June 2018 Newsletter

American Chemical Society

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Chair's Message

Melody Esfandiari



I would use the term "productively busy" to describe our section's first half of 2018. I am impressed with the amount of work the members have done

and the positive impact they have made in the community. To highlight a few: we have hosted several engaging dinner meetings, organized events celebrating Earth Day, and held chemistry-related contests. Our "teach the

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Joint SVACS and Golden Gate Polymer Forum Dinner Lecture

Design and Application of Selective Olefin Metathesis Catalysts and Chemistry-Driven Innovations in Healthcare

Dr. Robert Grubbs, Nobel Laureate and Professor, Caltech Chemistry Department

Abstract

Design and Application of Selective Olefin Metathesis Catalysts

Olefin metathesis is a basic carbon-carbon bond formation technique in the synthesis of polymers, pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals. Professor Grubbs' research group has been instrumen-

tal in developing a family of ruthenium catalysts for olefin metathesis, including one named 'Grubbs' catalyst'. Their studies have included olefin transformations for ring-closing metathesis (RCM), cross-metathesis, and ring-opening metathesis polymerization (ROMP) with cyclic olefins. They have also contributed to the development of "living polymerization" in which a polymer continues to grow until a quenching agent is presented.

Olefin metathesis is recognized as a step forward for 'green chemistry' - chemical processes that are more efficient and generate fewer hazardous wastes. The approach requires less starting material and less energy, and generates less waste and fewer byproducts, enabling more effective and environmentally sound processes in industry.

Chemistry-driven innovations in materials for

The diverse nature of chemistry allows us to develop new ways of treating disease that don't involve pharmaceuticals. Simple materi-

Connect with Chemists

An early morning chat with fellow chemists Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 7 a.m.

Coupa Café, 538 Ramona Street, Palo Alto Contact Ean Warren (ewarren@scvacs.org) for more information or ask for Ean at Coupa.



als chemistry is made possible by recent developments in synthetic strategies and techniques. For example, with novel materials chemistry, we have developed light adjustable intraocular lenses.

New chemistry technologies will greatly impact healthcare costs by introducing alternatives to long-

term treatment.

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Joint SVACS and **Golden Gate Polymer Forum Dinner Lecture**

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018

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

Speaker: Dr. Rober Grubbs **Location:** Michael's at Shoreline Park Mountain View, CA http://michaelsatshoreline.com/

Registration: www.ggpf.org

Registration ends on June 20 at 5:00 pm

Costs: \$30 regular

\$15 for student/unemployed/ retired

Menu:

Broiled salmon, lemon beurre blanc Breast of chicken Marsala Penne pasta with grilled zucchini and mozzarella

Questions? Contact Len Radzilowski lradzilo@te.com, 650-361-3264

Chair's Message, continued from front page

teachers" workshops and chemistry Olympiad are on the way. I feel lucky to work with such an incredible group of individuals who are dedicated to fostering diverse opportunities for the Bay Area science community. If you would like to join us, this is an exciting time. We have appointed a nomination committee to draft a ballot for the 2019 Silicon Valley ACS election. If you would like to be considered for the nomination, please email the chair of the nomination committee, Madalyn Radlauer at *madalyn.radlauer@sjsu.edu*. We welcome new faces joining our team.

This month, we had an illustrated poem contest for K-12 students. We received some very impressive work from local students and selected a winner, which was not an easy task. The first-place winner will now advance to the ACS national contest. Stay tuned to see how it will unfold. You can find the illustrated poem winner in this newsletter; definitely check it out!

Next month is our annual family picnic. On Saturday, July 14th, the SVACS will host this event at Stanford. I personally love this event. Besides the awesome wine and beer tasting, we will be doing an awards ceremony, which is a lot of fun! In particular, we will recognize the ACS 50-, 60-, and 70-year members. Hope to see you and your family at this picnic. Also, please connect with us on *Facebook @Si ValleyACS*. We love to share updates with you and hear your feedback.

Lastly, I would like to give a shout out to all the dads as Father's Day is approaching. As I gave a "fun fact" for Mother's Day, I wanted to do the same for Father's Day but could not find any direct chemistry fact, except that we can spell out Father using 4 elements: 9F, 85At, 1H, 86Er. So now I have to give a more biology-related fun fact. When it comes to traditional gender roles, seahorses are rebellious. They are the only animals where the male is impregnated and carries babies for about a month. The male seahorse has a pouch, where the female can deposit her eggs. He then releases sperm to fertilize the eggs and incubates them until they are born. As the embryos get bigger, the pouch stretches just like the belly of a pregnant woman. Scientists still have not fully understood why seahorse fathers get pregnant given that the responsibility lies with the mother in every other animal. With this unique trait, it might be safe to say that seahorse dads outdo the human dads by a mile.

Joint Meeting, continued from front page

Biography

Robert H. Grubbs is currently the Victor and Elizabeth Atkins Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, where he has been a faculty member since 1978. Before moving to Caltech, Bob was at Michigan State

University in East Lansing, Michigan, from 1969 to 1978, where he achieved the rank of Associate Professor. In 2005, Bob was a corecipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (with R. R. Schrock and Y. Chauvin) for his contributions to the field of olefin metathesis. https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2005/grubbs-facts.html

SVACS Annual Picnic, Wine and Beer-Tasting, and Awards Ceremony

Date: Saturday, July 14, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm Wine and Beer-Tasting 5:30 pm Barbecue Dinner catered by Armadillo Willy's 7:00 pm Awards

Deadline for Reservations:

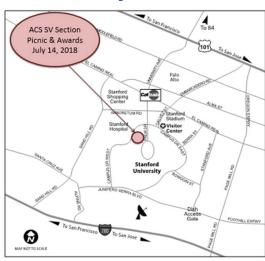
Friday, July 6, 2018

Location: Stanford University Chemistry Gazebo behind the Sapp Center for Science Teaching and Learning

Registration: http://www.scvacs.org

Cost: Adult: \$20.00 Student: \$10.00

Children under age 12: \$5.00



Executive Committee Nominations

It's that time again — time to select candidates for the SVACS Executive Committee for 2019-2020. We have formed a nominations committee: Madalyn Radlauer, Chair, Peter Rusch, Natalie McClure, Steve Boyer and Joe Castellano. We are looking for candidates to fill the following open elective positions of the Executive Committee:

Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Councilors and Alternate Councilors.

The Executive Committee meets once a month and is responsible for the oversight and conduct of the activities of our section. All members of the Executive Committee are expected to attend the monthly meetings as well as other section activities. The Councilors represent the interests of our section at the National ACS meetings. Alternate councilors might be asked to attend the National Meeting Council meeting if a Councilor is not able to attend. The specific duties of these positions are outlined on our website at http://scvacs.org/?page_id=4.

If you are interested in becoming involved and would like to run for one of these offices, please contact any member of the nominations committee. Contact information is provided on the last page of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

SVACS Science Book Group

A small but enthusiastic group gathered on Saturday, May 12, for the second session of the Silicon Valley ACS Science Book Group. After a good discussion, we gave the book, Deborah Blum's *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*, a B grade. It is a well written story of the beginnings of forensic science during the Prohibition era. We particularly enjoyed that the writing style made the science approachable for readers of all backgrounds.

Jigisha Shah will be leading the next book group later this summer. Stay tuned for more information.

Councilors Corner: Teach the Teachers Wrap-up

By Alex Klevay

In late April, an avid group of middle and elementary school instructors gathered on Stanford University's campus for a fun-filled day of scientific demonstrations aligned with the 'Chemistry Rocks' theme of National Chemistry Week. A long running tradition within the Silicon Valley section, the Teach the Teachers workshop is free to attend and provides all the materials needed to lead an entire classroom through a myriad of interesting activities.

This event requires not only hands-on help from heaps of people, but also the careful planning of the event organizers as well as great instructional resources provided by the ACS. Linda Brunauer and her student volunteers packaged the extensive list of materials needed for these activities, creating kits for each teacher to take with them to their classrooms. Stephanie Bachmann led the event and instructed the section about characterizing rocks based on their appearance, how they fracture, what can scratch them, and whether they react with acid, an indication of the presence of calcium carbonate. Jigisha Shah had the teachers create their own caves by using water to dissolve the sugar they buried

beneath clay structures. Natalie McClure demonstrated recrystallization activities which yielded long, beautiful crystals from saturated solutions of epsom salt.

I showed how a concoction of a chalk, water, and glue can create a functional paint that's inherently similar to the ocher-suspended-in-plant-sap paint which prehistoric people used to impart permanence to their art. To learn more about ancient cave paintings, check out *Cave of the Forgotten Dreams* by the acclaimed director Werner Herzog.

Herzog's latest documentary, *Into the Inferno*, also related to the geologic theme of the day, a special presentation by the scientist in charge of the California Volcano Observatory for the US Geological Survey, Dr. Margaret Mangan. A chemical cornerstone of her talk concerned the effects which silicon constituents have on a magma's viscosity. The highly cross linked silica in rhyolite leads to stiffer lava which does not readily flow, while the silicon in more fluid basalt lava exists as monomeric orthosilicate. Dr. Mangan is on call 24/7 to respond to volcanic events. Her ascension to such an important position wasn't exactly conventional. Her personal



journey from being an undisciplined student, chasing a fleeting dream for dance, to being given opportunities by teachers later in life who helped get her on track to become a scientist made me reflect on the slew of splendid chemistry teachers which set me on my path, making it especially rewarding to equip a group of motivated educators with some resources which can inspire more students to pursue careers in chemistry.

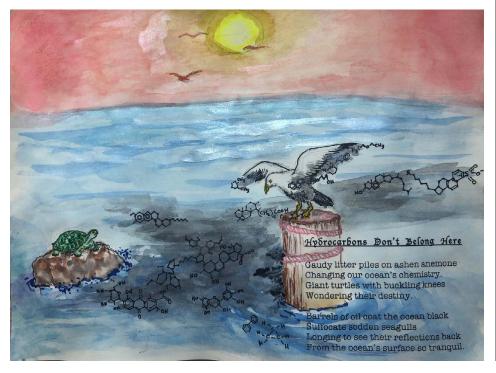
Events like Teach the Teachers can also spark people's interest in participating within their local ACS chapters. Organizations big and small are always looking to team build by volunteering, and interfacing with the ACS is a great way to find those opportunities.

The event was made possible by sponsorship from Gilead who provided the resources to supply not only all the materials, but also a catered lunch and caffeinated breakfast.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next Teach the Teachers event happening later this year.

Illustrated Poetry Contest Winner

Congratulations to Poem Schway, the winner of the SVACS's Illustrated Poetry Contest celebrating Earth Week! This beautiful entry has been sent to the National ACS competition. Good Luck to Poem, and Thank You to all the young artists who participated in this year's contest!



Attention Book Lovers!

The next meeting of the Silicon Valley ACS Science Book group will be held in July in the Stanford Chemistry Gazebo. We will meet for a discussion of the book "The Alchemy of Air" by Thomas Hager. This is a compelling story about Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch, and the story of the Haber-Bosch process used to manufacture synthetic nitrogen fertilizers by converting atmospheric nitrogen into something that plants can use. It started out as a search to renew the productivity of our impoverished soil. From this desire to save the world from starvation came the development of explosives that threatened to annihilate it at the same time. Everyone is welcome to join our discussions. Keep an eye on our SVACS website and on next month's July newsletter for the date and time.

2018 International Chemistry Olympiad

On April 21st, 14 of Silicon Valley's top high school chemistry students met at Las Positas College in Livermore to compete in the national testing for the 2018 International Chemistry Olympiad. We joined 17 students from the California section for a grueling day of exams.

The students gave up a beautiful Saturday to spend six hours indoors working on problem sets, multiple choice questions, and the 'killer' lab unknowns.

This year, 32 high schools and over 300 Silicon Valley Section students participated in the local standardized exam at their high schools. The top scorers then represented our section in the national exam. No more than two students from a high school can participate in the national exam. Some schools gave the local exam to all of their AP or honors students as a warmup for the AP exam that is given in May. Other schools administered it only to interested students. The ACS national exam given on the 21st was sent to national ACS for the ACS Olympiad committee to grade. This national committee, composed of about 40 professors and teachers, has over 1,000 exams to grade and compare!

The 1,000 students who participated on the weekend of the 21st are narrowed down to the top 20 students in the country. Those students will attend an intensive study camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado for two

weeks in June. From those 20 students, four will be chosen to represent the U.S.A at the International Chemistry Olympics in Prague, Czech Republic in July.

Go to https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html to test your chemical knowledge on the exams these students participated in! And to see the names of the 20 finalists and the student rankings by High Honors and Honors. The Silicon Valley section had 6 students who had High Honors and Honors.

The section participation would not be possible without the help of several volunteers. A big thanks goes to Slava Bekker, George Lechner, Dave Parker and Howard Peters for their help this year.

A very special thanks goes to the high school teachers who make it possible for their students to participate. They gave up personal and classroom time to communicate the pro-



gram, organize the testing, and grade the local exams. The scores of our top 14 students ranged from #47 to 54.

The 2018 SVACS outstanding high school chemistry students and their teachers are:

Archbishop Mitty H.S. – Druv Pai – Theresa Cooper

Basis Independent Silicon Valley – Steven Jou – Ilona Davies

Carlmont H.S. – Sakina Bambot and Joanne Nie – Felix Guzman

Cupertino H.S. – Nithya Attaluni and Ralph Wang – Larry DeMuth

Gunn H.S. – Tse Yao Chan – Elana Zizmor **Harker School** – Annie Ma and Swapnil Garg – Robbie Korin

Lynbrook H.S. – Charles Huang and Jeffrey Tao – Lester Leung

Monta Vista H.S. – Eric Tang and Ryan Han – Kavita Gupta

Palo Alto H.S. – Nathan Ramrakhiani – Ashwini Avadhani

Additional high schools that participated in the local exam were: Bellarmine Prep, Carmel, Castilleja, Evergreen, Fremont, Hillsdale, Kehillah, King's Academy, Leland, Menlo School, Mercy High, Mills, Mt. View, Nueva School, Oak Grove, Piedmont Hills, St. Francis, San Mateo, Santa Catalina, Saratoga, School for Independent Learners, Stevenson, and Valley Christian.

Stanford Hopkins Marine Station Event

On Saturday, 28 April 2018, from 1:30-3:30 pm, 41 attendees from the SVACS and from Stanford University met at Stanford's *Hopkins Marine Station (HMS)* in Pacific Grove.

For the first hour, Dr. Amanda Whitmire, Head Librarian of *Hopkins Miller Library* and Assistant Director for the Station, covered the history of the Station and a long-term collaborative research project for collecting oceanographic data. Her presentation also included her discovery of this data in the Library and her recent efforts to preserve and provide broader access to this data by having it digitized.

As the oldest marine laboratory on the west coast (and third oldest in the U.S.), Hopkins has a long and eventful history (see *slide show*). The *Seaside* web pages created

by the HMS Miller Library contains a history of marine science in the Southern Monterey Bay. To learn more about the history of the HMS Miller Library, see *Hopkins Marine Station Library, Old and New*. The Monterey Bay is an interesting, diverse ecosystem with a canyon that is as deep as the Grand Canyon (see *images* from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute).

Amanda talked about the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) (Program) between the Hopkins Marine Station and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a collaborative effort to understand the biology and physical oceanography of the Monterey Bay area by collecting samples weekly for decades. The *Hopkins CalCOFI* data is available online because of a digitization project spear-

headed by Amanda. (Learn more about recent efforts *CalCOFI* at Scripps.) Amanda noted that several researchers were at the *White Shark Café*, an area in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, to learn more why sharks travel to this area.

For the second hour, attendees were divided into two groups and led on tours by Betsy and Paul, graduate students at HMS. Tours included *research* by the 10 faculty research groups at HMS. The tour of the library included using two 3D printers to create customized tags and *Arduino kits* (microprocessors) to help with tasks such as maintaining conditions in aquariums. For people who were unable to attend this event, consider attending a *public HMS tour* or becoming a *Friend of the Hopkins Marine Station*.

See event photos on next page



First Building at Hopkins Marine Station (photo by Jigisha Shah)



Monterey Boatworks Building (photo by Brian Palermo)



Boats near Boatworks Building (photo by Frank Dennis)



Seals and pups on the beach (photo by Grace Baysinger)



Tour guide Betsy (photo by Jigisha Shah)



Tour guide Paul (photo by Natalie McClure)



Nudibranch (photo by Natalie McClure)



Star fish (photo by Jigisha Shah)



Sea cucumber (photo by Natalie McClure)



Miller Library stacks (photo by Brian Palermo)



Amanda Whitmire with 3D printers (photo by Frank Dennis)

Resources You Can Use

2017 Elements of the Business of Chemistry

https://www.americanchemistry.com/2017-Elements-of-the-Business-of-Chemistry.pdf

American Chemistry Council's "most comprehensive profile of the U.S. chemical industry, covering everything from production and trade, to transportation and environmental performance"—Publisher's description.

Futurity

https://www.futurity.org/

"Futurity features the latest discoveries by scientists at top research universities in the US, UK, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia. The nonprofit site, which launched in 2009, is supported solely by its university partners in an effort to share research news directly with the public."—Publisher's description.

Lens.org

https://www.lens.org/

"The Lens hosts more than 100 million patent records from over 95 different jurisdictions. Our patent searching capability allows use of advanced Boolean functions, structured search, biological search, and classification search options to find the most relevant and important patent. Our analysis functions and faceted exploration tools allow drilling down and discovery of new insights, and sharing or embedding these in any website." —Publisher's description.

Our World in Data

https://ourworldindata.org/

Produced by the University of Oxford, "Our World in Data is an online publication that shows how living conditions are changing. The aim is to give a global overview and to show changes over the very long run, so that we can see where we are coming from and where we are today. We cover a wide range of topics across many academic disciplines: Trends in health, food provision, the growth and distribution of incomes, violence, rights, wars, culture, energy use, education, and environmental changes are empirically analyzed and visualized in this web publication. For each topic, the quality of the data is discussed and, by pointing the visitor to the sources, this website is also a database of databases. Covering all of these aspects in one resource makes it possible to understand how the observed long-run trends are interlinked." --Publisher's description

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 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 SVACS Members

Dr. Benjamin Earl Allred Dr. Matthew Bratkowski Adrian Brozell Nicholas Chiappini Dr. Joel Cizeron Gregory Cizio Chayo Fuentes

Chayo Fuentes
Dr. Alexander F. G. Goldberg

Dr. Patrick M. Jeanville Matthew Thomas Lucas Dr. Akbar Montaser Dr. Mohammad Najmzadeh Trang Diep Oishi Benedict O'Mahoney Adrienne Pinsoneault Miguel Nicolas Pinto Jayashree Subramanian Eric Taw Rushia Turner Evan Vickers Dr. Ningkun Wang Makoto Yamasaki

Registration and Housing Open for the Fall 2018 ACS National Meeting in Boston

Stay on top of the newest advances in chemistry—join ACS and thousands of your colleagues in Boston, MA, on August 19-23. Connect and share ideas with your peers, attend workshops and trainings, advance your career, and discover new research and technologies. Be among the thousands to investigate and discuss emerging scientific and technical information on the meeting theme, Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Beyond. In Boston, we will build on the Society's history of providing unrivaled opportunities for attendees to grow their passion for chemistry.

The ACS Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group, 32 technical divisions, and 6 committees worked to create exciting meeting programming. There will be over 10,500 papers presented in 1,158 half-day sessions comprised of 989 oral sessions and 160 poster sessions, including Sci-Mix.

ACS Members automatically save on meeting registration fees, and can save even more—up to \$400—by registering before July 9.

ACS has also negotiated special meeting attendee rates with a wide selection of hotels located near the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC).

ConferenceDirect is the official housing bureau for the meeting, and ACS does not endorse booking hotel reservations through any other source. All attendees who book their room through ConferenceDirect will receive discounted rates and complimentary internet access in their room.

Register and book your housing all in one place! Visit the *ACS website* for rates and category information. We look forward to seeing you in Boston!



Webinars and Tutorials



The Opioid Crisis and Quest for Superior Analgesics without Addiction

Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 2-3 pm ET

Opioid-related drug overdoses are leading to approximately 150 deaths every day in the United States alone. Furthermore, present day statistics show that almost a third of the American population suffer from chronic pain and opioids continue to be our best choice for pain-relief. Join Ajay Yekkirala of Blue Therapeutics, who has over 10 years of research experience in opioid medicinal chemistry and the neurobiology of pain, to discover how medicinal chemists are developing potent analgesics that are devoid of narcotic side effects to stop the cycle of pain-opioid abuse.

Find more ACS Webinars at https://www.acs.org/webinars

National Meeting Meetings Archive

Videos from the Past ACS National Meetings (2016-2018)

Did you miss the ACS National Meeting? View National Meeting Presentations when and where you want. Explore FREE access to the *Kavli Lecture Series* and *Opening Session Videos* recorded at ACS National Meetings

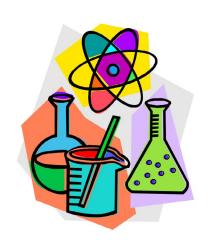


SciFinder Training Materials

On-demand SciFinder training resources are short, targeted materials, organized by search type. Titles marked with an asterisk are designed to help you get you started quickly with searching in SciFinder (also see *Get Started with SciFinder* list). *Special topics* for more advanced users are also available.



The Ottenberg Award is presented annually to a member of our local section for outstanding service to the section. Previous recipients are not eligible to receive it again. Nominations should include the nominee's biography, description of the service(s) for which the member is nominated, and a discussion or evaluation of the service to be recognized by the award. Please send your nomination to *PFRusch@aol.com* or by fax (650) 961-8120 before June 15, 2018.



CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS JUNE 2018

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 4004

Position Title: Senior Production Chemist - Silica Manufacturing

Job Description: The Senior Production Chemist is responsible for conducting production activities for silica based separation media and related intermediates.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: PhD in Organic Synthetic Chemistry preferred, but will consider Bachelor's in Chemistry with 8 years of synthetic chemistry experience.

Experience: Deep knowledge and experience in analysis of grafting and surface modification of polymeric materials required. Must have strong background in synthetic organic chemistry.

LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER:

Job Location: Sunnyvale, CA

Salary: Commensurate with experience

Description: Thermo Fisher Scientific is the world leader in serving science. Our mission is to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer, with revenues of \$13 hillion

Application Instructions: Please apply online at www.thermofisher.com/careers-jobcode: 63797BR

Chemistry Quiz

What is the idealized chemical formula of the pigment Prussian blue?

The answer will appear in next month's newsletter.

Last Month's Chemistry Quiz

What is the common trivial name of n-hexanoic acid (CH₃(CH₂)₄COOH)? What is the basis for this name?

Hexanoic acid is also known as caproic acid. The name is derived from the Latin word for goat because of the molecule's characteristic goat-like odor.

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SILICON VALLEY SECTION

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Director:

Liang Cao

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ChemPloyment Abstracts				

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FUTURE EVENTS

	TOTORE EVENIO
Jun 18-20	ACS Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference
	Portland, OR
	http://www.gcande.org/?cid=home_meetings
Jun 21	SVACS Joint Meeting with the Golden Gate
	Polymer Forum
	Dr. Robert Grubbs, Nobel Laureate and
	Caltech Professor of Chemistry
	Michael's at Shoreline Park
	Mountain View, CA
	www.ggpf.org
Jul 14	ACS Silicon Valley Section Annual Picnic,
	Wine and Beer-Tasting, and Awards
	Ceremony
	Stanford Chemistry Department
	Stanford, CA
Aug 19-23	Fall National ACS Meeting

Boston, MA

Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Beyond

Click on links for more information or see this newsletter at http://scvacs.org/?page_id=99