

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST

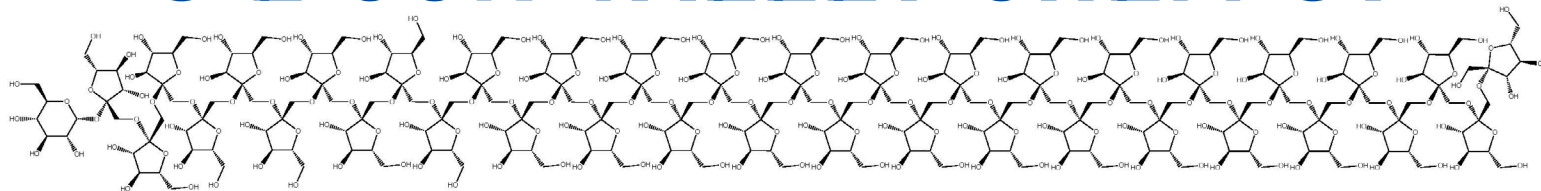


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Local Section News:

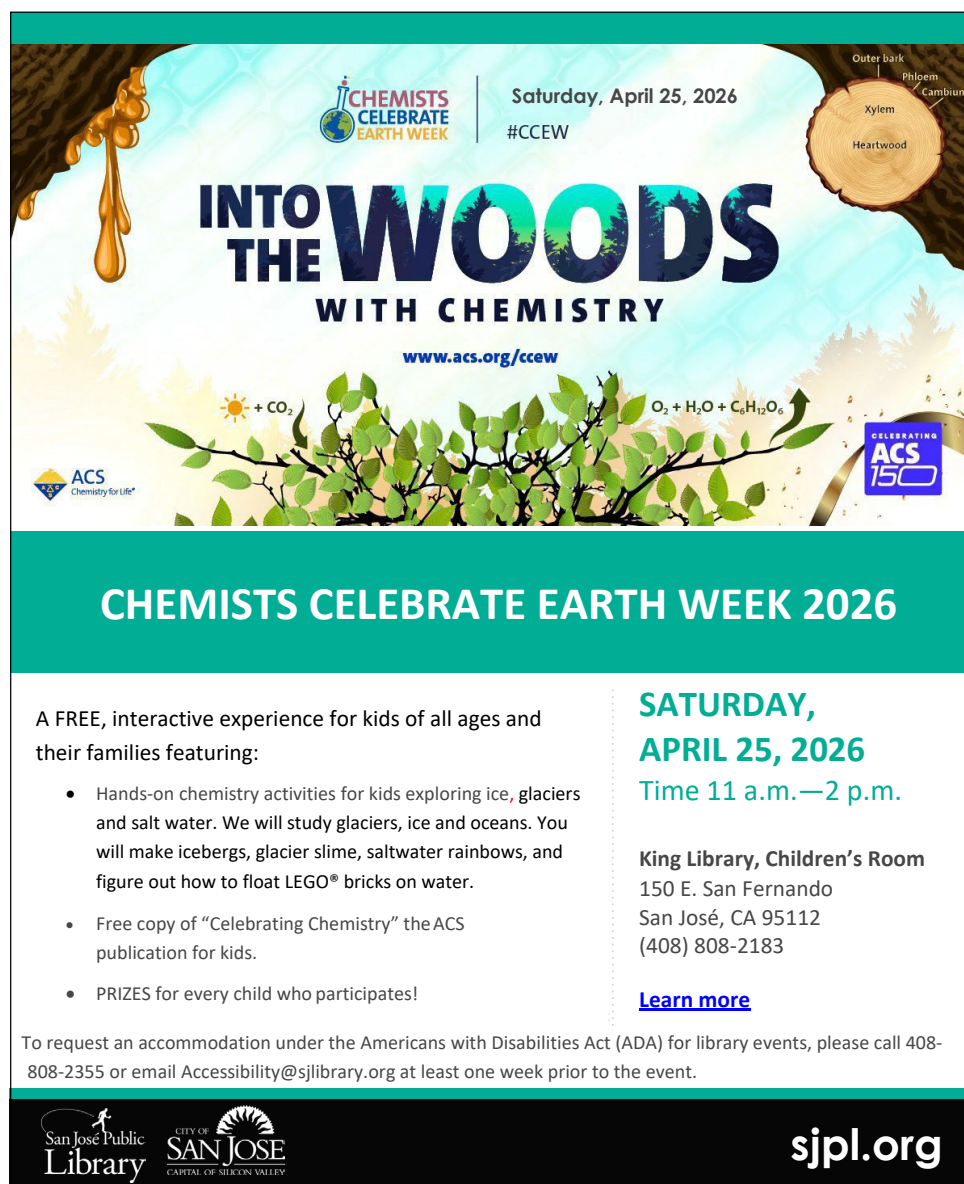
Chemists Celebrate Earth Week	1, 3
21st Annual SJSU College of Science Student Research Day	1, 2
Chair's Message	2
Contributors to this Issue	2
Upcoming Events	4
STEM Zone 2026	5
P.I.E.F.E.S.T. - 5th Annual Bay Area Pasifika S.T.E.A.M. Fest	6
Ottenberg Award: Call for Nominations	7
Meet "Mr & Mrs Chocolate"	7
SVACS Student Awards at 2026 Synopsys Science Fair	8
New Members	10

ACS News:

Recognize Graduate Student and Postdoc Leadership in Chemical Sciences	8
Safety Leadership Research Faculty Workshop	9
CAS announces 2026 CAS Future Leaders	9
ACS Fellows Nominations Open	9
Celebrating ACS' 150th Anniversary	10
ACS Spring 2026 Council Meeting	11, 12
22 Years of ACS Spring National Meeting Attendance Statistics	12
Interested in Serving on an ACS National Committee in 2027?	13

Interesting Science & Opportunities:

Chemistry Quiz	10
Open-Access Book: Chemistry Education for a Sustainable Future	13
Apply for a 2026 CSA Trust Grant	14
Join the Global Mentorship Initiative	14
Reactions Science Video on Creating Liquid Marbles	14
What are Rubber Ducks Made From?	15



CHEMISTS CELEBRATE EARTH WEEK | Saturday, April 25, 2026
#CCEW

INTO THE WOODS WITH CHEMISTRY

www.acs.org/ccew

Outer bark | Phloem | Cambium | Xylem | Heartwood

$\text{O}_2 + \text{CO}_2$ | $\text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$

CELEBRATING ACS 150

CHEMISTS CELEBRATE EARTH WEEK 2026

A FREE, interactive experience for kids of all ages and their families featuring:

- Hands-on chemistry activities for kids exploring ice, glaciers and salt water. We will study glaciers, ice and oceans. You will make icebergs, glacier slime, saltwater rainbows, and figure out how to float LEGO® bricks on water.
- Free copy of "Celebrating Chemistry" the ACS publication for kids.
- PRIZES for every child who participates!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
Time 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

King Library, Children's Room
150 E. San Fernando
San José, CA 95112
(408) 808-2183

[Learn more](#)

To request an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for library events, please call 408-808-2355 or email Accessibility@sjlibrary.org at least one week prior to the event.

San José Public Library | CITY OF SAN JOSE | CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY | sjpl.org

21st Annual SJSU College of Science Student Research Day

April 17, 2026, 10am-1pm

"Every Spring semester since 2005, San Jose State University (SJSU) student researchers who work on original research projects under the direction of College of Science (COS) faculty

present their results in the *COS Student Research Day* (SRD).

SRD21 features 100 posters from all
continued on next page

SJSU Student Research Day, continued from front page

departments and involves over 200 students who describe their work and answer questions. The posters are staffed by the undergraduate and graduate students who performed the research. The projects displayed represent original research projects from the laboratories of COS faculty. Many of the projects are funded by federal, state and other grants, and eventually lead to publications in scientific journals. Some of the posters have been presented at national or international scientific conferences.

COS Student Research Day showcases the broad range of research activity in the College of Science and recognizes the opportunities available to our students, many of whom move into the workforce or continue on to graduate or professional schools. The research experience they gain as students proves invaluable in their careers in science. The student presenters eagerly describe and discuss their research projects and results on Student Research Day.

The campus community and public are invited to view the posters and talk to the student researchers in an event that is free and open to the public.

The 21st COS Student Research Day is Friday, April 17, 10am - 1pm, at the breezeway/grassy knoll by Duncan Hall and the Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB) which is located at One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192 on the SJSU campus."



Chair's Message

Natalie McClure

In this month's chair's message, I want to highlight the activities being run by the chemistry clubs and student chapters at San Jose State University, Santa Clara University and UC Santa Cruz. These three schools have active and vibrant student chapters which have enrich the academic community and foster better public understanding of the importance of chemistry.

The University of California, Santa Cruz Student Chapter was honored with a Commendable Chapter Award for their activities in the past academic year which included a Science Alive outreach event at Gavilan College (Gilroy), Genentech lab tours, and Essential Oil Distillation Demo and DIY Essential Oil Diffusers.

The Santa Clara University Student Chapter was honored with an Honorable Mention Chapter Award, marking its 33rd consecutive award—an extraordinary achievement! The Santa Clara section participated in the Silicon Valley Chemists Celebrate Earth Week activities volunteers at the San Jose Martin Luther King Children's Library, provided volunteers for Tech Trek volunteers, and organized a Program in a Box watch party.

On May 3, 2025, 280 attendees from 14 schools gathered at San José State University (SJSU) for the 37th Annual Northern California Undergraduate Research Symposium (NCURS) hosted by The SJSU Chemistry Club. Originally established in 1989 as a joint initiative of the Santa Clara Valley (Linda Brunauer, Santa Clara University) and California Sections (Steven Bachofer, St. Mary's College), NCURS remains a premier regional event for undergraduate students to present their research and engage with the scientific community. The 2025 event featured 16 fascinating talks, 85 engaging posters, 2 delicious food trucks, 1 fun photo booth, and 1 periodic-table-expanding plenary. NCURS 2025 closed with an excellent keynote lecture given by Dr. Jacklyn Gates who is currently the group leader for the Heavy Element Group in the Nuclear Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The Silicon Valley Section is especially proud of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by the students and faculty advisors across all of our student chapters. Each chapter engaged in a diverse array of activities, providing valuable support to the section, their respective departments, and the broader community.

Contributors to this Issue

Grace Baysinger

Jane Frommer

Sarah Gerhardt

Marta Gmurczyk

Bonnie Lawlor

Natalie McClure

Amanda Nelson

Howard and Sally Peters

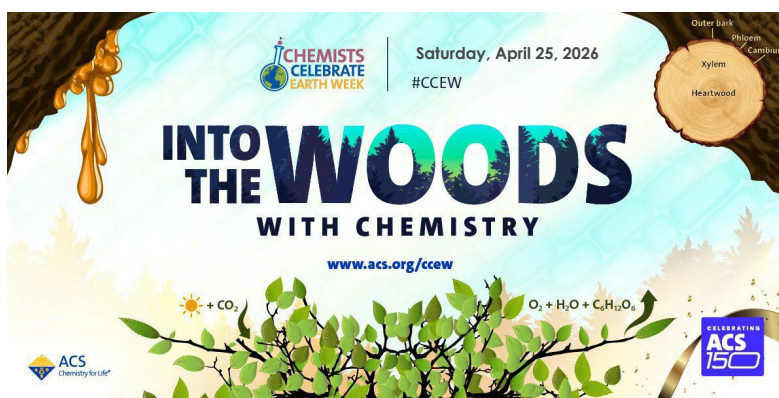
Madalyn Radlauer

Peter Rusch

Jigisha Shah

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week: SVACS Event Plus Resources

Join us on April 25 11am-2pm at the MLK Library downtown San Jose

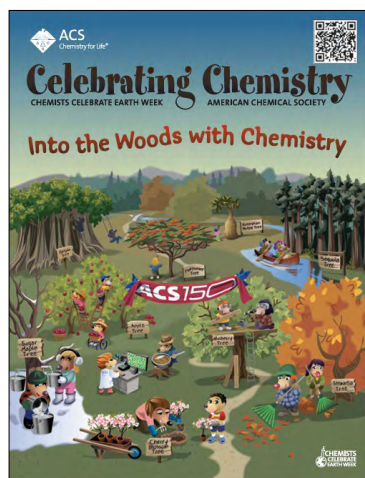


To promote the positive role that chemistry plays in the world, ACS established the Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) public awareness campaign. During CCEW, ACS members and chemistry enthusiasts celebrate by coordinating events and communicating the importance of chemistry.

On Saturday, April 25 11am-2pm, the Silicon Valley ACS Section will celebrate CCEW at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Children's Room, in San Jose. No registration required. [Learn more](#)

April 19–25, 2026 *Chemists Celebrate Earth Week* focuses on the essential role of trees and forests in building a sustainable world. Trees are more than beautiful—they are essential to life on earth. Beyond providing shelter for countless animals, trees play a critical role in sustaining life through fascinating chemical processes. Of course the resources presented below can be used all-year long on this always-relevant topic!

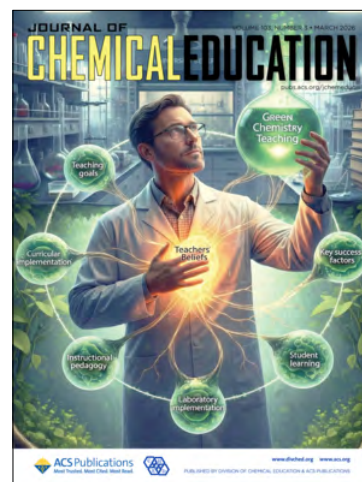
Featured Resources



Celebrating Chemistry (Grades 4-6)
[Read online](#) | [Download PDF](#)



ChemMatters (High School)
[Read free articles](#)



Journal of Chemical Education
[Read articles and Resources](#)



What If Humans Could Photosynthesize?
[Watch video on YouTube](#)



Headline Science - Transparent Wood
[Watch video on YouTube](#)

Educational Resources

Find [educational resources](#) for this year's Chemists Celebrate Earth Week theme and other materials for your event, including outreach activities, articles, and videos. (K-12)

General Interest Resources

[Explore resources](#) related to this year's Chemists Celebrate Earth Week theme, including videos and the latest scientific news. (College students and adults)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

- April 2026 -

- Apr 11** **P.I.E.F.E.S.T. - 5th Annual Bay Area Pasifika S.T.E.A.M. Fest**
1:00-5:00 pm, Free, San Mateo Event Center ([Directions and Parking](#))
[Registration required](#)
- Apr 13** **The Antarctic Ozone Hole: A Global Success Story of Science and Policy (Distinguished Women in Science Seminar)**
Prof. Susan Solomon, MIT
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, In-person, Free, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC111)
[Learn more](#)
- Apr 14** **Atoms in Slow Motion, the Skyrmion, and Cracking Magnets: The Hidden World of Quantum Materials (SLAC on Tap)**
Sponsored by SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
5:30-7:00 pm, In-person at The Dutch Goose, 3567 Alameda de las Pulgas Menlo Park, CA 94025, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 15** **Resume Development: Marketing Your Brand for Industrial Chemistry (ACS Career Pathways Virtual Workshop)**
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00 am-10:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 15** **Agentic AI in CAS SciFinder**
Sponsored by CAS
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 16** **Implications and Applications of Local pH in Electrocatalysis (Beilstein Institute Webinar)**
Samuel S. Veroneau, PhD, Vagelos Institute for Energy Science and Technology, University of Pennsylvania
Sponsored by the [Beilstein Institute](#)
6:00-7:00 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 16** **Science on the Mic: How to Shine as a Podcast Guest**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 19** **STEM Zone 2026**
10:00 am-4:00 pm, Free, Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, [RSVP to the Event](#)
- Apr 21** **Quantum Dots: From Curiosity to Technology (30th Annual Stauffer Lectureship, Day 1 of 2)**
Prof. Mounqi Bawendi, MIT
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, In-person, Free, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC111)
[Learn more](#)
- Apr 22** **Quantum Dots: From Biology to Quantum Science (30th Annual Stauffer Lectureship, Day 2 of 2)**
Prof. Mounqi Bawendi, MIT
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, In-person, Free, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC111)
[Learn more](#)
- Apr 22** **A Walk in the Woods with Acorns and Sagebrush**
Prof. James David Adams, USC
Sponsored by Southern California Section of ACS
4:00-5:00 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 22** **Hierarchical Materials Through 3D Printing & Molecular Design**
Prof. Emily Davidson, Princeton University
Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum
5:30-6:30 pm; Online, Free/\$5 donation, [Registration required by April 21st at 1pm](#)
- Apr 23** **Guided Reactions: Mentorship Essentials for Meaningful Growth**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 23** **Into the Woods and Beyond: Essential Oils and the Chemistry of Forest Bathing**
Amanda Lattin, Dean of Aromatherapy, American College of Health Science, Portland, Oregon
Sponsored by Southern California Section of ACS
4:00-5:00 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 25** **Chemists Celebrate Earth Week 2026**
Sponsored by Silicon Valley ACS and San Jose Public Library
11:00 am-2:00 pm, Free, In-person, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Children's Room, 150 E. San Fernando, San Jose, [Learn more](#)
- Apr 27** **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
- Apr 29** **SciComm 101: How to Clearly Communicate Your Science**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and C&EN BrandLab
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Apr 30** **Coding Chemistry: How AI is Rewriting Polymer Design**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering
11:00 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)

- May 2026 -

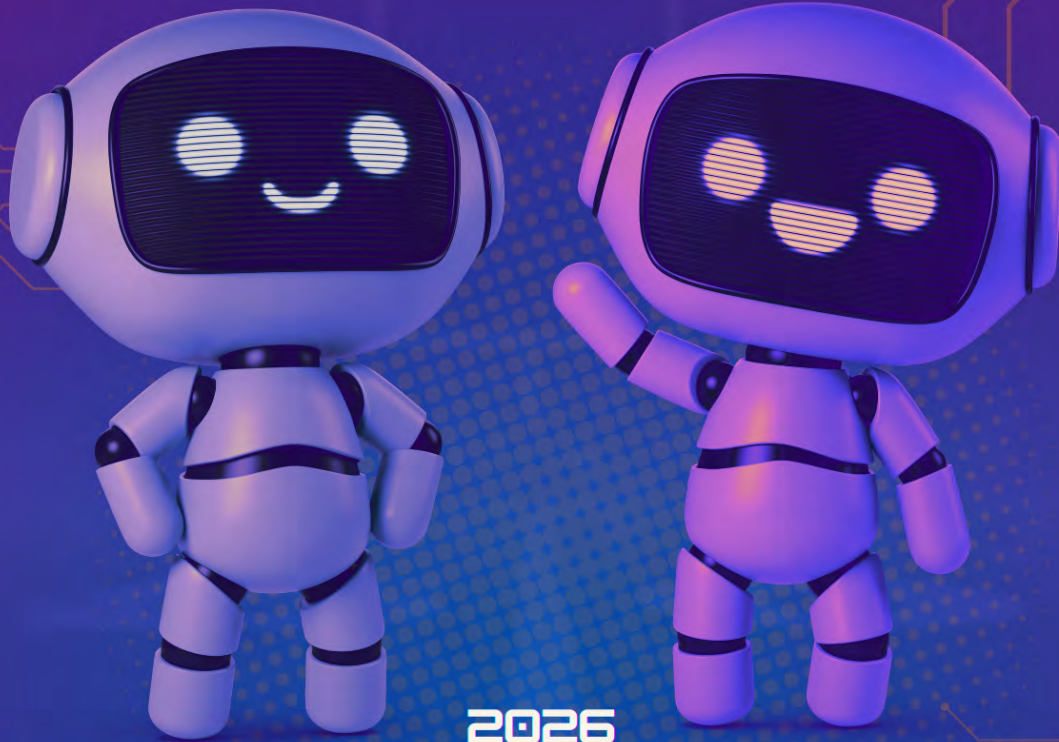
- May 7** **ACS Virtual Office Hour: Stuck or Exploring? Map Out Your Next Career Move**
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00 am-10:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- May 9** **Virology and Immunology of Emergent Arboviruses: Learning From the Patients**
Sandra Lopez Verges, PhD
Sponsored by California ACS, Women Chemists Committee
10:30 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free
[Registration required](#) | [Download flyer](#)

WHERE THE
MISSION
MEETS THE MOMENT



Santa Clara
CITY LIBRARY

ADMISSION FREE



2026

STEM ZONE

Sunday, April 19 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway

Discover the Science of Sports | Hands-On Activities
Interact with Robots | Meet Science & Tech Experts

Visit SantaClaraCA.gov/StemZone
for more info. or scan the QR code



You and your child's attendance at any City of Santa Clara sponsored
event constitutes your permission for
use of photographs/videos for promotional use.

5th ANNUAL BAY AREA

Pasifika

STEAM Fest



Celebrating 5 years of inspiring the next generation in STEAM

**ALL AGES | STEM EXHIBITORS | STEM RESOURCES |
HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES | PASIFIKA
EXHIBITS | CULTURAL PERFORMANCES |
FREE LUNCH | RAFFLES & PRIZES**



**APRIL 11
2026**

**SAN MATEO
EVENT CENTER**

1-5PM

[Learn more and register](#)

Meet “Mr. & Mrs. Chocolate” Chocolate is the Food of the Gods

By Howard & Sally Peters (aka Mr. & Mrs. Chocolate)

February is a good month to think about chocolate – and a good gig in retirement! The fun events started when we were the Valentine’s Day love story in the San Jose Mercury News on February 14, 2004, reporting on our chocolate presentation at a dinner meeting of the ACS Silicon Valley Local Section in Palo Alto. It has rolled on since those days of using viewgraphs...remember them? In March 2008 we were the invited scientist/author lecturers on the cruise line Cunard’s Queen Mary II, and later on the Grand Princess.

“Mr. & Mrs. Chocolate” gave four presentations in 21 days in February, 2026:

- February 1 we presented on a new fun slant: Chocolate - A Religious Experience. The flyer is below.
- February 7 we spoke at an *ACS California Section public outreach event at California State University, Chico*. This event also included a speaker from UC Davis on the Flavors of Coffee. We presented the usual fun Chocolate Food of the Gods with samples and a free raffle at the “bitter” end.
- February 13 we presented to a new group, the *Rebekahs group of the Odd Fellows of San Francisco* on a dark and stormy night.
- Finally, we did our usual fun talk Chocolate: Food of the Gods again for Professor Dick Zare’s popular *Kitchen Chemistry course* in the Stanford University Chemistry Department.

We’re not finished! We will be keynote speakers at the ACS Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting - MARM 2026 - in Hershey PA on May 17 where a Hershey chocolate-champagne reception is planned. We are regulars in the ACS mid-Atlantic region, having presented at MARM 2006 and Marm 2014 in Hershey PA. See <https://marm2026.com>

Who knew that this chocolate talk would be such a great gig in retirement! Learn more about us by searching “Howard Sally Peters chocolate chemist” on the Internet.



California State University at Chico. Howard and Sally Peters (both in red) with chocolate raffle winners. Photographer: Dr. Monica So



Stanford Chemistry in the Kitchen students who won the chocolate raffle with Sally and Howard Peters (in red). Photographer: Haeim Shim

Call for Nominations

2026

Abraham Ottenberg Service Award Silicon Valley ACS Local Section

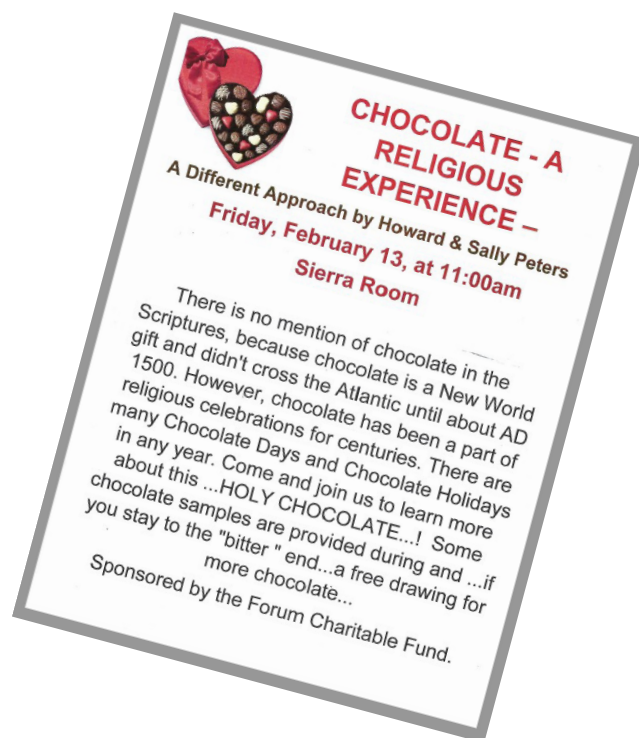
Deadline: May 31, 2026

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



Silicon Valley ACS Awards at the 2026 Synopsys Science Fair

by Amanda Nelson

On March 10, 2026 at the Synopsys Science & Technology Championship Fair in the San Jose Convention Center, our SVACS award teams judged a multitude of projects for two awards: SVACS High School Awards for Excellence in Chemistry and the Middle School Dave Parker Awards for Excellence in Chemistry. Howard Peters, Chloe Tannous, and Mattijs van Maaren judged the middle school projects while Owen Gooding, Amanda Nelson and Daryl Miranda judged the high school projects. From the incredible chemistry and chemistry-related projects at the fair, 3 high school and 3 middle school projects were selected to receive the SVACS awards, conferred in an award ceremony held at the Heritage Theater in Campbell on March 29, 2026.

The SVACS Dave Parker Award for Excellence in Chemistry

- First place: Cooper Edward Bosso, Allen Luo, and Skyler Akira Young of Cabrillo Middle School for *Sticky Solutions: Finding the Best Way to Remove Gum*
- Second Place: Vrinda Khandelwal and Jessica Li of Harker School-Middle Campus for *Water Purification of Lead Nitrate, Potassium Nitrate, and Copper (II) Nitrate Trihydrate By Bamboo*
- Third place: Ishan Chaugule of Stratford Preparatory Blackford for *Unsticking the Future: Assessing PFAS Reduction Pathways in the Teflon Industry and its Environmental Impact*

The SVACS High School Award for Excellence in Chemistry

- First place: Riya Bharath, Harker School-Upper Campus for *The Effect of Nanoparticle Type and*

Crystal Facet on the Photocatalytic Removal of Ethinyl Estradiol from Water

- Second place: Aditya Shivakumar, Harker School-Upper Campus for *Low-Cost Arsenic (V) Detection and Hotspot Mapping with Methylene-Blue-Gold Nanoparticles and Smartphone Spectroscopy*
- Third place: Aanya Sharma, Harker School-Upper Campus for *Determining the Extraction Effect of Cineole and Decanoic Acid on Microplastics found in Wastewater*

Whether or not students received awards from the SVACS, from other organizations, or from

the Synopsys Fair Subject or Grand Prize categories, the participating students are all winners. Numerous other SVACS members participated in the science fair as organizers and in category-judging, so there's plenty of opportunity to join us at a future science fair in support of the next generation of scientists. Kudos to Synopsys and to the Santa Clara County Synopsys Championship Science Fair's board of directors for making our regional competition the wonderful STEM event it is!

For more information, please see [Synopsys Science & Technology Championship Fair](#) and [David Parker Award for Excellence](#)



SVACS' Volunteer Judges: Howard Peters, Owen Gooding, Daryl Miranda, Mattijs van Maaren, Chloe Tannous, Amanda Nelson. Photographer: Natalie McClure.

Recognize Graduate Student and Postdoc Leadership in Chemical Sciences

Deadline: May 31, 2026

"The Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholars Recognition Program honors exceptional leadership in the chemical sciences. Departments worldwide may nominate current graduate students and postdoctoral scholars who demonstrate impact in five categories: Mentoring, Inclusion and Belonging, Research Safety, Science Outreach and Engagement, and Science Advocacy.

New this year, Outreach and Advocacy recognize efforts that promote chemistry through public engagement and strengthen support for science through policy and community leadership. Each department may nominate one graduate student and one postdoctoral scholar per category. The nomination period opened March 2, 2026, and closes May 31, 2026."

[Nominate here](#)



CAS Announces 2026 CAS Future Leaders

This article was originally published as a CAS Press Release on March 19, 2026



"CAS, a division of the American Chemical Society (ACS) specializing in scientific knowledge management, is pleased to announce the 2026 CAS Future Leaders™. Chosen from a competitive global applicant pool, the new cohort of 31 early-career scientists conducts research across areas such as cheminformatics, synthetic biology, and materials science.

Participants will attend leadership and career development workshops, learn about mentorship from industry leaders, participate in science discourse, and forge connections with fellow scientists during the in-person program in August.

"We are proud to support early-career scientists who want to strengthen their leadership and communication skills. The strong interest in this year's program reflects the value scientists see in developing capabilities that amplify their impact in their fields," said Peter Carlton, CAS Future Leaders program director.

The 2026 CAS Future Leaders from California ([view complete list](#)):

- Jeanette A. Adjei, University of California, Merced
- Ashton Aleman, Stanford University
- Anjali Gurajapu, California Institute of Technology
- Hannah Holmes, Stanford University

- Maggie Horst, University of California, San Francisco

The two-week program will offer participants exclusive insight into CAS operations and how the organization transforms scientific knowledge into actionable intelligence for innovative organizations. Participants will have the opportunity to present their research at the ACS Fall 2026 conference in Chicago, IL, and will receive a three-year ACS membership.

"I am truly honored to join the 2026 CAS Future Leaders class alongside an extraordinary cohort of scientists. This program is an incredible opportunity to forge powerful connections, grow as a humanized leader, and amplify curiosity-driven research that moves science forward, creating a positive impact in human lives," said Nitesh Sanghai, University of Manitoba.

Beyond the in-person participants, CAS extends virtual programming and career support to additional exceptional scientists through the CAS Future Leaders Top 100 initiative. Developing skilled, confident scientific leaders is central to the CAS mission of advancing scientific breakthroughs that improve lives."

For more details about the 2026 CAS Future Leaders, visit www.cas.org/about/futureleaders



ACS Fellows Nominations

February 23 to April 23, 2026



"The American Chemical Society Fellows Program was created by the ACS Board of Directors in December 2008 to recognize members of the ACS for outstanding achievements 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 use the [online nomination template](#) to prepare your materials for submission. If you have any questions, 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 Chicago in August 2026."

[Learn more and watch the 'how to' video for nominators](#)
[View slides](#)

Safety Leadership Research Faculty Workshop

Application Deadline: June 1, 2026

Faculty members who supervise research groups, mentor graduate students, or influence departmental safety expectations are invited to apply for the inaugural 2026 Research Faculty Safety Leadership Workshop. The workshop will take place in Chicago, IL during ACS Fall 2026 on Sunday, August 23, 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM CT.

Participants in this selective professional development program will leave with grant-ready safety language, a Lab Safety Plan, and other tools adapted from industry. Opportunities to network and strengthen mentorship skills will also be included in the workshop.

A \$500 honorarium is available, and certificates of participation and/or recognition letters will be provided upon request. Those interested in attending must submit [this application](#) by June 1, 2026. Contact safety@acs.org with any questions.

This Workshop is proudly co-sponsored by the Industrial & Engineering Chemistry (I&EC) Division, the Division of Chemical Health & Safety (CHAS), the Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS), and the ACS Office of Safety Programs."

Chemistry is Everything in ACS' 150th Year



Missed the ACS Sesquicentennial Party held on April 6th? [Catch the replay here](#)

This special commencement ceremony connected the worldwide chemistry community through a special live presentation. Watch the historic dedications by special guests and community reflections that commemorate the historic milestone. From its first meeting in 1876 to today's global network of scientists, educators, and innovators, ACS has shaped the course of science and its impact on humanity.

The ACS150 Theme for April is Sustainability

Chemistry is Sustainability with Thalappil Pradeep

How sustainable chemistry can change the world for good - [Watch video on YouTube](#)

Thalappil Pradeep, Ph.D., creates materials that make clean drinking water more affordable. Meet Dr. Pradeep and glimpse the passion and commitment driving his life-changing work.

Dr. Pradeep is an Associate Editor for ACS Sustainable Resource Management, former Associate Editor for *ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering*, inventor, author, philanthropist,

entrepreneur, and Institute Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

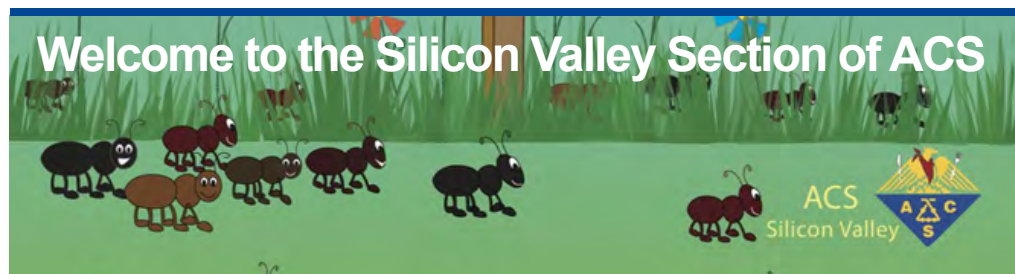
This video is part of a yearlong series shaped by the American Chemical Society's enduring core values — passion for science, inclusion and belonging, lifelong learning, and sustainability — celebrating ACS' 150th anniversary and featuring ACS members from around the world.

ACS150 Science Showdown



It's almost impossible to name all the ways chemistry has transformed our world and pick the most enduring milestone from the past 150 years — but you can try. Celebrate 150 years of chemistry and community by trying your hand at the [ACS150 Science Showdown](#). This duel of discoveries challenges you to identify the most enduring innovation in chemistry.

Learn more about ACS150: Visit the [ACS Interactive Timeline](#) to discover the milestones, people, and innovations that define our legacy.



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

Syeda Tajin Ahmed
Christine Marie Albrecht
Brandon Barrios
Shilpa Bhatia
Kimberly Black-Washington
Pamela Cai
Tyler Cassidy
Giordan Clutario
Isha Dhani
Bhavish Dinakar
Unyime Effiong
Andrew Fisher
Stephanie Marie Forget
Ines Forrest

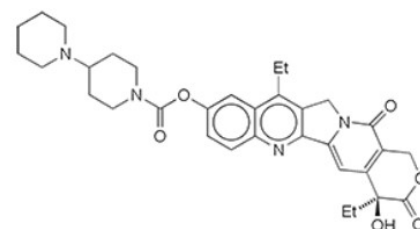
Gwenn Hansen
Jo M. Holt
Tao Huang
Kyeongwoo Jang
Nabojit Kar
Library Kepler
Weston Kightlinger
Veena Krishnan
Matthew Lertola
Kunli Liu
Frank Mango
Navriti Mittal
Kim Nguyen
Rebecca Pinals

Laura Rodriguez-Velandia
Ansuman Sahoo
Natalia Sergienko
Emily Shimizu
Dong Jun Shin
Priyanka Shukla
Leon Sun
Michael Valentine
Jaicy Vallapurackal
Allen William Verstuyft
Justin Philip Vitale
Yecun Wu
Andrew Zheng

CHEMISTRY

Quiz

I'm a cancer drug derived from a natural product. What molecule am I?



Answer

ACS Spring 2026 Council Meeting: An Overview

The ACS Spring 2026 meeting was held March 22-26 in Atlanta, Georgia. As of March 24, there were 13,521 registrations (12,475 in-person and 1,046 online). The next ACS national meeting will be the ACS Fall 2026 meeting held in Chicago, IL, August 23- 27, 2026. Below are excerpts from “talking points” of the ACS Council meeting held on March 25, 2026. The ACS Board of Directors met on March 20-21, 2026. The Board considered several strategic issues and responded with numerous actions. For more details about the Council Meeting, see [Councilor Talking Points: Spring 2026 \(Hybrid\) – March 2026 \(PDF\)](#) and [Council Agenda - Spring, March 25, 2026 \(PDF\)](#). Below is a summary of governance issues and actions for Council and the Board of Directors.

Actions of the Council

Election Results to Select Candidates for the ACS Fall Elections

- Candidates for President-Elect, 2027: Council selected Laura Sremaniak and Lisa McElwee-White as candidates for 2027 President-Elect.
- Candidates for Directors for District VI: Councilors from District VI, the district that includes our Silicon Valley Section, selected Anna Cavinato and Jeanette Van Emon as District VI candidates. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District VI in the fall to elect a Director.
- Candidates for Directors-at-Large for 2027-2029 term: Michael (Mick) Hurrey, Beth Lorschach, and William Provine. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these candidates and any petition candidates will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council in the fall.

Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- Council voted to continue the Committees on Analytical Reagents, Constitution and Bylaws, Divisional Activities, and Local Section Activities and, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors, the Committees on Chemists with Disabilities, and Environment and Sustainability.
- Council voted to amend the name and duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) and change its name to the Committee Fiscal Affairs (CFA), subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This change reflects the growth and increased complexity of Society operations. CFA will continue to focus on financial stewardship of governance and component groups; a planned Board Finance Committee will have fiduciary responsibility

and enterprise-level focus.

- The ACS committee preference form is open to all ACS members through July 6. Members interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2027 should go to CMTE.acs.org to complete their preferences.
- Council voted to approve the creation of a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Sri Lanka, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
- Council voted to approve the 2027 Schedule of Dues and Benefits, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. The Membership Affairs Committee proposed no changes from the 2026 Schedule of Dues and Benefits.
- The Council Policy Committee (CPC) reported on its new strategic plan. The three overarching goals focus on Councilor Engagement, Council Structure, and Leadership Development. CPC has restructured its subcommittees to implement this plan.
- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws reported the certification of 15 unit bylaws since the fall 2025 meeting. They include nine Local Sections: Central New York, Chicago, East Texas, Florida, Huron Valley, Pittsburgh, Rock River, Tampa Bay, and Trenton; four Divisions: Agrochemicals (AGRO), Energy and Fuels (ENFL), Inorganic Chemistry (INOR), and Small Chemical Businesses (SCHB); and two International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Guatemala and Nigeria.
- The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that in 2025, ACS had a net revenue of \$50.7 million from operations and met all five of its financial guidelines. Over the past 25 years, revenue has more than doubled, with a four-fold increase in unrestricted net assets. ACS receives 58% of revenue from outside of North America and is active 56 different jurisdictions.
- The Committee on Divisional Activities reported on their new strategic plan, focusing on promoting Division impact, connecting Divisions to the greater ACS community, and supporting and recognizing Divisions. Collaborative programming at the spring 2026 meeting included 160 joint half-day sessions out of the 800 total sessions scheduled. More than 300 sessions were in the four community programming tracks of Pharma, Data Science/ AI, Sustainability, and Startup.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Past President Charles

Casey

- In memory of deceased Councilors
- In sincere appreciation of the Georgia Section, host Local Section for the ACS Spring 2026 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting.

Actions of the Board of Directors Meeting

Board Actions

- The Board approved a resolution in honor of deceased past president Charles P. Casey.
- The Board approved the ACS Advocacy Strategy, which includes the development of a robust annual position agenda supporting long-term ACS priorities that maintain strong non-partisan relationships with legislators and support science and scientists. Key areas of focus for 2026 are available at <https://www.acs.org/policy/memberadvocacy/issues.html>.
- The Board voted to increase the size of the Committee on Pensions and Investments from 7 to 8 members to accommodate the broader expertise required for the increased complexity and expansion of ACS' investment portfolio.
- The Board approved proposed amendments to the Board Regulations intended to correct inconsistencies found following the implementation of the new Journals Advisory Board reporting to the Governing Board for Publishing.
- Contingent upon the ACS Council approving the Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board approved establishing a Board Standing Committee on Finance and authorized conforming amendments to the Board Regulations to implement the Finance Committee and align the respective roles of the Finance Committee and the proposed Society Committee on Fiscal Affairs consistent with the Council-approved petition.
- The Board approved the establishment of a Board Task Force on Board Composition in order to review and vet potential new streams of Board candidates.
- Upon recommendation of the Editor Search Committee, the Board approved the appointment of an Editor-in-Chief of the journal *ACS Nano Medicine*.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Science, the Board approved a nominee for the 2027 Grand Prix de la Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie.
- Upon recommendation of the National Awards

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Advisory Board, the Board approved a nominee for the 2027 Othmer Gold Medal.

- Upon recommendation of the Subcommittee on the Priestley Medal Slate, the Board approved a screened list of nominees for the 2027 Priestley Medal.
- Upon recommendation of the Subcommittee on the Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS Selection, the Board approved a screened list of nominees for the 2027 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS.
- The Board approved the meeting dates and locations for their 2027 June and December Board meetings. The June 2027 meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2027 Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The December 2027 meeting will be held at ACS headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- The Board approved suspension of the Regulations governing the timing of the 2027 Board Chair election and approved advancing the timing of the Board Chair election to a special Board meeting to be held virtually following the close of the fall elections.
- The Board approved minutes from the Board Executive Session on December 12-13, 2025.
- The Board also acted on recommendations of the Committee on Executive Compensation.

Board Discussions

- Committee on Strategic Alignment Chair Will Lynch facilitated a strategic discussion on advocacy.
- Board Chair Wayne Jones facilitated a discussion about themes emerging from feedback Board members have received from the ACS community.
- ACS President Rigoberto Hernandez brought new business to the Board, requesting a review of the Presidential Succession budget allocation. The Board directed the request to the new Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

Reports

- CEO Albert Horvath and his staff provided organizational updates on current affairs and planning for 2026. He highlighted:
- ACS pilot corporate membership agreements and organizational partnerships,
 - o the global strategy for Society Programs,
 - o a proposed ACS advocacy strategy,
 - o ACS 150th anniversary activities, and
 - o ACS financial performance for year-end 2025.
- General Counsel Tokë Vandervort provided the annual conflict of interest disclosure report and Head of Global Ethics and Compliance Natalie

Thingelstad facilitated an educational session on fiduciary duties and conflicts of interest.

- Chair of the Committee on Audits and Risk Management Lisa Houston provided a brief update on the ongoing efforts of the committee, including an update from Chief Information Security Officer Jason Ridgeway on enterprise information security.
- Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Emily Kunchala reported that the external audit of ACS financials for year-end 2025 was successfully completed and accepted by the Committee on Audits and Risk Management.
- Representatives of the Future of Meetings Task Force, Amber Hinkle (Chair), Sheila Murphy, Jarrod Cohen and Young-Shin Jun, provided the final report to the Board. The Task Force was discharged with thanks.
- The Governing Board for Publishing provided

updates from interim CAS President Tim Wahlberg and ACS Publications President Jim Milne, including highlights on strategic investments in AI and priorities for 2026.

- Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance Paul Jagodzinski reviewed the Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance.
- Members of the Presidential Succession provided reports on their 2026 initiatives and activities.
- Written reports were reviewed from the 2025 CEO Initiative Fund, Human Resources, Treasurer, Committee on Strategic Alignment, Board of Trustees for the Group Insurance Plans, National Awards Advisory Board, and the Committees on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and Education.



22 Years of ACS Spring National Meeting Attendance Statistics

2004: Anaheim, CA:	14,141
2005: San Diego, CA:	15,385
2006: Atlanta, GA:	12,546
2007: Chicago, IL:	14,520
2008: New Orleans, LA:	13,454
2009: Salt Lake City, UT:	10,668
2010: San Francisco, CA:	18,067
2011: Anaheim, CA:	14,047
2012: San Diego, CA:	16,864
2013: New Orleans, LA:	15,596
2014: Dallas, TX:	13,680
2015: Denver, CO:	13,930
2016: San Diego, CA:	16,327
2017: San Francisco, CA:	18,850
2018: New Orleans, LA:	16,585
2019: Orlando, FL:	15,605
2020:	No National meeting due to Covid
2021:	Virtual meeting only
2022: San Diego, CA:	12,566 (hybrid meeting)
2023: Indianapolis, IN:	12,623
2024: New Orleans, LA:	14,368 (13,122 in person, 1,246 virtual)
2025: San Diego, CA:	15,322 (14,250 in-person, 1,081 virtual) <i>5,970 first time attendees, 2,708 International, 547 Exhibitors, 320 Guests</i>
2026: Atlanta, GA:	13,605 (12,553 in-person, 1,052 virtual) <i>5,300 first time attendees, 5,843 students, 335 Exhibitors, 265 Guests</i>

ACS Committees Need You!

ACS welcomes all members on Standard and Premium packages to serve on non-elected committees!

Learn more about how ACS Committees fit into the Society's governance structure and how YOU can become involved.



Interested in Serving on an ACS National Committee in 2027?

Deadline: July 6, 2026

The process for selecting *ACS Council-related committee* appointments for 2027 is now underway. If you are interested in serving on an ACS Committee, please complete the *online committee preference form*, which allows you to indicate your committee interests, background, and relevant experience.

The form is available at <http://www.cmte.acs.org> and will remain open through July 6, 2026.

As you submit your preferences, please keep the following in mind:

- Individuals completing a term or reaching a committee's statutory limit are strongly encouraged to submit the form to reaffirm their interest in continued service.
- Your ACS membership must be in good standing to complete your committee preferences.
- Please select only those committees for which you can actively engage and attend meetings, whether virtually or in person. ACS committees are working committees; attendance (virtually or in-person) and participation at committee and subcommittee meetings are important.
- Most initial appointments are one year, non voting associate positions. Associates must submit the form each year to be considered for reappointment.

- Consultants are appointed for one year terms and must have a clearly defined role or project.

- Associates and consultants participate fully in discussions and subcommittee work but do not vote on official committee motions.

As part of the appointment process, the Committee on Committees (ConC) seeks broad representation across the Society. Diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives help ensure ACS remains effective and forward looking.

All preference submissions are reviewed by ConC as it prepares recommendations during the ACS Fall Meeting. Final appointments are made by the ACS President and/or Board Chair in late fall. While not all applicants can be appointed, each submission will receive full consideration.

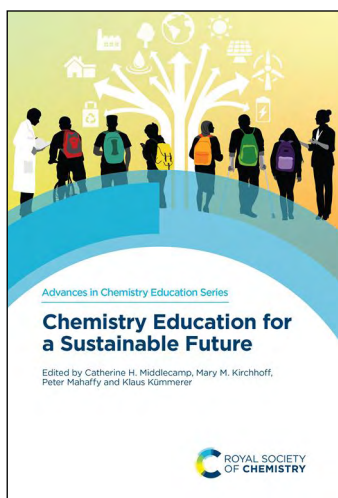
If you need assistance, please contact the Office of the Secretary at secretary@acs.org. Thank you for your interest and for your service to the Society.

Sincerely,

Brian Mathes, Chair, ACS Committee on Committees (ConC) and
Carmen Valdez Gauthier, Chair, Committee Appointment Systems
Improvement (CASI) Working Group



Open-Access Book: Chemistry Education for a Sustainable Future



“How can chemistry education better prepare students to help sustain life on our planet?”

This book explores how educators can integrate sustainability into chemistry teaching and equip the next generation of scientists to address global challenges.

This book highlights the importance of connecting chemistry with broader sustainability concepts that are often missing from traditional curricula, including:

- Systems thinking
- Planetary boundaries
- U.N. Sustainable Development Goals
- Ethics in science

The book also provides practical strategies and teaching approaches to help educators integrate sustainability concepts into chemistry courses and empower students to become scientists—and citizens—who can responsibly contribute to a thriving future.”

Chemistry Education for a Sustainable Future; Catherine H. Middlecamp, Mary M. Kirchoff, Peter Mahaffy, Klaus Kümmerer, Eds.; Advances in Chemistry Education Series, Vol. 13.; Royal Society of Chemistry, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1039/9781837676576>

Read the full book online: <https://brnw.ch/21x1gPY>

Source: *ACS Green Chemistry Institute, LinkedIn, April 2, 2026*

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](#)

Join the Global Mentorship Initiative



"Every student deserves a champion. Talent is everywhere. Opportunity is not. Every year, 45 million young people around the world graduate from degree-seeking programs. Too many remain unemployed.

They have talent and degrees, but they lack networks, confidence, and career-readiness skills to secure their first professional job.

Global Mentorship Initiative (GMI) is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that helps historically underrepresented graduates secure their first professional roles and build thriving careers. GMI matches first-generation, low-income, and refugee students with a dedicated mentor who provides personalized one-to-one career coaching during one of the most challenging and consequential moments of their lives, the transition from education to employment.

GMI's virtual model ensures that students from anywhere in the world have access to guided support to prepare to secure their first professional job and build the foundation for thriving careers."

[About GMI](#) | [Apply for Mentorship](#) | [Become a Mentor](#)

Learn more: [How Companies Can Partner With Nonprofits For Social Impact](#). Forbes, November 18, 2024.

Reactions Science Video on Creating Liquid Marbles



[Watch video on YouTube](#) | [View Sources](#)

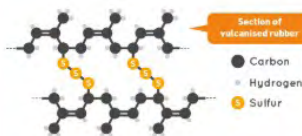
"A liquid marble is an otherworldly combination of liquid and solid. Shaped like a solid marble but with many properties of a liquid, these strange objects were introduced in a 2001 *Nature* article and quickly went viral. Our host George finds the original paper and starts to experiment, realizing he might be able to make a new scientific discovery. Through his excitement, he misses the crucial fact that it's been cited over 1,000 times. But despite this oversight, he still makes a possible breakthrough: creating magnetic liquid marbles more simply and cheaply, and in a completely new way."

What are rubber ducks made from?

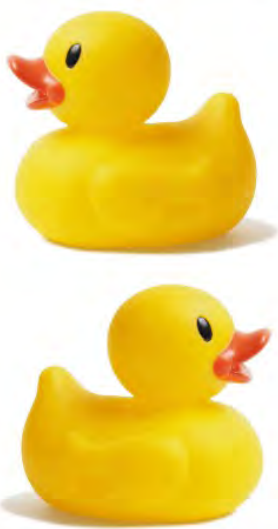
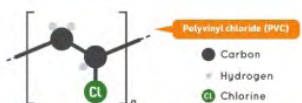


Rubber duck materials

Rubber ducks are made from rubber, right? Wrong! While rubber ducks began as chew toys made from hard, vulcanised rubber, these ducks didn't float. Rubber is vulcanised by treating it with sulfur. This increases rubber's rigidity by forming cross-links between sections of the rubber chains.



The rubber ducks of the bath toy variety were initially made from hollow vulcanised rubber, but since the late 1940s manufacturers have commonly made them from polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Pigments added to the PVC give rubber ducks their colour.

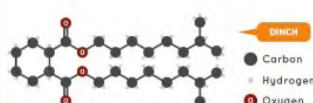


Plasticisers old and new

Because PVC is usually a rigid plastic, manufacturers add compounds called plasticisers. Plasticisers mix with the polymer and increase the space between the polymer chains, making the plastic softer and flexible.



Historically, manufacturers used phthalate plasticisers such as di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) in rubber ducks. However, a number of phthalates may disrupt human hormones and damage fertility. Some are also harmful to the environment. Consequently, several phthalates are now banned in uses including children's toys. Alternatives used today include 1,2-cyclohexane dicarboxylic acid diisononyl ester (DINCH), terephthalates, and adipates.



www.compoundchem.com

© Andy Brunning/Compound Interest 2026 | Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License
Photo: © Adobe Stock, #50534020



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



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](#)



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](#)

2026 Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee

Section Officers

Chair

2026

Natalie McClure

Chair-Elect

2026

Karan Dikshit

Past-Chair

2026

Amanda Nelson

Secretary

2025-2026

Jigisha Shah

Treasurer

2026-2027

Ihab Darwish

Councilors

2024-2026

Grace Baysinger

2024-2026

Natalie McClure

2025-2027

Linda Brunauer

2025-2027

Jane Frommer

2026-2028

Ihab Darwish

2026-2028

Madalyn Radlauer

Alternate Councilors

2024-2026

Karan Dikshit

2024-2026

Howard Peters

2025-2027

Eefei Chen

2025-2027

Jose Ramirez

2026-2028

Maria Dulay

2026-2028

Maureen Scharberg

Newsletter

Editor

2026

Grace Baysinger

Sr. Assoc. Editor

2026

Jane Frommer

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.