

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 35 No. 10

## OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

- November Dinner Meeting
- Chair's Message
- New Members List for September
- American Chemical Society
- The ACS Newsletter
- ChemPloyment Abstracts

## November 14th Dinner Meeting

Nadia Drake and Peter Aldhous

### The Metamorphosis: Turning Science into News in a Changing Media Landscape

#### Abstract:

Most research isn't born being "news" – that transition requires work from both scientists and journalists. As an omnivorous science reporter who's been assigned to cover several, completely unrelated beats, I've found that some scientific fields seem to spawn news much more easily than others. So, what does it take to transform an elegant experiment into an accurate, engaging news story?

#### Biography:

Nadia Drake is a science journalist at WIRED, reporting on materials science, marine mammals, and mega-spiders. Before that, she covered astronomy for Science News, based in Washington, DC. She has written news and features for Nature, New Scientist, Nature Medicine, Proceedings of



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## Chair's Message

This month is filled with the Western Regional Meeting (WRM) and several outreach events.

Planned for more than two years in conjunction with the California section, the WRM brings the excitement and feel of an ACS National Meeting to Silicon Valley. Featuring invited speakers, special events, almost 500 scheduled papers plus a poster session for students, the meeting starts October 3 at the Hyatt in Santa Clara. While you're in the exhibition, meet other Santa Clara Valley section volunteers at our exhibit table.

The annual Teach the Teachers Workshop takes place on October 5 at Mission College. Chemistry teachers from all around the Bay Area gather for presentations by mentors with long careers in teaching. Volunteer to help and meet some very dedicated and enthusiastic teachers.

October is time for National Chemistry Week (NCW). On October 19, volunteers from our section will be at the MLK Library



in San Jose to interact with students and parents demonstrating the fun of chemistry with simple experiments.

Last but not least, the Bay Area Science Festival takes place at AT&T Park on November 2. In conjunction with the California Section, volunteers will meet

crowds of kids and parents interested in science. Our chemical experiments are designed to quickly convey the wonders of chemistry to the hundreds of visitors expected.

How does all of this happen? Volunteers. Join in and meet them and the public that is eager to know more about why we like chemistry.

There is so much going on this month that we won't have a dinner meeting in October. In November, our dinner meeting is at the Basque Cultural Center on the 14th of November, two weeks before Thanksgiving. Join us for a joint presentation featuring two Bay Area science writers.

## November Dinner Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2013

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Social Hour  
7:00 p.m. Dinner  
8:00 p.m. Presentation

**Speakers:** Nadia Drake and Peter Aldhous

**Location:** Basque Cultural Center  
599 Railroad Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA

[www.sfbcc.us/content2.asp?id=13](http://www.sfbcc.us/content2.asp?id=13)

**Cost:** \$30.00, Duck Legs Confit or Breast of Chicken Chasseur or Vegetarian Pasta

**Reservations:** [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org)  
or Sally Peters 650-854-4614

Reservations should be made by November 7th stating your name, address, company/school affiliation, number of people in party. Watch the web site for more information. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Monday, November 11th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

November Dinner, continued from previous page

the National Academy of Sciences, the San Jose Mercury News, and the Santa Cruz Sentinel. In 2012, she won the D.C. Science Writers Association's Newsbrief Award. Nadia is a 2011 graduate of the UC Santa Cruz Science Communication program, and earned her PhD in genetics from Cornell University. She loves reporting from the field, and has traveled to such places as China, Alaska, the Channel Islands, and California's redwood forests in pursuit of stories. Her favorite moon is Iapetus. See her articles at [www.wired.com/wiredscience/author/nadiadrake/](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/author/nadiadrake/).

### The Best of Times; the Worst of Times: Science Journalism in an Era of Media Turmoil

#### Abstract:

Much has changed since I started writing about science as a PhD student in the late 1980s. Technology has opened a world of possibilities for multimedia journalism, and science provides rich material. At the

same time, the cozy business models of print journalism have collapsed. I'll talk about the opportunities and challenges, from the point of view of a old-school science journalist who's embracing new skills including web development, and a teacher preparing science communication students to enter a fast-changing working environment.

#### Biography:

Peter Aldhous is San Francisco bureau chief with New Scientist magazine and reports on biology, medicine, social sciences and the environment — from genetics and stem cells, through ecology and conservation, to psychology and psychiatry. He also teaches in the Science Writing Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He is especially interested in inves-



tigative and computer-assisted reporting, and he's fascinated by data visualization. See his website at [www.peteraldhous.com](http://www.peteraldhous.com) for articles and his data images.

Peter got his break in journalism in 1989 as a reporter for Nature in London, fresh from a PhD in animal behavior. Later he worked as European correspondent for Science and as news editor for New Scientist. Prior to moving to California in October 2005, he spent five years as chief news and features editor with Nature. His articles have won awards from the Association of British Science Writers, the Association of Health Care Journalists, the UK Guild of Health Writers, the Society of Environmental Journalists, the Royal Statistical Society and the Wistar Institute. When the opportunity arises, he loves to combine work with travel. Over the years he's reported from countries including Cameroon, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia and Vietnam.

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## Welcome to the Santa Clara 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 dinner 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 spouse (or friend) will be our guests.

The dinner meetings are often the 3rd Thursday of the month at a local spot, somewhat convenient to the entire section. If you are unable to attend in the evening, perhaps you would join us for an outreach event, like judging a science fair, participating in the Chemistry Olympiad, or a National Chemistry Week event in October. Then, there is our annual 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 Members List for September

Pragya Adhikari  
Snehal Atwe  
Dr. Kurt E. Breitenkamp  
Abraham King Cada  
Georgette Castanedo  
Audrey Cheng  
Richard Closser  
Laila Dafik  
Dr. Amanda Engler  
Dr. Ximao Feng  
Carl Fisher  
Christopher Fuller  
Michael Ghebream  
Courtney Hadsell  
Marco Huerta

David J. Keenan  
Alex Klevay  
Gloria Lee  
Dr. Lay Min Lee  
Sindy Liao  
Dr. Scott Lokey  
Nathan Luehr  
Andrew Morgenthaler  
Chi K. Nguyen  
Jeremy R. Niskala  
Mark Panger  
Tim Phelps  
Victoria A. Piunova  
Dr. Mahesh Ramaseshan  
Dr. Shaunak Roy

Dr. Jacob Schneider  
Gurpreet Singh  
Geraldine Denise Smoluk  
Lindsay J. Sperling  
Vinod Srinivasan  
Dr. Daqing Sun  
Paul Voelker  
Dr. Johannes H. Voigt  
Deven Wang  
Wenyue Wang  
Dr. Brittany C. Westlake  
Shuangluo Xia  
Teng Zeng  
Dr. Xiaolin Zheng  
Yuntao Zhou

# American Chemical Society

The ACS has a variety of ways for members to contribute by volunteering in programs from the local through the national level. Volunteers are an essential ingredient for the success of nearly all programs. At the local level, the Santa Clara Valley section regularly provides volunteer opportunities for outreach, organization and mentoring activities. Additional information can be found on the section webpage at [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org). Volunteers involved with community outreach events including Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CEED) and the upcoming National Chemistry Week (NCW) highlight the importance of chemistry to the local community.

At the national level, several programs can be found on the volunteer website [www.acs.org/getinvolved](http://www.acs.org/getinvolved). There are Quick Volunteer Opportunities for those with time constraints. The ACS Silver Circle program allows senior members to share their knowledge and valuable

experience with others. In the academic environment, ACS on campus (<http://acs.oncampus.acs.org>) works with students, faculty and staff to build skills that are valuable inside and outside the classroom. The ACS Chemistry Ambassadors program provides chemists with the opportunity to communicate the importance and relevance of their field to the wider world.

None of these programs would be possible without the hard work, and dedication of our committed volunteers. Thanks to all our volunteers for your efforts in to teach, communicate, organize, and do what needs doing to make it happen.



## The ACS Newsletter

The Silicon Valley Chemist is the monthly newsletter published by the Santa Clara Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. It is published in print and electronic formats on the first week of each month. The editors invite our readers to share their opinions, announcements, research breakthroughs, and article comments with your fellow members of the American Chemical Society in the Silicon Valley. For correspondence to be published in a future issue of the Silicon Valley Chemist, the electronic copy must reach us via e-mail to [editor@scvacs.org](mailto:editor@scvacs.org) by the 10th calendar day of the month for consideration for the next month's issue. All submissions are reviewed by the editorial staff.

For more information on the section, be sure to visit the web site at [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org) and follow us on Twitter @scvacs.



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## CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS OCTOBER 2013

For a complete list of current abstracts, please visit: [www.scvacs.org/Local\\_Folder/abstract.htm](http://www.scvacs.org/Local_Folder/abstract.htm)

### CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3984

*Position Title:* Assistant Professor in Physical Chemistry

*Job Description:* Establish an externally funded and productive undergraduate research program in experimental physical chemistry, contribute to departmental research and teaching objectives, and demonstrate the ability to teach physical chemistry and general chemistry effectively. Specific responsibilities are posted at [www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm](http://www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm)

#### QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

*Education:* A Ph.D. and postdoctoral experience in physical chemistry or a closely allied field are required.

*Experience:* College teaching experience is highly desirable, and experience in teaching a diverse student population is preferred.

#### LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER:

*Job Location:* Santa Clara, California

*Salary:* Competitive, depending on experience

*Employer:* Santa Clara University, located in Silicon Valley, is a highly ranked Jesuit Catholic institution with an ACS-approved undergraduate program and a housing program. It is an EO/AA employer committed to excellence through diversity, and welcomes applications from women, persons of color, and members of historically under-represented groups.

*Application Instructions:* For complete instructions and list of required application materials, please visit <http://www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm>. All materials should be sent in electronic form (Word and/or PDF format) to [ChemApp@scu.edu](mailto:ChemApp@scu.edu). Completed applications must be received by October 11, 2013.



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## SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

### 2013 Section Officers

Chair	Peter Rusch	650-961-8120	pfrusch@aol.com
Chair Elect	Ean Warren	650-329-4554	ewarren@scvacs.org
Past Chair	Natalie McClure	650-906-7831	nmclure@drugregulatoryaffairs.com
Secretary	Karl Marhenke	831-688-4959	karlmar@armory.com
Treasurer	Ihab Darwish	650-594-1654	darwishis@yahoo.com

### Councilors

2011-2013	George Lechner	408-226-7262	glechner@aol.com
2011-2013	Herb Silber	408-924-4954	hbsilber@science.sjsu.edu
2012-2014	Abby Kennedy	209-640-2005	akennedycali2007@yahoo.com
2012-2014	Ean Warren	650-329-4554	ewarren@scvacs.org
2013-2015	Linda Brunauer	408-554-6947	lbrunauer@scu.edu
2013-2015	Sally Peters	650-854-4614	sallybrownpeters@gmail.com
2013-2015	Peter Rusch	650-961-8120	pfrusch@aol.com

### Alternate Councilors

2011-2013	Mark Kent	408-736-0989	markkent@yahoo.com
2011-2013	Harry Ungar	831-708-2049	haungar@cruzio.com
2012-2014	Lisa Milstein	510-624-4019	lisa.milstein@balazs.com
2012-2014	David Parker	408-615-4961	drdrparker@comcast.net
2013-2015	Stephanie Bachmann	408-429-9681	s_gehling@hotmail.com
2013-2015	Lois Durham	650-322-3507	ldurham9398@sbcglobal.net
2013-2015	Natalie McClure	650-906-7831	nmclure@drugregulatoryaffairs.com

### Newsletter

Editor:	Kevin Greenman	949-394-4353	kevin.greenman@gmail.com
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### ChemPloyment Abstracts

Director:	Liang Cao	liang.cao@aol.com
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## FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 19** National Chemistry Week  
Hands-on Science  
M.L. King Library  
San Jose State University  
contact: akennedycali2007@yahoo.com
- Oct 23** BioScience Forum  
[www.biosf.org/programs.htm](http://www.biosf.org/programs.htm)
- Nov 2** Bay Area Science Festival  
AT&T Park, San Francisco, CA
- Nov 2-3** SPLASH-Stanford Learning Program  
for 7th-12th grade students  
[www.stanfordesp.org](http://www.stanfordesp.org)
- Nov 5, 12, 19** San Jose State University Chemistry  
Seminars  
[www.sjsu.edu/chemistry/Seminars](http://www.sjsu.edu/chemistry/Seminars)
- Nov 14** Science in the News with editors  
from New Scientist and Wired  
Basque Cultural Center  
South San Francisco, CA
- Jan 16** Mosher Award Dinner  
Biltmore Hotel & Suites  
Santa Clara, CA