

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST

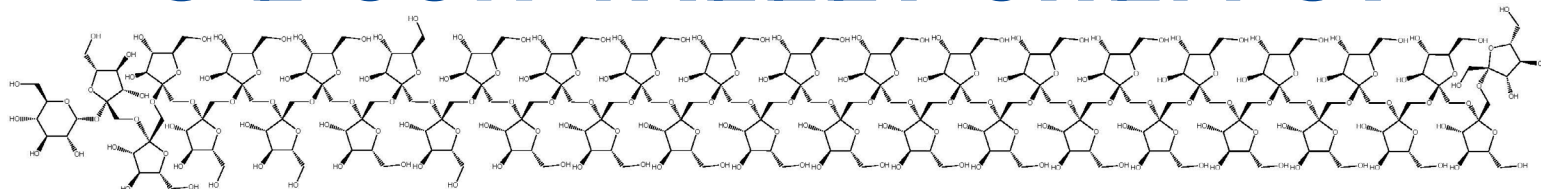


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Silicon Valley ACS Annual Picnic and Awards

July 11, 2026

A family-friendly event, join us with friends and family for *our annual picnic* and awards! [Download flyer](#)

- **Date and Time:** Saturday, July 11, 2026, 4-7pm
 - 4:00-5:00 pm: Wine-tasting with hors d'oeuvres
 - 5:00 pm: Awards and Recognitions – *SVACS Ottenberg Award* and celebrating 50-, 60- and 70-year ACS members who live in our region
 - BBQ will immediately follow awards & recognitions, catered by Armadillo Willy's
- **Location:** Cuesta Park Group BBQ Areas #1-2, Mountain View, CA ([view map](#), [get directions](#))
- **Cost:** \$10.00/person. Children: free.
Payment by cash or check at the door. Make checks out to "Silicon Valley ACS."

Registration is required by July 6th to be sure enough food is ordered!



Silicon Valley ACS  **Annual Picnic & Awards**

Come celebrate together with
wine-tasting, good food & awards

Saturday, 11 July 2026
4-7 pm
Cuesta Park Group BBQ
Areas #1 & #2, Mountain View

For information go to
<https://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/event/silicon-valley-acs-2026-picnic-and-awards/>
Registration (deadline 6 July 2026) is required to make sure there is plenty of food
catered by Armadillo Willy's.

Join the 2027 Silicon Valley ACS Leadership Team

We know you want to do more to support our section but don't know how or what you can do. Every fall SVACS members elect the leadership group that governs our local section and represents our section at the National ACS level.

We want you to run for a position! We have six open positions this year:

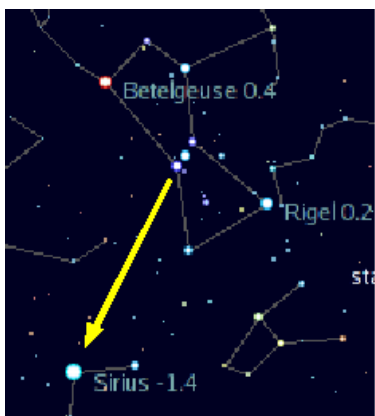
- Chair-Elect to run the rotation through Chair and then immediate past Chair
- Secretary with a 2-year term
- Councilors (two positions)
- Alternate-Councilors (two positions)

On behalf of the current Silicon Valley ACS leadership (the Executive Committee), the Nominations Committee requests any and all interested candidates to make yourselves known. [Learn more about the duties for each position.](#)

Email chair@siliconvalleyacs.org if you are interested in one of these positions. We welcome you!

Chair's Message

Welcome to the "Dog Days of Summer". When I was growing up in Michigan, I always thought that this season was called this because it is so hot and humid and that the only thing that was comfortable to do was to lie around in the shade, not quite panting. We are lucky in Northern California that even the hottest days are quite nice, especially compared to the rest of the US.



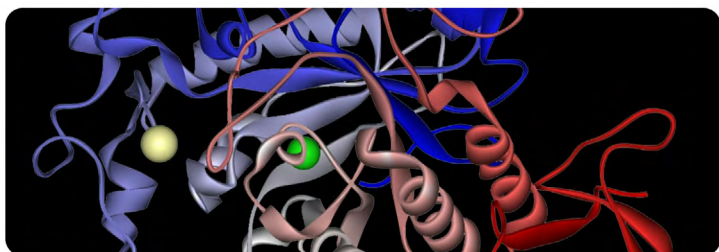
In addition to following Orion into the night sky, the Dog Star Sirius can be easily located in the heavens by following the line created by the prominent asterism Orion's Belt.

However, Wikipedia informs me that this phrase dates all the way back to the 8th Century and is a reference to Sirius, the Dog Star, which starts to rise in the evening. Sirius is the brightest star in the summer night sky, and some ancient people thought it added to the earth's heat during the period when it was visible in the sky.

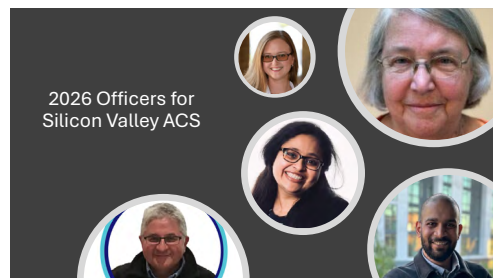
We are going to celebrate the summer with our annual picnic. It will be held on Saturday, July 11 at Cuesta Park. The summer picnic is our annual social event when we recognize the important volunteers who keep the section going and who support Chemistry in so many important ways. We will award the Ottenberg award to a Silicon Valley ACS volunteer, and the Teacher-Scholar award to a recognize the contributions of a worthy Community College Instructor. We will also celebrate the contributions of our 50-, 60- and 70-year ACS members.

I hope to see you at the picnic. But we don't typically stay long enough into the evening to witness the rise of Sirius. You'll have to do that on your own.

Biocatalysis Guide to the Most Common Enzymatic Transformations



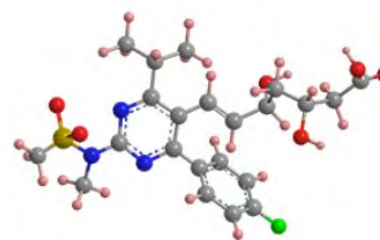
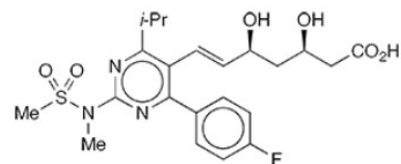
"The ACS Green Chemistry Institute Pharmaceutical Roundtable (GCIPR) recently updated their [Biocatalysis Guide](#), an easy reference to the most common enzyme classes used in the pharmaceutical industry for retrosynthetic analysis. David Entwistle, Senior Director of Technical Client Services at Codexis, shares more about this resource." [Read more](#)



CHEMISTRY

Quiz

I'm good at lowering your cholesterol, and I might be getting even better. What molecule am I?



Answer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

- July -

- Jul 2** **Flash! Bang! Boom! A History of Fireworks**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and Science History Institute (SHI)
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#) (or watch recorded video later)
[View SHI exhibit](#)
- Jul 5-11** **Tech Trek Camp at Santa Clara University for Middle School Girls**
Sponsored by American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Silicon Valley ACS
In-person at Santa Clara University, [Learn more](#)
- Jul 6** **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
- Jul 7** **Data: The engine behind AI-driven drug discovery**
Sponsored by CAS
7:00-8:00 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Jul 8** **Turning Research into Reach: Marketing Fundamentals for Scientists**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and BrandLab
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Jul 9** **Patent Signals: Mapping the Future of Pharma Innovation**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and CAS
11:00-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Jul 11** **2026 Silicon Valley ACS' Annual Picnic and Awards**
Cuesta Park, Group BBQ Areas #1-2, Mountain View, California
4:00-7:00 pm, In-person. \$10 regular, children free.
[Register by July 6, 2026](#)
- Jul 12-18** **Tech Trek Camp at UC Santa Cruz for Middle School Girls**
Sponsored by American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Silicon Valley ACS
In-person at University of California Santa Cruz, [Learn more](#)
- Jul 15** **Working for Yourself: Your Idea, Business, and Marketing Strategy**
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00-10:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Jul 15** **Stanford Research Park's 75th Year Anniversary**
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemical Engineering
5:30-7:30 pm, In-person at The Hub at Stanford Research Park, 3215 Porter Dr, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (free parking at 3165 Porter)
[Learn more](#)
- Jul 22** **Exploring Strange New Worlds: Rocky Exoplanet Atmospheres with the James Webb Space Telescope**
Sponsored by Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (KIPAC)
7:00-8:00 pm, Hybrid, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Jul 23** **Neuroinclusion by Design: Rethinking Workplace Dynamics**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Office of Inclusion and Belonging
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Jul 24** **From Pixels to Pollution: Liquid Crystal Monomers, Neurotoxicity, and Environmental Risk**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Committee on Science
8:00-9:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Jul 28** **2D Polymers and Polymerizations**
Prof. William Dichtel, Northwestern University
Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum
6:30-7:30 pm, Online, Free/\$5 donation, [Register by July 27th at 1pm](#)

- August and beyond -

- Aug 23-27** **ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting**
Chicago and Online, [Advanced registration ends July 23rd](#)
- Oct 2** **Bay Area Chemistry Symposium**
[Learn more](#)
- Oct 9** **CRB60: A Symposium Celebrating Carolyn Bertozzi's Legacy and Impact on Chemical Biology**
Sponsored by Stanford Sarafan ChEM-H
9:00 am-6:30 pm, In-person at Paul Berg Auditorium, \$25
[Learn more and register](#)
- Oct 17** **Bay Area Science Festival 2026**
11:00 am-4:00 pm, In-person at UCSF Mission Bay Campus, Koret Quad, Free, [Learn more](#)
- Oct 20-21** **Introductory Overview: Polymers in Advanced Semiconductor Technologies**
Sponsored by Gold Gate Polymer Forum, 1.5-day live virtual short course
Discounted early registration ends Sunday, Aug. 2
[Course info & registration](#)

International Science & Engineering Fair: ACS Chemistry & the Law Awards

by Howard Peters

2026 Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF)

Many STEM careers start with a high school science fair competition. Each year more than 1,600 ninth through twelfth graders earn the right to compete at Regeneron ISEF by winning a top prize at a Society-affiliated local, regional, state or national science fair. National ACS has participated in ISEF for many years, donating \$10,000 annually to support award winners. The ACS Division of Chemistry and the Law (CHAL) also presented awards totaling \$10,000 at ISEF due to a donation from the Peters-Bhatt STEM Family.

Chemistry and the Law (CHAL) High School Student Awardees at ISEF

The 2026 CHAL science fair presentations were reviewed by Howard Peters, James Carver and Lisa Balbes. The award winners are listed below:

Fourth Place Award, \$1,000

Sustainable Agriculture Enabled by Biodegradable Hydrogels for Improved Water and Nutrient Management

Aubrey Rose Isakson, Kidder County Tappen, Steele, ND, Southeast North Dakota Regional Science and Engineering Fair



CHAL Judges: James Carver PhD, JD and Howard Peters PhD, JD (both ACS Fellows) were Special Award judges at ISEF 2026 and awarded the high school students on behalf of the ACS Division of Chemistry and the Law (CHAL). Dr. Lisa Balbas (ACS Fellow) participated on the judging team virtually.

Third Place Award, \$2,000

Unlocking a Tenfold Increase in Battery Performance: Poly (citric Acid) as a Novel Binder for Silicon Anode Batteries

Ryan Tae, Jericho High School, Old Westbury, NY, Long Island Science and Engineering Fair

Second Place Award, \$3,000

The Effect of Different Rapidly-Composed,

Biodegradable Hydrogel Formulations on Adhesion, Fire Retardation, and Viscosity

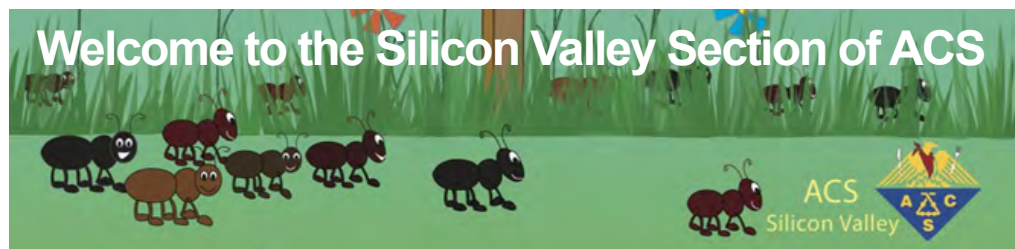
Margaret Saperstein, Washington-Lee High School, Arlington, VA, Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair

First Place Award, \$4,000

Colorimetric Arsenic Detection at Micromolar Concentrations and Machine Learning Assisted Development of a Composite Teabag for Arsenic Bioremediation in Drinking Water

Vick Tan, EP Academy, Eden Prairie, MN, Minnesota Academy of Science State Science & Engineering Fair

ACS Division of Chemistry and the Law (CHAL) provides a dedicated professional forum for chemists working at the intersection of science and jurisprudence. CHAL actively advances the field through cutting-edge symposia, presentations at national, regional, and local section meetings, informative newsletters, and specialized career counseling. By frequently collaborating with the ACS Committee on Intellectual Property, the division remains at the forefront of legal matters impacting the global chemical enterprise.



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 our newest scientists - 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. *The annual July picnic* is a great opportunity to mingle and meet fellow ACSers. Kid- and pet-friendly, too! 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 at a local 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

Rahil Ali
Jonah Chang
Mee-Kyung Chung
James R. Fore
Eric Geistfeld
Saeed Izadi

Kavish Kaup
Gyanendra Kumar
Albert Alexander Lee
Kailai Lin
Richard Lin

Olga Merino-Chavez
Corinne Mitchell
Hua Sun
Khalilia Tillet
Sarah Wilson

ACS' First Sustainability Report



"ACS has released its first annual Sustainability Report outlining environmental impact, sustainability strategy, and recent sustainability-related activities and accomplishments."

[Read the report](#) (PDF)

2026 Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award Winner: Jillian Blatti

By Maureen Scharberg, Chair Teacher-Scholar Award Committee

Serving 1.8 million students, the California Community College system is the largest system of higher education in the country with 116 community colleges. To recognize the invaluable contributions of community college chemistry faculty, the *Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award* was initiated in 2008.

The Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award honors community college chemistry faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching, mentoring and scholarship and/or who make impactful contributions to their communities through outstanding leadership and service. This year's winner is Jillian L. Blatti, Associate Professor at Pasadena City College.

Dr. Veronica Jaramillo, her nominator for this award, noted that "She is a dedicated mentor, a rigorous researcher, and a visionary educator who has transformed the lives of countless students. Her work demonstrates that excellence in chemistry education is not just about information dissemination but about empowering a diverse next generation of scientists to solve the world's more pressing challenges."

Please join us for the presentation of this award at the annual Silicon Valley ACS summer picnic on July 11, 2026 in Mountain View. This lively SVACS tradition is family-friendly, so bring friends

and family to enjoy barbecue, wine-tasting, and good company.



Jillian L. Blatti, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Pasadena City College (PCC), where she teaches General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, General/Organic/Biochemistry, and Environmental Science. She leads an undergraduate research group through the early Career Undergraduate Research Experience program at PCC. Her research addresses biochemistry and environmental education, DNA nanotechnology, and the development of innovative educational activities that she implements in courses and outreach—including projects at the intersection of art and science. She leads the 'Nanostars' undergraduate research program at PCC in collaboration with Caltech, UCLA, and UCSB that focuses on DNA nanotechnology. This program has empowered

twenty female students to become capable scientists and scholars on a pathway toward a successful STEM career. Jillian was part of the algae biotechnology community as a graduate student at UC San Diego where her research elucidated protein-protein interactions that enabled engineering fatty acid biosynthesis in microalgae for sustainable bioenergy. At UCSD Jillian began her outreach program for underrepresented students, setting up an algae biotechnology laboratory at an inner-city high school. She continued translating research at PCC into outreach lessons focused on modern science and technology, including recent modules based on the Nanostars' research in DNA nanotechnology. With her research group she has developed engaging laboratory activities on systems thinking and sustainability science, algae bioenergy, natural artistic paints made through green chemistry, the art of microscopy (SEM, AFM, fluorescence microscopy), and DNA nanotechnology (DNA origami, DNA condensates). These laboratory activities are implemented in her courses at PCC and in STEM outreach to K-12 schools and diverse Los Angeles communities. Outside of science, her interests include music composition and performance, creating nanoart, exploring nature, the Los Angeles Dodgers, and hanging out with her family and Bengal cat.

Flash! Bang! Boom! A History of Fireworks Celebrating ACS 150



Attend ACS & SHI Webinar on July 2, 11am-Noon
Pacific Time or Watch Recording

View Science History Institute Exhibit

"Despite their fleeting brilliance, fireworks have shaped global celebrations, political spectacle, and scientific innovation for centuries.

Whether you are celebrating the Fourth of July with fireworks or simply watching from afar, pyrotechnics offer a fascinating window

into world history, culture, and the evolution of science and technology itself. Join curator Jesse Smith for a special presentation connected to a *new exhibition at the Science History Institute* exploring the remarkable history of fireworks. From royal weddings and Olympic ceremonies to military victories, national holidays, and public festivals, discover how fireworks have illuminated humanity's biggest moments across time and

around the globe.

This ACS Webinar is moderated by Margot Wohl of the American Chemical Society and co-produced with the *Science History Institute*. As part of the ongoing celebration of the ACS 150th anniversary, this month we celebrate chemistry's transformative contributions to science and society. Join the jamboree at www.acs.org/150."



Contributors to this Issue

Grace Baysinger

Eefei Chen

Jane Frommer

Natalie McClure

Howard Peters

Maureen Scharberg

ACS Statement on Proposed OMB Rule on Federal Financial Assistance

"The American Chemical Society (ACS) is actively reviewing the US Federal Government's Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) *proposed rule on Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, issued on May 29, 2026. We appreciate that the proposed rule is concerning in its scale and scope.

The proposal contains significant changes that could affect how scientific research is funded, conducted, communicated, and shared. ACS is evaluating the potential implications for the chemistry enterprise, including impacts on research funding, peer review, scientific publishing, conference participation, professional memberships, and international scientific collaboration.

As one of the world's largest scientific societies, ACS is committed to ensuring that the perspectives of the chemistry community are represented. ACS is conducting a comprehensive analysis of the proposal and will submit a formal comment to OMB by its July 13, 2026, deadline.

Given the breadth and complexity of the proposed rule, ACS is also coordinating closely with scientific and scholarly organizations across the United States to better understand potential impacts and identify areas of shared concern. ACS CEO Albert G. Horvath recently joined leaders from nearly 100 scientific societies to discuss the proposal and opportunities for collective engagement.

Scientific progress depends on rigorous peer review, open collaboration, broad dissemination of research findings, and strong professional communities. ACS will continue to advocate for policies that support scientific discovery, innovation, and the advancement of chemistry for the benefit of society.

Additional updates will be shared with the ACS community as our analysis and advocacy efforts progress. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact the ACS Government Affairs Team via policy@acs.org."

Source: <https://www.acs.org/policy/washington-science/2026-public-comments/2026-ac-omb-proposal-statement.html>



Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research

ACS Refreshes its Guidelines to the Ethical Publication of Chemical Research

"Major updates to the *ACS Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research* provide guidance on expectations across the publication process. They can help you protect your reputation and the integrity and reliability of the scientific record." [Learn more](#)

Source: *ACS Axial*, June 22, 2026



Get Ready for the ACS Fall 2026 Chemists Making History. Be Part of It.

Chicago, IL & Digital | August 23-27

Advance registration ends July 23rd

Registration & Pricing Meeting Badge Pickup	Virtual Platform Digital Only Sessions
Ways to Attend Travel Hotels Discover Chicago	Schedule Overview Keynote Events Featured Programming Industry Programming
Attendee Resources 1st Time Attendees	Student Programming Poster Sessions & SciMix
Exposition Floor Plan Exhibitor Directory	Full Program Program for Print/Download
Frequently Asked Questions Policies	Presenter & Presider Hub
Registration Statistics Meeting Demographics	Career Events Social Events & Networking

The *ACS Fall 2026 Virtual Platform* is available. To access the full virtual platform, you must be signed in with your ACS ID. ACS President Rigoberto Hernandez welcomes you to the Fall Meeting, a time that includes celebrating ACS' 150th Anniversary.



[Watch video](#)

250 Years of American Science

Fireworks – Three Infographics



FRANKLIN'S EXPERIMENT, JUNE 1752.
Demonstrating the identity of Lightning and Electricity, from which he invented the Lightning Rod.

“The U.S. has been a country of citizen-scientists from its very beginning. As scientists around the country celebrate the nation’s founding this Independence Day, they can take pride in the 250 years of science and innovation that have shaped the U.S.” [Read more](#)

Source: [Association of American Universities](#)

Drop Testing "Unbreakable" Ice (Pykrete)

A Reactions Science Video



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

“During World War II, British inventor Geoffrey Pyke proposed building an aircraft carrier out of ice. Stirring a little wood pulp into the water before freezing it, he found, produced a composite far tougher than ice alone. The Allies named the material pykrete. But long-range aircraft made the idea obsolete, and the recipe has drifted along as a curiosity ever since.

In this episode of Reactions, our host, George Zaidan, picks up where Pyke's team left off: How does pykrete actually work, and can it be made stronger? Zaidan starts in his basement with pine shavings and sawdust, before working his way up to iron filings, diaper gel, and even a batch of homemade wood pulp brewed in a bucket. He tests each one against a hammer, a blowtorch, a pump-action pellet gun, and a homemade drop rig. Then he heads to the roof of the American Chemical Society building in downtown D.C., where he walks away with what may be a brand-new high-strength building material.”

The Chemistry of Firework Colours



[View article and enlarge image](#)

Firework bangs, crackles and whistles



[View article and enlarge image](#)

THE CHEMISTRY OF FIREWORK POLLUTION

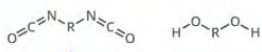
[View article and enlarge image](#)

The chemistry of the World Cup ball



Polyurethane coating

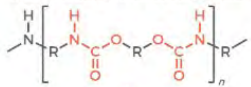
The surface covering of a football is composed of synthetic leather, in professional footballs, this is made from polyurethane polymers. Most modern footballs are made from a number of polyurethane panels, which are thermally bonded together. This covering protects the ball and minimises water absorption. In cheaper footballs, the coating can be made from PVC.



Isocyanate

Polyol

R represents the portion of the organic molecule that can be varied depending on the specific polyurethane that is being synthesised.



Polyurethane

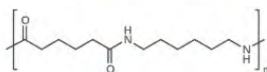
urethane linkages are shown in orange

Polyurethane is a polymer, a very large molecule built up from many smaller units bonded together. The basic synthesis of polyurethanes involves the addition reaction of isocyanate and polyol molecules to form urethane groups.



Nylon lining

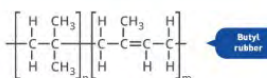
Several layers of lining are used between the covering of the football and the bladder to improve the bounce and strength of the ball. This lining is made of nylon, another class of polymers also known as polyamides. Polyesters can also be used for this purpose.



Nylon 6-6

Butyl bladder

The bladder is the part of the ball in which the air is contained. Butyl rubber is often used because it retains the air better than the other option, latex. However, latex bladders can provide better surface tension.



Butyl rubber

ration r:m = 0.985:0.015

www.compoundchem.com

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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/>

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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

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