

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST

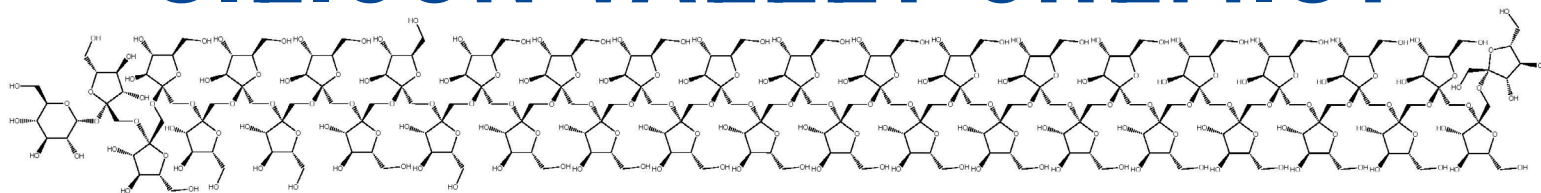


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2026 SVACS Abraham Ottenberg Service Award Recipient – Dr. Eefei Chen

Dr. Eefei Chen has demonstrated outstanding service to the section through her long-standing contribution of a unique talent: creating captivating communications graphics coupled with a deep understanding of the science behind it. Her artwork enlivens public-facing communications, from the website homepage to seminar flyers to logos for on-going programs. Examples abound, illustrated in the examples of logos for the SVACS programs: *Teacher-Scholar Community College Teacher Award*, *the Bubble Grant*, and *Paving the Path*.



Natalie McClure and Peter Rusch present Ottenberg Award to Eefei Chen.

Readers of the monthly SVACS newsletter are often greeted with a cover illustration of her creation. The SVACS newsletter [archive](#) illustrates that robust collection of cover art. Every year she assembles a collage of the past year's illustrations into a tasteful year-in-review. See a collection of the past three years [here](#).

Eefei Chen has been contributing her artistic talents to SVACS for nearly ten years. For the award-winning *NoBelles* performances in 2018, she generated all the advertising material and theatre playbills, overseeing the playbill commercial printing to assure high quality. Her professional-level graphics-rendering of many aspects in the planning and execution of the multi-day event undoubtedly contributed to the success of *NoBelles*.

Eefei has also taken responsibility for creating the section's posters featured at ACS National and Regional events. For example, ChemLuminary receptions featuring SVACS as a finalist display Eefei's posters illustrating the activity that merited the nomination.

Eefei's contributions go beyond skillfully designing effective communication for the section. She is in the SVACS leadership team as an *Alternate Councilor* on the section's Executive Committee. She also chairs the Bubble Grant Committee, having served on it for the past few years. Her community connections have generated multiple applications to the Bubble Grant program. *The Bubble Grant* is an award of equipment for local K-12 science classrooms.

When not wielding the virtual paintbrush, Dr. Chen is an accomplished scientist at UCSC. In her studies of protein folding and function, she has built a nanosecond laser temperature-jump optical rotatory dispersion system to study early events in protein folding/unfolding.

SVACS is fortunate to have the artistic and scientific and societal dedication of Dr. Eefei Chen, recognized by the 2026 *Abraham Ottenberg Service Award*.

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.

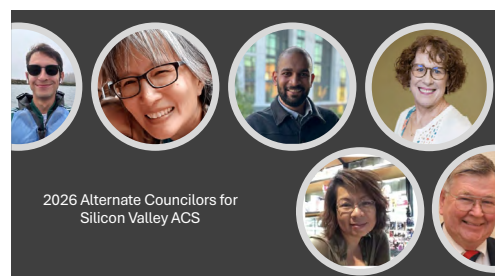
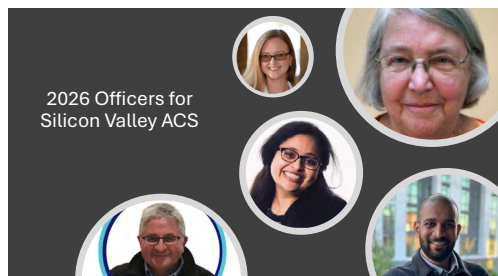
We want you to run for a position! We have six open positions this year:

- 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

ACS Policy Advocacy Efforts

One of the important activities that ACS provides is Governmental Advocacy. This may be less visible but is a critical function of ACS. ACS employs a few registered lobbyists, and supports two Congressional Fellows. As a non-profit scientific and educational organization, ACS cannot endorse political candidates. ACS advocacy focuses on support for funding of scientific endeavors such as NSF, NIH, Department of Energy, and supporting policies bolstering scientific competitiveness, diversity in STEM, and science education. A clear example of our advocacy is outlined in the newsletter article responding to the proposed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rule on federal financial assistance. ACS has also been strong advocates for reauthorization of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

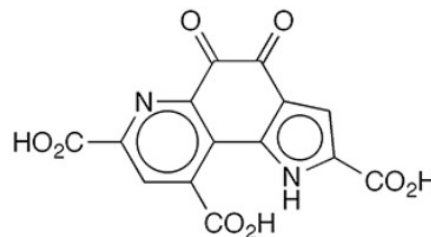
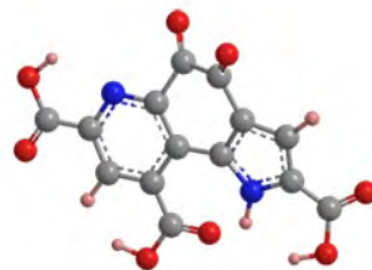
The lobbyists and their staff provide the public facing voice for ACS. However, their efforts can be greatly bolstered by support from individual ACS members contacting their Member of Congress. ACS offers many tools to make it easier to get involved. ACS offers free workshops and policy webinars to train us and help us to reach out and start making a difference. <https://www.acs.org/policy/memberadvocacy/advocacy-tools.html> The Act4Chemistry program provides notification of pending issues, and tools to make it very easy to connect with your Congress representatives. If you are interested in getting involved, I suggest you sign up for the Act4Chemistry program, and consider attending a few of the webinars which will increase your confidence and knowledge to reach out to your Congress person or submit a public comment to pending legislation.

In this time when it seems that our scientific institutions and public policies are under attack, we can all play a defending/supporting role. ACS is offering the tools to make this happen. Please check them out.

CHEMISTRY

Quiz

I'm a natural substance that may become a wonder drug.
What molecule am I?



Answer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

- August -

- Aug 5** **I Have No Prose but I must Publish: AI in Academic Publishing**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Committee on Communicating Chemistry
[Watch recording](#)
- Aug 6** **From Viral Proteases to Neuroinflammation: Chemical and Biological Insights Driving the Next Generation of COVID-19 Therapeutics**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Publications
[Watch recording](#)
- Aug 12** **Chemistry, Regulation, and Change: Understanding TSCA's Next Chapter**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars, ACS Government Affairs, and ACS Green Chemistry Institute
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Aug 13** **Smarter Routes, Smaller Footprints: Award-Winning Green Chemistry in Pharma**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Green Chemistry Institute Pharmaceutical Roundtable
11:00 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Aug 19** **Working for Yourself: Your Sales, Marketing, and Financing Plan**
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00 am-10:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Aug 19** **ORCID 101: The ORCID iD and Record**
Sponsored by ORCID US Community
9:00 am-10:00 am Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Aug 19** **AI-powered synthetic planning with CAS SciFinder and CAS Newton**
Sponsored by CAS
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Aug 19** **How Many Tie Chains are Needed for a Semicrystalline Polymer to be Ductile?**
Prof. Richard A. Register, Princeton University
Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum
6:00 pm-7:00 pm, Online, Free/\$5 Donation, [Registration required by Aug. 18 at 1pm](#)
- Aug 20** **How Python can Streamline your Chem Lab**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Office of Career and Professional Education
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Aug 23-27** **ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting**
Chicago and Online, [Learn more](#)
- Aug 29** **A Tribute to Hans C. Andersen, Prof. Emeritus of Chemistry, Stanford University**
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00 pm-5:00 pm, In-person and online, Free, [Learn more](#)

- September and beyond -

- Sep 2** **Future-Proof Your Chemistry Career for 2030**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Industrial Engagement
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Sep 3** **2026 Ig Nobel Prizes (36th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony)**
Sponsored by Improbable Research
10:00 am-11:30 am, [Watch Livestream on YouTube](#) | [Learn more](#)
- Sep 8** **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
- Sep 10** **Catalyze the Vote! Meet the 2027 ACS President-Elect Candidates**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars, ACS Younger Chemists Committee, and ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Sep 12** **A City on Mars: Can We Settle Space, Should We Settle Space, and Have We Really Thought This Through?**
Dr. Kelly Weinersmith, Adjunct Professor at Rice University
Sponsored by California ACS Women Chemists Committee and AAUW California
10:30 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#) | [Download Flyer \(PDF\)](#)
- Sep 16** **AI-Guided Molecular Design: From Biological Programming to Drug Discovery**
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Publications
8:00 am-9:30 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
- Oct 2** **Bay Area Chemistry Symposium (BACS), South San Francisco**
See flyer in this newsletter. [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 Golden Gate Polymer Forum, 1.5-day live virtual short course
Regular registration rate ends Oct. 5, 2026, at 8:00 pm
[Course info & registration](#)

2026 Annual SVACS Picnic



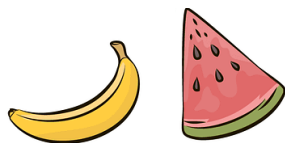
Natalie and Peter surprise Eefei with the Ottenberg Award



Ed Peltzer accepts his 50-year certificate from Karan



Karan presents to Lynn Forester 50-year certificate



Ihab reflects the good cheer



Time to enjoy annual BBQ fixings



Grace and Frank bring next generation chemists



Madalyn and family



Supreme picnic organizer, Sally, takes a break



Teacher-Scholar Jillian and family came all the way from Pasadena to join us

Silicon Valley ACS Members Celebrate 50+ Years of ACS Membership in 2026

ACS Members celebrating fifty or more years of ACS membership in 2026 received certificates of recognition from the ACS Board of Directors in grateful recognition of their long-standing support and involvement in the American Chemical Society.

50-Year Members

Ms. Sheri Almeda
Dr. Martha Bond
Dr. Stuart Builder
Dr. Sandra Degen
Dr. James Ellern
Dr. Michael Fayer
Dr. Lynn Forester
Dr. Gunila Gillberg
Dr. Timothy Johnson

Dr. Leo Kadehjian

Dr. Toni Kline

Dr. Russ Lehrman

Dr. Harold Lips

Dr. Jon McCarty

Dr. Robert Pecora

Dr. Edward Peltzer

Dr. Hing Sham

Dr. Yung Tsai Yen



60-Year Members

Dr. Philip Crews

Mr. Leonard Lee

Dr. Yi Ma

Prof. Dewey Rhu



70-Year Members

Dr. R Wayne Ohline

2026 Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award Winner

Dr. Jillian Blatti Boland, Associate Professor, Pasadena City College (PCC), was recognized as the 2026 Silicon Valley ACS Teacher-Scholar Award winner on July 11, 2026, at Silicon Valley ACS' Annual Picnic and Awards event. This award honors community college chemistry faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching, mentoring and scholarship and who make impactful contributions to their communities through outstanding leadership and service. See the [July issue of the newsletter](#) for more details.

Dr. Boland heads 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 which 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 not only empowered twenty female students to become capable scientists and scholars on a pathway toward a successful STEM career, but also instilled in them the importance of mentoring the next generation.



Teacher-Scholar Jillian and family join from Pasadena



Natalie McClure presents Teacher-Scholar Award to Jillian Boland



BACS



BAY AREA CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM
connecting industry + academia

an ACS
sponsored
event



The 6th annual **Bay Area Chemistry Symposium**, an ACS sponsored symposium for Synthesis and Design in Medicinal & Process Chemistry

WHEN

Friday, October 2nd, 2026

WHERE

Merck Auditorium, South San Francisco

SUBMIT

Abstracts for talks & posters by August 21st!

This symposium, unique to the Bay Area, will provide an ideal forum for students, postdocs, and industrial chemists to meet and exchange ideas covering themes in chemical biology, synthesis, and computational chemistry. The 2026 symposium will feature keynote seminars from leading local academics & industrial chemists, as well as short talks from students, postdocs, and industry researchers. A lively poster session will offer an excellent opportunity to network with local chemists and learn about cutting-edge chemistry across the Bay Area's outstanding institutions. Visit our website for more details: bayareachemistrysymposium.com

OUR 2026 KEYNOTE ACADEMIC SPEAKERS



Prof. Michelle Arkin
UC San Francisco



Prof. Richmond Sarpong
UC Berkeley



Prof. Cody Pitts
UC Davis

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therapeutics



EYCONIS

Tech Trek Camps for Middle School Girls

Silicon Valley ACS Provides Hands-on Lab Experience

In July 2026, Silicon Valley ACS collaborated with AAUW California (American Association of University Women) to provide hands-on lab experience during Tech Trek at the University of California Santa Cruz and at Santa Clara University.

"Tech Trek is a STEM enrichment program started in 1998 in California as a weeklong summer camp that offers girls entering 8th grade a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the world of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and possibly see a future for themselves in it. Tech Trek offers the life-changing message that STEM is okay for girls!

Tech Trek is a national program offered to local branches by the California arm of the national American Association of University Women (AAUW). It is sponsored by over 100 local AAUW branches that choose to participate. Branch members fund the camperships at low or no cost to the families and work with local schools to select promising students who might not otherwise get such an opportunity."

[Learn more about Tech Trek on the AAUW California website](#)

UC Santa Cruz

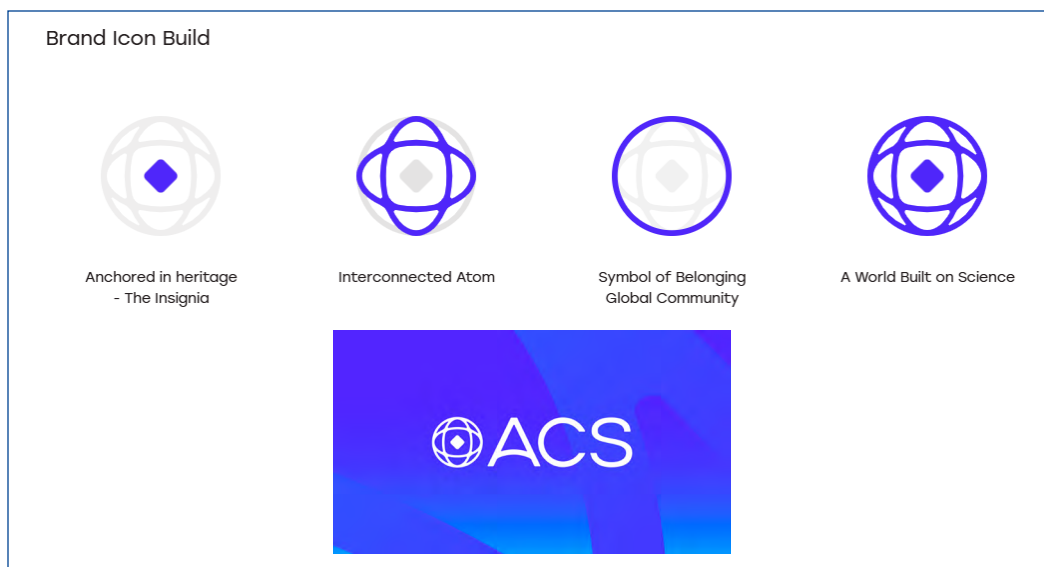


Santa Clara University



Understanding the ACS Brand Evolution

Maria T. Dulay, Ph.D.



The Society's new visual identity has generated considerable discussion among members. While some have welcomed the contemporary look, others have expressed disappointment over what appeared to be a departure from the familiar ACS logo that has represented the Society for generations.

According to ACS, however, the rebrand is not primarily about changing a logo. As Peter Jap, the ACS Senior Brand Marketing Manager explained: *"Every time I hear someone say, 'I never knew ACS did that,' I think about the opportunities people may be missing simply because they didn't realize we offered it. Whether it's a missed scholarship, a missed grant, or a valuable connection missed - that's the reason behind this rebrand. It's not about a logo or a new look. It's about helping more people discover the connections, resources, and support that ACS has to offer."*

Chair of the ACS Board of Directors, Dr. Wayne E. Jones, Jr. echoed this broader vision: *"ACS has always been a home for every kind of chemist. The brand evolution helps ensure that more people can find their place, feel welcomed, and understand the full breadth of what ACS makes possible."*

Together, these statements reflect the intent behind the brand evolution: to create a more recognizable and cohesive identity that better communicates the Society's mission to **advance scientific knowledge, empower a global community, and champion scientific integrity** across today's increasingly digital and international landscape and the many ways it serves chemists throughout their careers. The effort also aligns with the Society's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan and its 150th anniversary, providing a modern visual identity that reflects the Society's commitment

to advancing scientific knowledge, empowering global community, and championing scientific integrity.

Importantly, the legacy ACS diamond insignia and phoenix remain part of the Society's identity. The historic insignia will continue to be used for governance, awards, ceremonial recognition, and other heritage applications, while the refreshed visual identity is intended primarily for everyday communications, publications, digital media, meetings, and outreach.

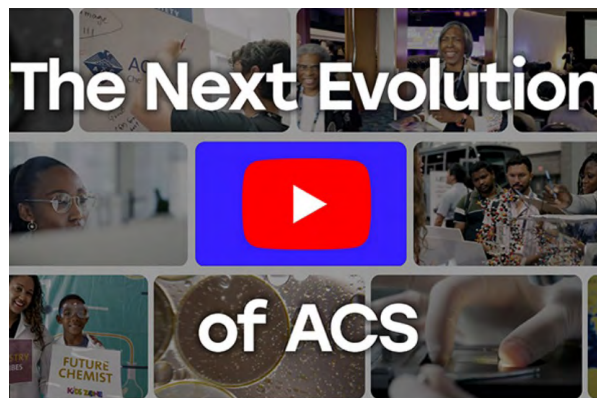
Brand evolution is not uncommon among scientific and professional societies. As organizations grow and the ways they communicate change, visual identities are periodically updated to improve consistency, accessibility, and recognition while respecting

longstanding traditions.

Whether members prefer the new look or the historic emblem, the mission of ACS remains unchanged: advancing chemistry and supporting the global chemistry enterprise. As the new branding rolls out, Local Sections, Divisions, and Student Chapters will receive resources to help incorporate the refreshed identity while continuing the Society's proud 150-year legacy.

As Local Sections, we are often the first introduction that students, educators, industry professionals, and the public have to ACS. If a stronger, more cohesive identity helps even one student discover a scholarship, one early-career chemist find a mentor, or one researcher connect with new opportunities, then the rebrand has accomplished what it was designed to do.

.....
Learn More



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

"For 150 years, ACS has been bringing scientists together to share knowledge, build connections, and advance science. We bring people, ideas, and resources together to fuel discovery, grow careers, and support the determination it takes to move science forward.

Our evolved brand reflects the momentum of science and the power of a global community working toward a better future."

ACS Responds to OMB's Proposed Rule on Federal Financial Assistance



July 9, 2026. *ACS Responds to U.S. Federal Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Proposed Rule on Federal Financial Assistance, Urging for Preservation of Merit-Based Review, Scientific Collaboration, and Stable Grant Administration*

"The American Chemical Society (ACS) is a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization representing a global community of more than 262,000 individuals across academia, industry, and government. As part of its vision of a world built on science, ACS works to strengthen the federal grant-making process, improve accountability and scientific integrity, and promote responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

For decades, American innovation, productivity increases, technological advancement, workforce development, economic growth, and scientific leadership have been a direct result of investments from the federal government.

However, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed rule would weaken core features of federal research investment. The proposed rule contains several provisions that would shift funding decisions away from

merit-based review, restrict lawful scientific collaboration, impede dissemination of research findings, and introduce unnecessary uncertainty into grant administration. Together, these changes would reduce the return on federal research investments and weaken U.S. scientific and market competitiveness.

Multiple provisions are also broadly framed and poorly defined, creating the potential for inconsistent interpretation and implementation across agencies and recipients. If OMB retains the proposed Oct. 1, 2026, effective date, the lack of clarity around key terms and agency implementation approaches would place undue burden on current grant recipients, who would be required to revise compliance systems, internal controls, reporting processes, and award-management practices. This combination of ambiguity and compressed implementation would increase administrative burden, audit risk, and uncertainty without improving the stewardship of federal research investments.

ACS, therefore, urges OMB to substantially revise the proposal to preserve merit-based review, lawful scientific collaboration, effective dissemination of research findings, and stable

grant administration. If these concerns cannot be addressed through revision, ACS recommends that OMB withdraw the proposal or delay its implementation.

Reforms should therefore be evaluated not only for compliance efficiency, but also for whether they preserve the conditions that allow federally funded research to generate long-term economic and national benefits.

Proposal Review – 200.202, 200.205, 200.300

ACS is concerned that requiring grant programs and funding opportunities to align narrowly with the administration's priorities will reduce support for basic research driven by expert individuals in science. Many significant scientific advances that now have commercial applications, including CRISPR, mRNA technologies, artificial intelligence, and quantum information science, emerged from basic research done by individual scientific investigators whose practical applications were not fully understood when funding decisions were made. The U.S. has long led the world in translating these foundational discoveries into transformative innovations that drive economic growth and improve the lives of the American people.

Merit-based review systems have been the hallmark of a healthy and innovative scientific enterprise. The proposed rule shifts authority away from longstanding merit-based review systems by allowing political appointees to serve as final decision-makers in the grant approval process. Federal research grants have traditionally been evaluated through expert peer review to ensure that funding decisions are grounded in scientific excellence, technical feasibility, and public benefit. Allowing political considerations to supersede scientific judgment risks undermining confidence in the objectivity and integrity of federal funding decisions. Given the volume of federal awards issued annually across agencies, the proposal also raises practical concerns regarding how political leadership reviews large numbers of grant determinations without creating delays, bottlenecks, or superficial approval processes.

Scientific judgment and political preference serve different purposes. Conflating the two may discourage researchers from pursuing innovative or emerging fields if funding decisions become dependent upon changing political priorities rather than scientific merit. Such uncertainty would weaken the long-term foundation of

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American scientific leadership.

Research examining biological, environmental, geographic, demographic, and social factors is also fundamental to scientific rigor. The ability to collect, analyze, and evaluate such information allows researchers to produce findings that are more accurate, reproducible, and broadly applicable. If researchers become reluctant to pursue such work because of uncertainty surrounding permissible research activities, important scientific questions will go unanswered, resulting in missed opportunities for discovery and lagging innovation.

OMB should preserve independent, merit-based peer review as the foundation of federal research funding decisions and ensure that proposal evaluation remains grounded in scientific expertise.

Collaboration – 200.202(e), 200.206, 200.220

ACS recognizes the importance of maintaining national security and agrees that legitimate concerns about national security should be addressed through appropriately tailored safeguards. Once those safeguards are in place, science is best done in an open, collaborative environment. Modern challenges in chemistry, biotechnology, energy, advanced manufacturing, and materials science frequently require expertise that spans scientific disciplines, institutions, and national boundaries. In 2024 and 2025, 40% of ACS articles published from U.S. research groups included an international collaborator, reflecting the importance of global scientific engagement. Such partnerships have historically been foundational to U.S. scientific leadership.

The proposed regulation contains broad and insufficiently defined restrictions that will stifle lawful collaboration that catalyzes innovation, economic growth, commercialization, and U.S. competitiveness.

Overbroad or undefined restrictions may cause institutions and researchers to avoid legitimate collaborations even when those activities are lawful, transparent, appropriately safeguarded, and, most importantly, beneficial to the U.S. This would reduce the quality and reach of federally funded research, slow scientific progress, and weaken U.S. leadership in innovation. Research security policies should address clearly defined risks without unnecessarily restricting the scientific partnerships that advance discovery and strengthen the research enterprise.

ACS recommends that OMB scale back overly broad prohibitions, clearly define covered

activities and risks, and work with stakeholders to balance research security objectives with lawful scientific collaboration.

Research Dissemination – 200.432, 200.450, 200.454, 200.461

Publications, subscriptions, conferences, and professional activities at these conferences are core elements of the research ecosystem. The exchange of ideas through publications and conferences is an essential mechanism through which federally funded discoveries are validated, disseminated, and translated into scientific, economic, and national benefits. Restricting support for these activities would reduce the impact and value of federal research investments.

The proposed language in Section 200.461 reflects a misunderstanding of the role publication plays in advancing federal research objectives. Publication is one of the principal ways federally funded research achieves public benefit. Peer-reviewed publication promotes transparency, reproducibility, accountability, and public trust while ensuring that research findings remain available to support future discoveries, technological advancement, and economic growth. Publication costs support peer review, quality assurance, dissemination, long-term accessibility, and compliance with federal public-access requirements.

Importantly, publication costs represent approximately 1% of total research investments yet significantly amplify the return on federal research funding. Restricting support for publication would generate minimal savings while reducing transparency, increasing administrative burdens, and limiting the dissemination of federally funded research findings. Removing or restricting support for publication would make it more difficult for federally funded researchers to communicate findings and would undermine the stated goal of maximizing the impact of funded research.

Peer-reviewed publications are widely used across government, academia, and industry. In 2024 and 2025, federal agency staff downloaded articles published in ACS journals more than 5.6 million times, while U.S. academic institutions downloaded federally funded ACS articles more than 4.8 million times and U.S. corporations accessed them more than 293,000 times. This is American research infrastructure that the rest of the past and future innovations rely on, and the proposed rule would degrade it and diminish the competitive position of U.S. journals and research outputs.

Access to scientific literature through subscriptions is essential. Researchers in government, industry, and academia rely on scientific publications to build upon prior discoveries, avoid duplication, identify emerging developments, and remain connected to advances across scientific disciplines. Restricting support for subscriptions would reduce research efficiency and diminish the return on federal investments in science and technology.

Conferences and professional activities facilitate the dissemination of research findings, foster collaboration, accelerate knowledge transfer, and support workforce development. Restrictions on conference participation would disproportionately affect graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career scientists while reducing opportunities for scientific exchange. ACS meeting data indicate that many researchers, including students and early-career scientists, depend on external or institutional support to participate in scientific meetings, underscoring that conference attendance is often part of the research process rather than a discretionary benefit.

ACS urges OMB to preserve coverage of publication, subscription, conference, and professional activity costs and to recognize these activities as integral components of the federally funded research process rather than discretionary expenses.

Grant Administration – 200.201, 200.205, 200.340

Scientific discovery often unfolds over multiple years and requires sustained support for personnel, facilities, equipment, and collaborative research teams. Administrative instability undermines the effectiveness and efficiency of those investments. The proposed expansion of termination authority, elimination of fixed-amount awards, and increased centralized review of funding decisions would introduce significant uncertainty into a research enterprise that depends upon long-term planning and stable investment.

Expanded authority to terminate or suspend awards creates substantial risks for ongoing research projects. Abrupt disruptions can strand prior federal investments, interrupt research progress, dissolve collaborative teams, and leave students and early-career researchers without support. These outcomes reduce the value of completed work and impede the development of

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the future scientific workforce. Abrupt changes in award administration and funding mechanisms would also require institutions to revise internal controls, financial management processes, and award administration practices with limited certainty regarding implementation across agencies.

The proposed elimination of fixed-amount awards would create additional barriers for smaller institutions and emerging research organizations. Fixed-amount grants provide flexibility that allows research activities to begin without requiring recipients to absorb substantial up-front costs. Requiring all recipients to operate on a reimbursement basis would disproportionately advantage a handful of “elite” institutions with the largest financial reserves, while limiting participation by smaller organizations. The result could be greater concentration of research opportunities and reduced flexibility within the federal research enterprise.

OMB should preserve flexibility in award structures, maintain safeguards against arbitrary termination of research awards, and ensure that any reforms support stable and predictable administration of federally funded research programs.

Conclusion

ACS supports efforts to strengthen accountability and stewardship within the U.S. federal grant-making system. However, OMB’s proposed rule would alter how federally funded research is reviewed, conducted, disseminated, and administered, weakening the effectiveness of federal research investments. Several provisions would shift funding decisions away from merit-based review, restrict lawful scientific collaboration, impede dissemination of research findings, and introduce unnecessary uncertainty into grant administration. Together, these changes would reduce the return on federal research investments and weaken U.S. scientific competitiveness.

ACS urges OMB to withdraw, delay, or substantially revise the proposed rule before finalization to preserve independent peer review, lawful scientific collaboration, effective dissemination of research findings, and stable administration of federal research awards. As always, ACS stands ready to work with OMB, federal agencies, U.S. Congress, and other stakeholders to strengthen accountability while preserving the scientific excellence, flexibility, and partnership that have long characterized the



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

Chicago, IL & Digital | August 23-27

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](#)

federal research enterprise.”

Source: <https://www.acs.org/policy/washington-science/2026-public-comments/2026-ac-s-omb-federal-financial-assistance-nprm-response.html>

Also see: [ACS Joins Coalition of Scientific Societies](#)

[Calling on Congress to Address OMB Funding Proposal](#) (July 8, 2026)

[Learn more and become an ACS advocate for Science](#)
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National Academies Press – 10 Books of Interest



Change this first line to Recent titles published by the [National Academies Press](https://doi.org/10.17226/29303):

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<https://doi.org/10.17226/29212>

Frontiers of Materials That Learn: Proceedings of a Workshop, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.17226/29341>

Frontiers of Statistics in Science and Engineering: 2035 and Beyond, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.17226/29292>

Innovative Materials in Water Resources Infrastructure: Opportunities for the Corps of Engineers, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.17226/29328>

Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence: Fourth Edition, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26919>

The Role of Science, Technology, and Communication in Advancing Healthful Foods and Diets: Proceedings of a Workshop, 2026.

<https://doi.org/10.17226/29474>

A Science Strategy for the Human Exploration of Mars, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.17226/28594>

The Status of Informal Science and Engineering Education: Proceedings of a Convocation, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.17226/29291>

Supporting Responsible Innovation of Synthetic Cells: Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Environmental Considerations, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.17226/29325>

How Does Sunscreen Work? A Reactions Science Video



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“Does slathering on sunscreen do anything beyond preventing a sunburn? Can it actually stop us from getting wrinkles or skin cancer?”

Stronger Together: ACS - German Chemical Society Partnership



Expand your professional network across the Atlantic with exclusive membership benefits

Are you an ACS member living in the United States? Discover the benefits of Europe's largest chemistry society. As an ACS member, you're eligible for a 30% discount on your GDCh (German Chemical Society) membership.

Starting June 15, 2026, ACS and the German Chemical Society have launched a three-year dual membership program that gives eligible members 30% off membership in the partner society. The initiative expands access to professional networks, resources and benefits while strengthening scientific collaboration between chemists in the U.S. and Germany.

ACS Members Save 30% on GDCh Membership
GDCh Members Save 30% on ACS Membership

Welcome to the Silicon Valley Section of ACS



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

Juan Jose Aguilar Lopez
Joyce An
Lavernie Weiyin Chen
Yahao Dai
Carlos Fernandez
Christy Garner
Anna Gribok
Kuang-Jung Hsu
Taoran Hui
Zachary Alexander Kasun
Tae-Kyoung Kim
Claire Kindell

Samantha Lok Le
Arturo Leon Sandoval
Justin Liu
Reyansh Malla
Debashis Mandal
Haiyan Mao
Josselyn Mata Calidonio
Poonam Narula
Leena B. Patel
Shradha Sapru
Alexander Sehlke
Hailey Seto

Qianzhen Shao
Jacqueline Spraggins
Jennifer Urbine
Marvin Wu
Ying Yang
Abigail Yee
Allyson Yu
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Zisheng Zhang
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The materials science of tennis

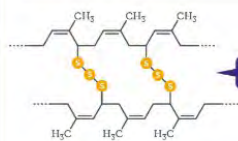


Silicon Valley
Local Section

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

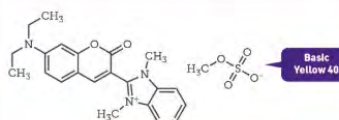
Ball materials

The core of tennis balls is made from vulcanised rubber. This is created by heating natural rubber with sulfur, creating crosslinks between the rubber molecule chains and hardening them. The core is hollow and filled with pressurised nitrogen gas up to 2.7 atmospheres of pressure. Over time, the nitrogen molecules can pass through the porous rubber, meaning that the tennis balls can lose some of their bounce.



Section of vulcanised rubber

The furry outside of the tennis ball is a mixture of wool and nylon. A yellow dye, such as Basic Yellow 40, gives tennis balls their characteristic colour.



Basic Yellow 40



Racket materials

Tennis rackets have undergone a number of materials changes since they were first manufactured.



Early rackets

Early rackets were made from various woods. However, over time these rackets warped or collapsed.



Later rackets

Aluminium alloy racket frames were lighter than wood, stronger, and enabled more complex designs.



Late-1990s rackets

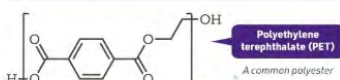
Rackets made from composite materials including fibreglass, carbon, graphite, Kevlar and more.



Present day rackets

Top-end rackets today are made from light and strong carbon fibre combined with plastic resins.

Racket strings were historically made from cow gut. Today, polyester strings are common in professional rackets, with nylon strings commonly seen on lower-end rackets.



Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
A common polyester

www.compoundchem.com

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Newsletter

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Sr. Assoc. Editor

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