

Silicon Valley Chemist

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DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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Season Greetings

January Dinner Meeting Reminder

Results of the Phoenix Mission to Mars and Analog Sites on Earth

Dr. Christopher P. McKay



It may seem as if January is a long way away, but really it is just around the corner. The SCVACS does not have a December dinner meeting so we certainly hope you will join us for this very interesting discussion in January with Dr. Christopher P. McKay from NASA Ames Research Center.

Abstract

Phoenix landed at 68° N latitude

The year is coming to a close, with December fast approaching us. This is my last message as Chair of the section – Natalie McClure will be assuming the mantle of leadership in January, and you will be hearing from her in 2009. It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair, and I am grateful for the support of everyone on the Executive Committee.

Now is the time of year when organizations and companies look back on the preceding 12 months, and assess how the things that they accomplished match up with those things that were planned. Such reflection gives a chance to make plans and set goals for the next year. Do you have goals that you would like to see your section accomplish over the next

year? Join us at one of the monthly dinner meetings or at one of the Executive Committee meetings and make your views known. Dates, locations, and times for both sets of meetings are listed in the newsletter and on the website www.scvacs.org.

Chair's Message



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January Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009

Time: 6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Presentation

Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Speaker: Dr. Christopher McKay
NASA Ames Research Ctr.,
Space Science Division
Results of the Phoenix
Mission to Mars

Cost: \$27.00 with a choice of:
Teriyaki Steak
Shiitake Mushroom Ravioli

Reservations: www.scvacs.org
or Shirley Radding
408-246-2564
408-296-8625 Fax

Reservations should be made by January 12th stating your name, address, company affiliation, number of people in party, and menu selection. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Tuesday, January 13th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

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Chair's Message, continued from front page

We always welcome new people to the dinner meetings – those that are interested in hearing the speaker are definitely welcome. Please join us, we will gladly make a space for you to pull up a chair and listen. As is normal, there will be no dinner meeting in December; we will resume in January. The speaker will be Dr. Christopher McKay, of NASA

See everyone next year.

Jan. Dinner Meeting, continued from front page
Biography

Dr. Christopher P. McKay is a Planetary Scientist with the Space Science Division of NASA Ames. Chris received his Ph.D. in AstroGeophysics from the University of Colorado in 1982 and has been a research scientist with the NASA Ames Research Center since that time. His current research focuses on the evolution of the solar system and the origin of life. He is also actively involved in planning for future Mars missions including human settlements. Chris has been involved with polar research since 1980, traveling to the Antarctic dry valleys and more recently to the Siberian and Canadian Arctic to conduct research in these Mars-like environments. Dr. McKay is a recipient of the prestigious Kuiper Award from the Division of Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society.

National Chemistry Week 2008 at Martin Luther King Jr. Library

National Chemistry Week 2008 came and went and we “had a ball with chemistry!” The sports theme this year was specially chosen by the ACS to bring awareness to the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

For our highlight celebration of NCW 2008, our fun annual public outreach booth converged upon the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in downtown San Jose on Saturday, October 18th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Of course the crowd-favorite, Wheel of Chemistry Fortune, was spinning for all kids to win a prize, and there were fun hands-on activities for kids, run by our fearless volunteer force—over 40 students deep this year! Special thanks to our member volunteers and Santa Clara University, San Jose State and De Anza College student volunteers—you made this year's booth a huge success by helping over 100 kids to have a ball with chemistry! Kids extracted iron from their breakfast cereal, made color-changing UV-bead necklaces and were super sleuths to determine the best sports drink (testing for sugar and electrolytes). Kids had a chance to pick up their free copy of “Celebrating Chemistry”, the NCW

newsletter for elementary-aged children. To volunteer on the National Chemistry Week Committee for 2009, please contact NCW Coordinator, Abby Kennedy (akennedy@exelixis.com).

Another fun event for NCW this year was a chance for members and their families to literally “Have a Ball with Chemistry”...a BOWLING BALL, that is! Sadly, I must report that the bowling tournament was cancelled due to lack of bowler reservations. But don't despair, you can always see for yourself how even bowling is made better through polymer science and surface chemistry! (Did you know that the surface of bowling balls is made up of unique combinations of isocyanates and polyols within a base of urethane resin?) And to those members that thought about signing up, but ultimately did not, I'd love to hear from YOU! This is your ACS, and your National Chemistry Week, so I'd love to get your feedback on what activities you want to see for 2009! What great ideas can you come up with to help you, your friends, and your loved ones celebrate National Chemistry Week 2009? Email any and all ideas to NCW Coordinator Abby Kennedy.

National Chemistry Week at Cañada College

National Chemistry Week (NCW) is a community-based annual event that unites the American Chemical Society local sections, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our quality of life. This year, National Chemistry week ran from October 19 – 25 and the theme was: “Having a Ball with Chemistry”. Here at Cañada College the Chemistry Department sponsored a wide variety of activities made possible by funds from the National Science Foundation Grant awarded to Cañada College in 2007. On Wednesday, October 22, over 90 students and faculty assembled to hear Dr. Howard Peters, who received

his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Stanford University, speak on the chemistry and history of chocolate. A wide variety of chocolate samples was tasted by all and a 10-pound block of chocolate was given as a door prize. On Thursday, October 23, a career panel was hosted by the Chemistry Department and MESA. Science professors and industry professionals from the pharmaceutical and the biotech industries spoke to students about how their undergraduate degrees in Chemistry led them to discovering their life's work. And finally, on Saturday, October 25, high school, middle school, and elementary school students from all over San Mateo

County attended our outreach activity at the Safeway Store in Sequoia Station to watch Chemistry student volunteers from Cañada demonstrate simple chemical experiments. Everyone who stopped by our booth was encouraged to try a few hands-on chemistry experiments planned by Dr. Jeanette Medina, Professor of Chemistry at Cañada College.



Election 2008

Our 2008 election has ended just as this newsletter goes to press. As one might expect, all candidates were elected because we had no contested races. A total of 338 ballots was received; this is considerably more than we have been seeing in recent years, even though it represents slightly less than 10% of our electorate. We thank everyone who voted, and we hope that our electronic election, managed by Vote-Now, was as easy for you as it was for us.

There were several write-in votes, and it was clear that most of them were cast in all seriousness. We thought it would be worth saying a bit about how people become members of our ExComm, and, frankly, write-in voting isn't a practical way!

The most important requirements for membership are (1) membership in the Santa Clara Valley Section of the ACS and (2) willingness to serve.

If you're interested, you should come to our dinner meetings; most of the current ExComm members attend those and showing up is a good way to meet them and get to know them, and they you. Any of us will be glad to describe what being a member of the Executive Committee ("ExComm") involves. Also, visitors are always welcome at our ExComm meetings; the times and places are listed near the bottom of our home page at www.scvacs.org. Recently we've been meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at PARC in Palo Alto, on Coyote Hill Road not far from the Stanford campus. Meetings typically last until 9:30.

Our Nominations and Elections committee puts names on the ballot based upon interest and willingness to serve, or, for incumbents, willingness to continue to serve. Thus you have to find a way to be active in

Section activities and attract the notice of the committee.

The only viable way to be elected is to get your name listed on the ballot. We are required to allow for write-in votes, but no one has ever come remotely close to being elected via write-in votes. Besides being placed on the ballot by the Nominations and Elections committee, the only other way to be listed there is through a petition. At least one past Chair of the Section not only ran, but was elected in precisely this way. Only 15 signatures (one can even be the candidate's) of Section members are needed. You send the petition to the Secretary, and you're on the ballot.

We're a 100% volunteer organization. None of us is paid for what we do, and we have no paid employees. Volunteers are always welcome. The work is interesting, fun, and rewarding. We invite you to join us!

Karl Marbenke, Secretary

More Photos of the Teach the Teachers Workshop at Roche

October 25, 2008

by Lois Durham



Photos of the National Chemistry Week Event at MLK Library

by Abby Kennedy



Tracy Saito, Mary Lucas, Sara Seghezze, and Elena Zavala



Sara Esparza, Matt Jones, Kendra Garcia, Gaby Caceres, and Bryan Donaldson



Chris Rose, Erikka Fisk, and Brendan Parker



Sara Esparza, Mary Lucas and Peter Nguyen



Mary Lucas and Will Whitener



Tanner Diggs, Megan Stinar, Megan Huff, Megan McCaleb (plus unidentified person to the right)



Bryan Donaldson and Matt Jones



Naire Michaelian and Tracy Saito



Marianne Wallis

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CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3920

Position Title: Scientist, Formulations

Job Description: The Scientist will develop nanoparticle formulations from novel macromolecular conjugates and siRNA. Responsibilities include perform the experimental formulation development work, document the results, and provide updates at internal meetings and in reports; creation and validation of new methods, techniques, products, and intellectual property of Intradigm; and help support efforts leading to a regulatory IND filing.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: B.Sc. or or M.Sc. degree in chemistry, biochemistry, biophysics or pharmaceutical sciences

Experience: Previous experience in formulations or product development. Ideally will have experience in parenteral formulations of biologics, nucleic acids, or traditional parenteral drug formulations. Knowledge of polymers, nucleic acids is desirable, as is experience and interpretive skills in various analytical techniques, e.g. HPLC, PAGE, MS. Familiarity with GMP, understanding of regulatory requirements and prior experience in helping with regulatory submission (IND, NDA) is an advantage.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:

Job Location: Palo Alto, CA

Salary: Competitive

Employer Description: Intradigm is a biopharmaceutical company developing siRNA-based agents for oncology. Our technology combines nanoparticle delivery with interfering RNA to achieve targeted therapeutics. Visit us at www.intradigm.com

Application Instructions: Please submit your CV and cover letter to: careers@intradigm.com and include Scientist, Formulations and job code: SS-FORM-08-04-SCVACS in the subject line. Intradigm is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3921

Position Title: Director of Medicinal Chemistry

Job Description: You will assume responsibility for small molecule design including the ideation of large, diverse, patentable and synthetically accessible compound solution spaces for each project, working with Numerate's engineering team to build and refine predictive models, managing and/or monitoring the synthesis of selected compounds, and insightfully responding to computational and experimental data.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Experience: 10+ years of experience in small molecule drug discovery, including distinguishing contributions to lead identification and optimization culminating in the advancement of candidates into development. Excellent creative skills related to the project-specific conception and elaboration of novel compounds and libraries. Experience in programs directed against different types of drug targets.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:

Job Location: San Bruno, California

Salary: DOE

Employer Description: Numerate has developed a unique and powerful Drug Engineering Process™ which predictively and rapidly delivers and optimizes novel lead compounds.

Application Instructions: Individuals interested in this opportunity are encouraged to submit a resume via email to jobs@numerate.com, or via regular mail to: Human Resources ATTN: Director Medicinal Chemistry Numerate, Inc. 1150 Bayhill Drive, Suite 203, San Bruno, CA 94066 Numerate is an equal opportunity employer and offers attractive compensation including significant equity participation.

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3922

Position Title: Scientist/Senior Scientist - Protein Engineering

Job Description: The primary responsibilities of this position will include hands-on NMR data acquisition, processing and analysis that is focused on assessing ligand-binding and analyzing the solution structures of proteins or protein/ligand complexes involved in modulating cell-signaling events of therapeutic interest.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: A successful candidate should have a PhD degree in a relevant discipline with at least three years of postdoctoral training

Experience: Industry experience in fragment-based small molecule drug discovery strongly preferred. Significantly more working experience is required for Senior Scientist candidates. The successful candidate will show evidence of productive, independent contributions in science, as demonstrated by a strong publication/patent record. Extensive knowledge and hands-on expertise in all aspects of protein and small molecule NMR spectroscopy is required.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:

Job Location: South San Francisco, CA 94080

Salary: DOE

Employer Description: Genentech is among the world's leading biotech companies, with multiple therapies on the market for cancer and other serious medical conditions.

Application Instructions: Genentech is dedicated to fostering an environment that is inclusive and encourages diversity of thought, style, skills and perspective. To learn more about our current opportunities, please visit: <http://careers.gene.com> and reference Req. #1000021966. Please use "Web - ChemEmployment" when a "source" is requested. Genentech is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3923

Position Title: Research Fellow- Formulation Chemistry

Job Description: Currently we are seeking a highly motivated research scientist preferably having a strong nucleic acid background and extensive experience with polymer and nanoparticle based drug delivery systems. The successful candidate will be working within the Lead Development Department and leading a team of chemists focusing on the production and analysis of chemical formulations for the development of siRNA therapeutics. Job responsibilities will include streamlining and making the formulation process more efficient, coordinating external collaborations, communicating results to multi-disciplinary teams and developing a strategic vision for the group.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: Ph.D. in Chem or Chemical Engineering or a related discipline

Experience: A minimum of two (2) years post-doctoral experience in a related field and three (3) years' pharmaceutical/biotechnology industry experience in drug development is required. Demonstrated leadership skills and a track record of quality publications and presentations at national scientific meetings is necessary. Preferred candidates should have experience with people management and a command over relevant liposome and polymer based nanoparticle literature. The individual should demonstrate outstanding analytical, assay development skills and initiative; in addition, excellent interpersonal and communication skills are essential.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:

Job Location: San Francisco, California

Salary: DOE

Employer Description: siRNA Therapeutics, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., is leading the industry in developing a new class of drugs based on RNAi technology that we believe will significantly improve human health.

Application Instructions: We offer an excellent salary and an industry-ranked benefits program, including tuition reimbursement, work-life balance initiatives and developmental programs at all levels. Merck's retirement package includes a pension plan and one of the best 401(k) plans in the nation. To be considered for this position, please visit our career site at www.ecentralmetrics.com/url/?u=895680519-326 to create a profile and submit your resume for requisition number CHE001565.



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Visit our web site at:



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Newsletter

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ChemPloyment Abstracts

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FUTURE MEETINGS

2009

- Jan 11-16** 19th Winter Fluorine Conference
St. Petersburg, FL
<http://membership.acs.org/F/FLUO/19WFC/INDEX19WFC.HTM>
- Jan 15** Dinner Meeting
Results of the Phoenix to Mars
and Analog Sites on Earth
Dr. Chris McKay
- Jan 22** Dr. Jeff Wong
CA EPA
Chevron Richmond Technology
Center
www.calacs.org/calindex.asp
- Feb 19** Anshul Samar
Game Inventor -- Elementeo
Cañada College
- Mar 19** Dr. Ted Brown
Mosher Award Winner
Biltmore Hotel
- Mar 22-26** ACS National Meeting
Salt Lake City