOSABLE NAPPIES

HOW DO NAPPIES ABSORB URINE?



Disposable nappies are composed of a number of layers. The baby's urine is channelled to a layer which contains a super-absorbent polymer, sodium polyacrylate. This polymer forms a gel as it absorbs liquid, collecting the baby's urine and preventing wetness.



SODIUM POLYACRYLATE (SPA)

1 GRAM SPA... ABSORBS 30 GRAMS OF URINE!

Sodium polyacrylate absorbs thirty times its own weight in urine. The cotton in the nappy also absorbs urine. Babies up to one year of age produce 2 millilitres of urine per kilogram of their body weight per hour - approximately 15 grams of urine per hour for the average six-month-old.



HOW MANY NAPPIES PER CHILD?



5,000 NAPPIES
(IN TOTAL, ON AVERAGE)

The average child requires around 5,000 nappy changes in total. It's estimated that a disposable nappy takes 450 years to decompose in landfill.

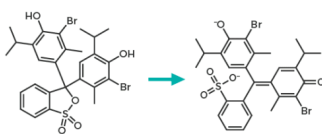
HOW DO WETNESS INDICATORS WORK?

Some nappies include wetness indicators to show when a baby's nappy is wet and needs changing. This can be accomplished in different ways, such as the use of chemicals that detect moisture or a change in acidity.



DRY - YELLOW

WET - BLUE



BROMOPHENOL BLUE

YELLOW (pH < 6)

BLUE (pH > 7.6)

One method of wetness detection uses a pH indicator called bromophenol blue. Bromophenol blue is yellow when the nappy is dry, but the alkaline pH of urine causes its colour to change to blue.



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Diapers are called 'nappies' in many English-speaking countries. [Click to enlarge](#)



ACS Local Section
Silicon Valley

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Newsletter

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