

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST

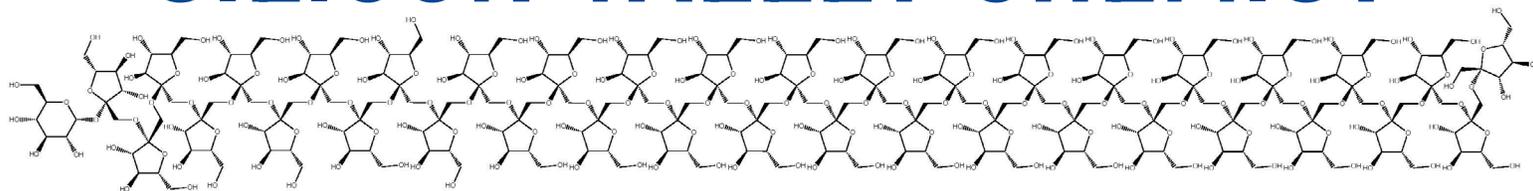


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Local Section News:

Community College Teacher Scholar Award: Call for Nominations	1, 2
Chair's Message	1
Upcoming Events	3
Judges Needed for Local Science Fairs	5
Ottenberg Service Award: Call for Nominations	6
New SVACS Members	8

ACS News:

ACS 2026 Spring Meeting - Register Now!	1, 2
ACS150 Events at the ACS Spring 2026 Meeting	4
ACS 150th Anniversary	4
ACS Fall 2026 Meeting in Chicago: Abstract Submissions are Open	5
ACS 2026 Fellows: Call for Nominations	5
ChemRxiv Moves to New Platform	6

Other Science News and Events:

National Inventors Hall of Fame: Nominations Wanted	2
Join the Global Women-in-Science Breakfast Virtual Networking Event	6
SAGE: Science Accelerating Growth and Engagement Camp at SLAC	7
Invitation to Apply for 2026 CSA Trust Grant	8
Celebrating Black History Month 2026	9
U.S. Patent Applications Decrease Dramatically	9

Isn't Science Great!

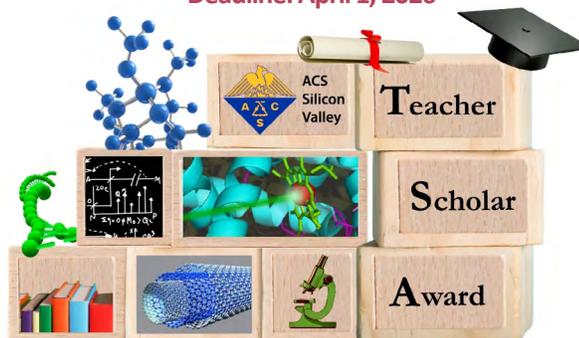
Chemistry Quiz	4
Reactions Science Videos	7
Valentine's Day Special	10
Chemistry of Snow and Ice Infographic	11



more information on next page

Call for Nominations Community College Teacher-Scholar Award

Deadline: April 1, 2026



Recognizing community college science teachers who go above and beyond to inspire and support their students to pursue a career in science.

continued on next page

Chair's Message

Natalie McClure

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it is packed with important events and deadlines. Alongside Valentine's Day—a celebration of the chemistry of oxytocin and dopamine—ACS local sections are also hard at work preparing annual reports that highlight the past year's accomplishments and financial stewardship.

As I work on the annual report, I plan to

reward myself with a classic Valentine's Day treat: dark chocolate. Beyond being delicious, chocolate is often associated with a few potential health benefits, including increased endorphin production that promotes a sense of well-being, improved blood flow to the brain that may support cognitive function, and magnesium content that can help reduce stress by moderating cortisol release.

Here's to making the most of February—deadlines, discoveries, and a little chocolate included.

ACS Spring Meeting 2026: Collaborate, Innovate, Transform

Atlanta, Georgia & Virtual, March 22-26, 2026

<https://www.acs.org/events/spring.html>

Advance Rate Savings for Registration Ends on February 23rd

Did you miss the ACS Spring 2026 meeting registration Early Bird Savings? Don't worry — you can still save on your registration and secure your spot at ACS Spring 2026! Register before Monday, February 23, to take advantage of the advanced rates.

Registration & Pricing Meeting Badge Pickup	Virtual Platform Systems Compatibility Checker
Ways to Attend Travel Hotels Hotel Shuttle Map Getting Around Town Discover Atlanta	Schedule Overview Keynote Events Presidential Events
Attendee Resources 1st Time Attendees Convention Center – Interactive Floorplan	Sessions by Divisions/Committees Sessions by Themes Digital Only Sessions
Exposition Floor Plan Exhibitor Directory	Full Program Program for Print/Download
Frequently Asked Questions Policies	Presenter Tips Presenter FAQs SciMeetings
Registration Statistics Meeting Demographics	Presider FAQs Poster Presenter FAQs
ChemLuminary Awards Governance Activities	Career Events Social Events & Networking

The **ACS Spring 2026 Virtual Platform** is officially available. To access the full virtual platform, you must be signed in with your ACS ID. ACS President Rigoberto Hernandez offers a few tips on how you can take advantage of all the content available to you on the platform.



[Watch this Video](#)

Teacher-Scholar Award, continued from front page

The Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award honors community college faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching, mentoring and scholarship or who make impactful contributions to their communities through outstanding leadership and service.

The annual SVACS Teacher-Scholar Award spotlights the impactful contribution that California community colleges make to furthering the future of chemistry by supporting our next generation of scientists. Almost 51 percent of graduates of the California State University (CSU) system and 29 percent of the University of California (UC) system transferred from a California community college. The majority of these students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, for whom effective instruction is essential.

Initiated in 2008, the SVACS Teacher-Scholar Award was the first award of its kind to recognize specifically community college science educators. The rarity of an award in this category and the abundance of qualified candidates catalyzed our expanding eligibility beyond our immediate region to include chemistry faculty from any of the 116 California community colleges. The monetary award includes funds for travel to a chemistry-related event.

SVACS encourages all readers to identify and nominate qualified community college faculty. Nominations are being accepted through April 1, 2026.

More information and an online nomination form can be found on the [Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award](#) page.

Nominate a World-Changing Innovator to the Hall of Fame

**Nomination Deadline for Class of 2028:
February 13, 2026**



“The **National Inventors Hall of Fame** honors the visionaries whose patented inventions have changed our world. We rely on a panel of experts in science, technology, engineering and patents to evaluate Hall of Fame nominees on the following criteria:

- **Patent** - Nominees must hold a U.S. patent for an invention that is groundbreaking or a significant advancement in their field.
- **Progress** - Nominees' inventions have been put into widespread use and have improved societal well-being, provided economic benefits to the country and advanced scientific understanding.
- **Perseverance** - The nominees are characterized by inspiring stories demonstrating determination, resourcefulness and challenges overcome.
- **Passion** - Nominees are leaders in their fields who understand the importance of developing the next generation of American innovators.

Please fill out the **form** to nominate an inventor to the Hall of Fame. For more information on how to complete this form, see this [blog](#), [this video](#) or send email to nomination@invent.org with questions.

Need more time to gather all the information? Feel free to **download our nomination form** and email your responses instead! You can submit a nomination at any time of the year, as all nomination forms are reviewed when selecting each new Inductee class. Note that the deadline for nominations for the Class of 2028 is Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/events/>

All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

- February 2026 -

- Feb 2** **Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee Meeting**
Sponsored by the Silicon Valley ACS local section
7:00-8:30 pm, Hybrid Event, Free, Guests welcome: [contact Chair](#) to attend
- Feb 4** **Plastics Know No Bounds: Engineering Polymers for Satellites in Outer Space**
Prof. Timothy E. Long, Arizona State University
Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum
Timing and other details TBA at <https://ggpf.org/>
- Feb 5** **ACS Virtual Office Hours: Skydiving into Retirement**
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00 am-10:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 5** **Reading the Circuits: What Global Data Reveals About Microelectronics Innovation**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and CAS
11:00 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 6** **The Chemistry of Romance, Flavor, and Drink: Roses, Chocolate, and Wine**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and Science History Institute
10:00 am-11:15 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 10** **Global Women's Breakfast Virtual Networking Event**
Sponsored by California ACS Section
5:00-6:00 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 11** **Public Lecture: Galaxies & The Early Universe**
Sponsored by Stanford Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology
7:00-8:00 pm, Sapp Center for Science Teaching and Learning, Room 111 & Livestream in YouTube, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 12** **Mini-Chemical MBA: Smart Money, Finance, and Accounting Basics**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Division of Small Chemical Businesses
11:00 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 18** **Finding Your Path Workshop: Introduction to Careers in Chemistry ACS Careers Pathways Virtual Workshop**
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00-10:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 18** **ORCID 101: The ORCID iD persistent identifier (PID) for Individuals**
Sponsored by Lyasis, ORCID US Community
Noon-1:00 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 19** **Industry Safety Expectations for 2-Yr-College Chemistry Grads and Technicians**
Sponsored by ACS Division of Chemical Health and Safety
1:00-2:00 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Feb 21** **Translating Science: Making Mass Spectroscopy Accessible in Cultural Institutions**
Alba Alvarez Martin, PhD
Sponsored by California ACS Women Chemists Committee
10:30 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#), [Download flyer \(PDF\)](#)
- Feb 28** **Lunar New Year Lunch**
Sponsored by the Chinese American Chemical Society, Northern California Chapter
Noon-3:00 pm, Olive Hyde Art Center, 123 Washington Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539, [Learn more](#)

- Mar 2026 -

- Mar 6** **Codemaker: CRISPR's Origins and Applications (The 52nd Annual Linus Pauling Lectureship)**
Jennifer Doudna, Ph.D.
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Structural Biology
4:00-5:00 pm, Stanford University, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111), [Learn more](#)
- Mar 9** **Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee Meeting**
Sponsored by the Silicon Valley ACS local section
7:00-8:30 pm, Hybrid Event, Free, Guests welcome: [contact Chair](#) to attend
- Mar 18** **Finding Your Path Workshop: Careers in Industrial Chemistry - Identifying Your Role in the Value Chain**
ACS Career Pathways Virtual Workshop
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00-10:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Mar 19** **ECO-BIOMAXXTM: Next-Generation Biobased Biodegradable Polyurethanes**
Rao S Bezwada, PhD, Founder & CEO, Bezwada Biomedical LLC
Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum
Timing and other details TBA at <https://ggpf.org>
- Mar 22-26** **ACS Spring 2026 Meeting – Collaborate, Innovate, Transform**
Atlanta, GA & Digital, [Learn more and register today](#) (Advance registration rate pricing ends February 23, 2026)

ACS150 Celebrations and Special Events at the ACS Spring 2026 Meeting

- **ACS150 Keynote Speaker Announced:** Dr. Omar Yaghi, the 2025 Chemistry Nobel Prize Awardee, highlights Organic Chemistry and AI for Our Planet, shares the experiences that led to his Nobel Prize, and discusses the impact ACS has had on his career. All Keynote Events are available to view on the virtual platform for digital meeting attendees.

ACS
Chemistry for Life
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

ACS
SPRING
ATLANTA, GA
& DIGITAL
MARCH 22-26
2026

Register Today!

Keynote Speaker Announced

DR. OMAR M. YAGHI
2025 Chemistry Nobel Prize Winner

CELEBRATING
ACS
150

- **Special Events:**
 - ACS Exposition 150th Anniversary Activities and Giveaways
 - ACS150 Networking Celebration at the ACS Connect Happy Hour
 - Special Opening Session Honoring ACS 150th Anniversary
 - Daily ACS150 Programming in the ACS Expo Theatres
 - ACS150 International Welcome Reception
- **ACS 150 Anniversary Community Service Project:** ACS is partnering with the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance for the first-ever ACS Spring Community Service Project. This experience, part of ACS sesquicentennial celebrations, honors scientists' long-standing commitment to advancing environmental preservation. [Watch the video](#) to learn more about how this immersive experience will bring together chemists, engineers, students, and local leaders to explore how chemistry can heal communities and ecosystems in West Atlanta.



- **ACS150 Mole Squad Member Pins – Collect All Three!** To mark the ACS 150th anniversary, a limited-edition series of three exclusive member pins features iconic mole characters like you've never seen them before. Plan to visit the [Member Lounge](#) in Atlanta to add these limited-edition pins to your collection.



ACS Celebrates 150 Years

Did you know ACS turns 150 in 2026? These videos are part of a yearlong series shaped by the American Chemical Society's (ACS) enduring core values — passion for science, inclusion and belonging, lifelong learning, and sustainability — celebrating the ACS' 150th anniversary featuring ACS members from around the world. Learn more at <https://www.acs.org/150>

Chemistry is Everything: 150 Years of the American Chemical Society



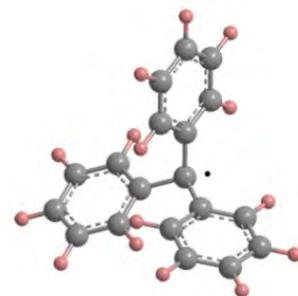
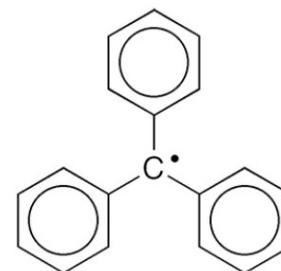
[Watch video on YouTube](#)

"ACS is a nonprofit organization established by a congressional charter in 1876. Since then, ACS has

CHEMISTRY

Quiz

I'm the subject of a landmark chemical discovery. What molecule am I?



Answer

supported and connected scientists from around the world and fostered innovation in chemistry. Together, we will envision the future and celebrate 150 years of chemistry all year long."

Genuine leadership lessons with Fun Man Fung, Ph.D.



"What does leadership in chemistry look like? We asked Fun Man Fung, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chemistry at University College Dublin, to share his takeaways about leadership from his years of research, teaching, and mentoring the next generation of scientists."

Volunteer Judges Needed for Local Science Fairs in March 2026

Local Science Fairs in the Bay Area



To join our Silicon Valley ACS special award team of judges at the Synopsis Championship on March 10, 2026 in San Jose, please [contact us](#). We welcome participants from all chemistry-related fields.

As an ACS volunteer judge, you will be able to see the incredible level of focus, energy, sophistication, intelligence, commitment, and diversity in students who participate in science fairs. These are our science stars of tomorrow, and they need to be encouraged. It takes just one day of your time to judge at a local science fair – and all but one (San Mateo STEM

Fair) are in person. Our local science fairs need category awards judges, especially in the areas of biology, chemistry, microbiology, and all areas of informatics. Science fairs put a human face on chemistry – make it yours by volunteering! Graduate students and Post-docs are welcomed, too.

All of our local science fairs are qualifiers for the *California State Science & Engineering Fair* and either the *Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge* (previously Broadcom MASTERS) (middle schoolers) or the *Regeneron ISEF* (International Science and Engineering Fair) (high schoolers) which will be held this year in Phoenix, Arizona. No matter which local fair(s) you choose, please volunteer now!

- *Synopsis Championship, Santa Clara County*, March 10, 2026, San Jose Convention Center
- *San Mateo County Office of Education STEM Fair*, March 14, 2026, virtual format
- *Santa Cruz County STEAM Expo*, March 28, 2026, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
- *Golden Gate STEM Fair*, March 8, 2026 for High School and March 22, 2026 for Middle School, Randall Museum, San Francisco
- *Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair*, March 14, 2026, Chabot College, Hayward Campus



ACS Fall 2026 Meeting in Chicago: Abstract Submissions are Open

Deadline: March 30, 2026

“The *ACS Fall 2026 Meeting* will be held in Chicago, IL, and digitally from August 23 – 27, 2026. ACS is now accepting abstracts for #ACSFall2026. [View symposia topics and submit an abstract](#). Registration and housing open in May 2026.

This is a chance to share your research with the chemistry community. It brings together chemistry professionals, educators, and students worldwide to discover and share research, network, and advance careers. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for professionals and students to showcase their work and connect with colleagues in all areas of chemistry.”

ACS Fellows Nominations

Open February 23 to April 23, 2026



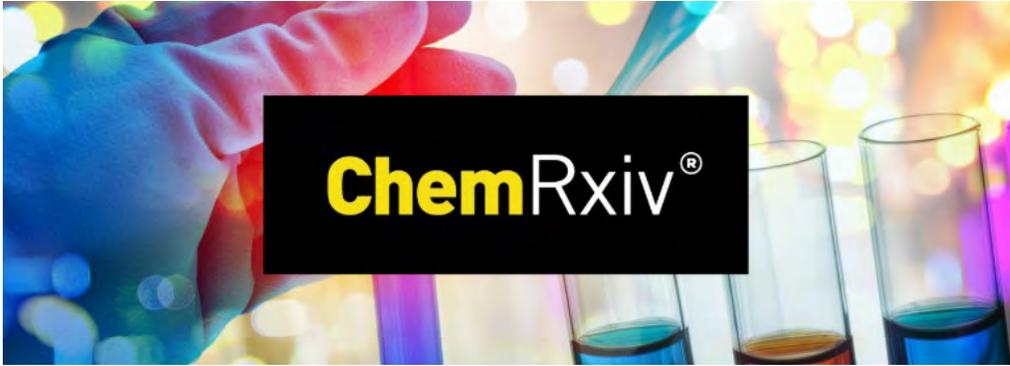
“The American Chemical Society (ACS) Fellows Program was created by the ACS Board of Directors in December 2008 to recognize members of the ACS for outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession, and the Society. Read more about the program purpose [here](#).

The ACS Fellows Program is moving to a new online nomination platform that will provide an enhanced user experience and increase long-term system stability. Due to this transition, the nomination window for the 2026 Class of ACS Fellows will be open from February 23 to April 23, 2026. Until the new platform launches, we encourage you to utilize the [online nomination template](#) to prepare your materials for submission. If you have any questions, please reach out to fellows@acs.org.

The 2026 Class of ACS Fellows will be announced in C&EN in July 2026 and celebrated at ACS Fall 2026 in August 2026 in Chicago.”

[Learn more and watch the 'How to Webinar for Nominators' Video](#) | [View slides](#)

ChemRxiv Moves to New Platform



ChemRxiv®

ChemRxiv is an open online platform where scientists share chemistry research before it is formally reviewed and published in journals. It allows communicating new findings quickly and openly and gives the public early and free access to current scientific work. It is part of a broader ecosystem of scientific preprint servers that includes arXiv for physics and mathematics, bioRxiv for biology, and medRxiv for medical research, all promoting faster, transparent sharing of scientific knowledge.

“The new ChemRxiv site went live on January 21, 2026 - and with it, a move to a new platform on Research Exchange Preprints. You’re still able to read all existing and future content at ChemRxiv.org, and the submission system is once again open for new preprints and versions. The [Submission Guide](#) provides an overview of the new process.

The new site is still under active development, with improvements to roll out over the coming months. These include an

anticipated improvement in turnaround time for new preprints, an easier submission process that prefills a greater amount of metadata from manuscripts and reinstating the Direct Journal Transfer program.

In the meantime, if you set up a new account using your ORCID, you should see previously posted preprints on the "Published" tab of your "My Documents" page. And if you log in, you can now mark preprint pages as Favorites and save searches. You’re also able to set up email alerts for new preprints that match search criteria, making it even easier to keep up to date with developments in your field of research.

Share your feedback: After you've checked out the new site, submit questions or ideas to support@chemrxiv.org.

By the Community, for the Community

Beyond the community of researchers, ChemRxiv also receives contributions from

publishers, societies, and institutions. Their generous support allows ChemRxiv to operate free of charge to authors and readers, continue to grow as preprints become more popular, and add new features to meet the community’s needs.

ChemRxiv is jointly owned and managed by the [American Chemical Society](#), the [Chinese Chemical Society](#), the [Chemical Society of Japan](#), the [German Chemical Society \(GDCh\)](#), and the [Royal Society of Chemistry](#), and is grateful for additional financial, technical, and advisory contributions from the [Technische Informationsbibliothek \(TIB\)](#). ChemRxiv also receives contributions from the commercial enterprises Clarivate, Scopus, and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam ([sponsors](#) page for more details).

Join the Global Women’s Breakfast Virtual Networking Event

February 10, 2026



Sponsored by the California ACS Section, a virtual networking event will be held February 10, 2026, 5:00-6:00 pm, Online, Free, [Learn more and register](#)

The Global Women’s Breakfast (GWB) is held in conjunction with the [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#). The goal of “The Breakfast” is to establish an active network of people to overcome the barriers to gender equality in science. Over the last seven years, nearly 2500 GWBs have been held in 100 countries.

GWB’s 2026 theme is “Many Voices, One Science.” One of this year’s highlights includes the newly released [IUPAC Guiding Principles of Responsible Chemistry](#).

Call for Nominations

2026 Abraham Ottenberg Service Award Silicon Valley ACS Local Section

Deadline: May 31, 2026

The [Ottenberg Award](#) is presented annually to a member of our local section for outstanding service to the section.

Nominations 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. Nominations are not retained for subsequent years, but re-nominations are accepted for consideration. Previous recipients are not eligible to receive it again.

Please send your nomination by May 31, 2026 to PFRusch@aol.com or by postal mail to:

Chair, Ottenberg Award Selection Committee
Silicon Valley Section
American Chemical Society
P.O. Box 395
Palo Alto, CA 94302-0395

SAGE: Science Accelerating Growth and Engagement Camp at SLAC

<https://sage.slac.stanford.edu/>

Application Period: February 24 - March 16, 2026



“The SAGE Mission is to engage curious and passionate students in STEM and empower them to explore a wide range of possibilities for their future. SAGE Camp at SLAC is a FREE one-week residential/overnight camp for high school girls and boys from all backgrounds.

When: From June 21 to June 27th, 2026

Where: SLAC (Stanford Linear Accelerator National Lab) and Stanford campuses in Menlo Park and Palo Alto

How: Students apply online via [Kaleidoscope platform](#)

Application period: From February 24th to March 17th

SAGE Camp is the first step in a student's SAGE Journey – a path to explore exciting careers that impact the world. That journey is supported by the SAGE community via post-camp events and programs. SAGE Camp at SLAC is one of three SAGE Camps at National Labs in the Bay Area and one of seven SAGE Camps at National Labs in the country.”



Reactions Science Videos

I Used DNA to Fireproof Fabrics



[Watch Video on YouTube](#)

“DNA: it carries hereditary information, it helps solve crimes, and now it can act as a flame retardant? What can't this molecule do? In this episode, Alex uses solutions of homemade strawberry DNA and molecular-biology-standard salmon DNA, to try and make three different types of yarn flame-retardant. The results? A potentially sustainable option for future fireproof gear!”

I Used to Think Citric Acid Was Easy



[Watch Video on YouTube](#)

“While it looks easy on paper to make citric acid at home, Chem Thug runs into some pitfalls trying to extract it from some citrus fruit and mold broth. Even though we discovered getting it out of lemons more than 200 years ago, it's still tricky chemistry to pull off. Watch him struggle with a fermentation broth and battle with citrus fruit. Will he be able to extract any citric acid?”

Invitation to Apply for a 2026 CSA Trust Grant

Deadline: April 17, 2026



The Chemical Structure Association (CSA) Trust is an internationally recognized organization that promotes the critical importance of chemical information to advances in chemical research. In support of its charter, the Trust has created a Grant Program and is now inviting the submission of grant applications for 2026.

Purpose of the Grants

The Grant Program was created to fund the career development of young researchers who demonstrate excellence in their education, research or development activities that are related to the systems and methods used to store, process and retrieve information about chemical structures, reactions and compounds. One or more Grants is awarded annually up to a total

combined maximum of ten thousand U.S. dollars (\$10,000). Grantees have the option of payments being made in U.S. dollars or in British Pounds equivalent to the U.S. dollar amount. Grants are awarded for specific purposes, and within one year each grantee is required to submit a brief written report detailing how the grant funds were allocated. Grantees are requested to recognize the support of the Trust in any paper or presentation that is given because of that support.

Who is Eligible?

Applicant(s) in the early stages of their career who have demonstrated excellence in their chemical information related research and who are developing careers that have the potential of a positive impact on the utility of chemical information relevant to chemical structures, reactions, and compounds, are invited to submit applications. Applicants must be within five years of obtaining their PhD. Note that proposals from those who have not received a Grant in the past will be given preference. While the primary focus of the Grant Program is the career development

of young researchers, additional bursaries may be made available at the discretion of the Trust. All requests must follow the application procedures noted below and will be weighed against the same criteria.

Which Activities are Eligible?

Grants may be awarded to acquire the experience and education necessary to support research activities, e.g., for travel to collaborate with research groups, to attend a conference relevant to one's area of research (including the presentation of an already-accepted research paper), to gain access to special computational facilities, or to acquire unique research techniques in support of one's research. Grants will not be given for activities completed prior to the grant award date. Funding for 2026 will not be extended beyond December 31, 2026.

Deadline for Applications

The deadline for the 2026 Grant applications is April 17, 2026. Successful applicants will be notified no later than May 30, 2026.

[Learn more and apply](#)



Each month, our Silicon Valley local ACS 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 chemists - students. As a welcoming gesture, the SVACS Executive Committee offers new members free attendance at a catered SVACS event. Come join us at our in-person gatherings. To register as our guest for a catered event, [contact us](#) directly to receive complimentary admission for you and a friend.

Join us for an outreach activity, like judging a science fair, proctoring the high school Chemistry Olympiad, or participating in National Chemistry Week hands-on experiments.

The Silicon Valley local section is a volunteer organization.

Attend an event, volunteer to help, and get to know your local fellow chemists!

New SVACS Members

Kashish Airen
Jesus Amador Flores
David Andreasyan
David Arroyo
Justin Bogdan
Luca Boretto
Roger Boucher

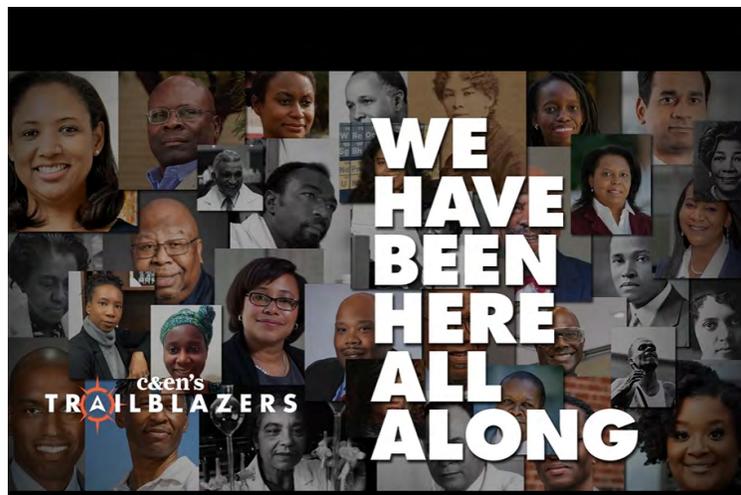
Christopher Clark
Juliet C. Gee
Timo Hagen
Alissa M. Hummer
Mrinmoy Sanyal
S. Stoney Simons, Jr.
Vicky Ta

Jesus Tamayo
Yang Tee
Daren Tram
Vincent Tran
Jasmine Trinh
Lik Hang Yuen

Contributors to this Issue

Grace Baysinger
Todd Eberspacher
Jane Frommer
Natalie McClure
Peter Rusch
Maureen Scharberg
Jigisha Shah

Celebrating 2026 Black History Month Scientists and Inventors



Through the Window and into the Mirror: Narratives of African American STEM Professionals: A Career Conversation Series. National Museum of African American History & Culture.

Recent ACS Articles & Webinars

- *Trailblazers share their career journeys and valuable advice in Black History Month celebration.* C&EN, February 28, 2025.
- *Honoring the Accomplishments of Black & African American Chemists During Black History Month.* ACS Axial, February 5, 2024.
- *No More Hidden Figures: Being Seen, Heard, and Influencing Chemistry as Black Women.* ACS Webinars, February 15, 2023.
- *Celebrate Black History Month by Learning About the Achievements of Black Chemists.* ACS Axial, February 1, 2022.
- *Black Scientists Then and Now: Celebrating Achievement in Chemistry.* inChemistry: ACS Student Magazine, February 3, 2022.
- *We Have Been Here All Along. C&EN's 2021 Trailblazers issue,* curated by guest editor Paula Hammond, celebrates Black chemists and chemical engineers.
- *Black chemists you should know about.* C&EN, February 27, 2019.

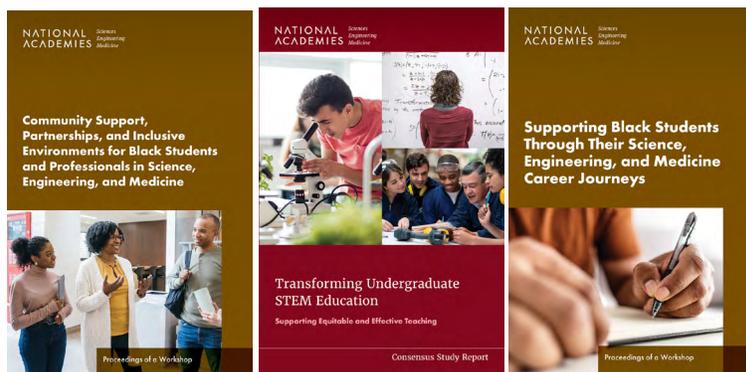
Black Inventors



BIHOF
BLACK INVENTORS HALL OF FAME MUSEUM
AND STEM LEARNING RESEARCH CENTER

- *15 African-American Inventors to Remember This Black History Month and Beyond.* Oprah Daily, January 19, 2023. (From caller ID to the Super Soaker to peanut butter.)
- *Black Inventors Hall of Fame*

Featured publications from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NAP.edu)



- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Transforming Undergraduate STEM Education: Supporting Equitable and Effective Teaching.* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2025.
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Community Support, Partnerships, and Inclusive Environments for Black Students and Professionals in Science, Engineering, and Medicine: Proceedings of a Workshop.* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2024.
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. *Supporting Black Students Through Their Science, Engineering, and Medicine Career Journeys: Proceedings of a Workshop.* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Organizations

- *National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE)*
- *American Chemical Society – Inclusion and Belonging*

Black History Month general events for 2026 in San Jose, California (Google search results)

U.S. Patent Applications Decrease Dramatically

“2025 rankings highlight strong focus on sustainability in R&D; half of the patent areas on the top 10 fastest growing technologies relate to batteries. Recovering usable material from waste also figures prominently, according to an annual patent study by the commercial patent service *IFI CLAIMS*.”

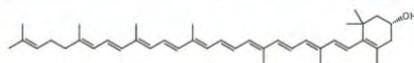
After seven years of growth, U.S. patent applications headed sharply downward, dropping 9% from 2024, the lowest level since 2019. Other 2025 results show a slight decline in the number of U.S. patents granted, down less than 1% from 324,064 in 2024 to 323,272 in 2025. Samsung retained the top spot for the fourth year, according to *IFI CLAIMS Patent Services*, a prominent player in the area of patent data sources.”

Read article: *U.S. Patent Applications Decrease Dramatically One Year After Reaching Record High, Falling 9%; 2025 U.S. Patent Grants Also Down.* STM Publishing News, January 14, 2026.

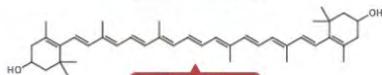
Valentine's Day Specials for Chemists [and Friends]!

THE COLOUR AND AROMA OF ROSES

THE COLOURS OF ROSES



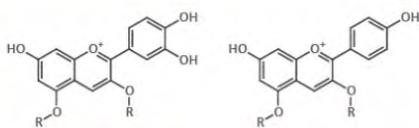
RUBIXANTHIN



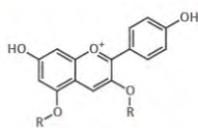
ZEAXANTHIN

Other carotenoids include lutein, lycopene, beta-carotene, toraxanthin, and rosaxanthin

Roses come in a variety of colours, and different chemical pigments are responsible for the different shades. A large variety of carotenoids (above) give yellow and orange hues, while a smaller number of anthocyanins (below) give the more typical reds. Combinations of compounds from the two classes of pigments give the variety of different shades of these colours.



CYANIN

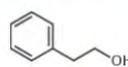


PELARGONIN

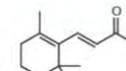
R groups = glucose (in both molecules)



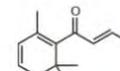
THE AROMA OF ROSES



2-PHENYLETHANOL

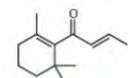


B-IONONE

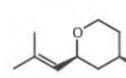


B-DAMASCENONE

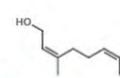
The aroma of roses is contributed to by a number of different chemical compounds; some key contributors are shown here. Their contribution to the aroma varies and isn't tied to their concentrations; in fact a number of them have very low concentrations! Important contributors are rose ketones (including damascenones, damascones, and ionones) and (-)-cis-rose oxide.



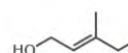
B-DAMASCENE



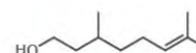
(-)-cis-ROSE OXIDE



NEROL



GERANIOL



CITRONELLOL



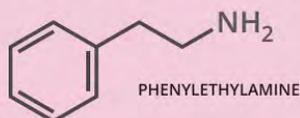
© Andy Brunning/Compound Interest 2017 - www.compoundchem.com | Twitter: @compoundchem | FB: www.facebook.com/compoundchem
This graphic is shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence.



[Enlarge this image](#) | [Read associated article](#)

THE CHEMISTRY OF CHOCOLATE

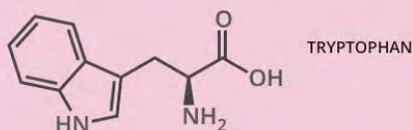
IS CHOCOLATE AN APHRODISIAC?



PHENYLETHYLAMINE

Phenylethylamine occurs naturally in the brain, and is often referred to as 'the love drug' due to its ability to produce feelings of well-being and contentment. It is also present in significant concentrations in chocolate, but since it is broken down after ingestion, it has been ruled out as causing a significant aphrodisiac effect.

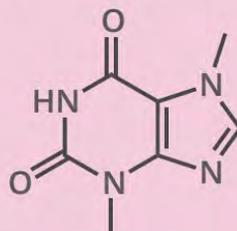
Tryptophan is a chemical in the brain linked to the production of serotonin, the neurotransmitter that produces feelings of elation. It is present in chocolate, but only in small quantities, and it is unlikely that it causes any aphrodisiac effect.



TRYPTOPHAN



WHY IS CHOCOLATE TOXIC TO DOGS?



THEOBROMINE

Theobromine is a mild stimulant, similar in effect to caffeine, found in chocolate. This compound is harmless to humans at the levels found in chocolate - a fatal dose would require eating tens of kilograms of milk chocolate!

In cats & dogs, theobromine has a much more potent effect; small doses can lead to vomiting & diarrhoea, whilst as little as 50g of dark chocolate could kill a small dog.

[Enlarge this image \(PDF\)](#) | [Read associated article](#)

THE CHEMISTRY OF SNOW AND ICE

Why do snowflakes have six sides? Why does ice float on water? Is every snowflake unique? Here we take a look at the answers to these questions and more.

SNOWFLAKE FORMATION

Snowflakes form around mineral or organic particles in the atmosphere. Each water molecule can form hydrogen bonds to four other water molecules. This creates a hexagonal structure, which is why snowflakes are six sided.



ICY CHEMISTRY

During the dark winter in Antarctica, polar stratospheric clouds that contain ice crystals form; the crystals are perfect sites for photochemical reactions. As spring begins and sunlight appears, these reactions release radicals from chlorine trapped in the air. The radicals deplete ozone, which is why the ozone hole appears over Antarctica.



TYPICAL OZONE-DEPLETING REACTION

Ice cores drilled in Antarctica and Greenland give us information about Earth's past, including temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations. The oldest core, drilled in Antarctica in 2015, contains ice that is over 2 million years old.



OXYGEN ISOTOPES

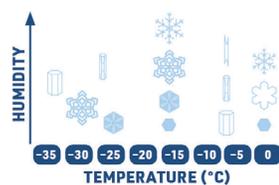
Ratio of isotopes is used to estimate past temperatures



CARBON DIOXIDE

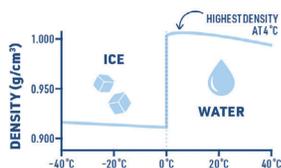
Concentrations can be linked to past temperatures

TYPES OF SNOWFLAKES



A snowflake's shape depends on the humidity and temperature when it forms. As of 2013, researchers had identified 121 categories of snowflakes, although individual flakes remain unique at a molecular level.

ICE AND DENSITY



Water is unusual in that its solid form, ice, is less dense than its liquid form. The fixed hydrogen bonds in ice hold the water molecules farther apart than in the liquid phase. Researchers recently discovered that the smallest number of water molecules that can form an ice crystal is approximately 90 (± 10).

PERIODIC GRAPHICS

© C&EN 2020 Created by Andy Brunning for *Chemical & Engineering News*

Reprinted with permission from Chemical & Engineering News, copyright © 2020 the American Chemical Society. *This article was first published on Jan. 26, 2020 and appeared in volume 98, issue 4.*

2026 Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee

Section Officers

Chair
Chair-Elect
Past-Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Councilors

2026
2026
2026
2025-2026
2026-2027
2024-2026
2024-2026
2025-2027
2025-2027
2026-2028
2026-2028
2024-2026
2024-2026
2025-2027
2025-2027
2026-2028
2026-2028

Natalie McClure
Karan Dikshit
Amanda Nelson
Jigisha Shah
Ihab Darwish
Grace Baysinger
Natalie McClure
Linda Brunauer
Jane Frommer
Ihab Darwish
Madalyn Radlauer
Karan Dikshit
Howard Peters
Eefei Chen
Jose Ramirez
Maria Dulay
Maureen Scharberg

Alternate Councilors

2026
2026

Grace Baysinger
Jane Frommer

Newsletter

Editor
Sr. Assoc. Editor



ACS Local Section
Silicon Valley

P.O. Box 395, Palo Alto, CA 94302

Contact us: <https://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/about/contact/>

Website: <https://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/>

Sign up: [Newsletter](#)

ACS NETWORK
Chemistry Community Online



[facebook.com/SiValleyACS](https://www.facebook.com/SiValleyACS)

[@SiValleyACS](#)

Useful ACS Links

[About](#) | [News](#) | [Social Tools](#)

[Future National Meetings](#)

[Upcoming Events](#) | [Webinars](#)

[C&EN Jobs](#) | [Career Resources](#)

[Membership](#) | [Member Benefits](#)

[Funding & Awards](#)

[Governance](#) | [Advocacy](#)

[Ethical & Professional Guidelines](#)

[Publications](#) | [C&EN](#) | [CAS](#)

[Communities](#) | [Green Chemistry](#)

[Local Sections](#) | [Science Outreach](#)

[Students and Educators](#)

[ACS Institute](#) | [Center for Lab Safety](#)

[Inclusion and Belonging in Chemistry](#)

[Volunteer](#) | [Donate](#)

The Silicon Valley Section of the American Chemical Society is the copyright owner of all material published in *The Silicon Valley Chemist*. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without advance permission in writing from the editor, particularly for commercial purposes. Authorization to photocopy items for limited internal or personal use, or the limited internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by the Executive Committee of the Silicon Valley Section of the American Chemical Society.