

SILICON VALLEY CHEMIST

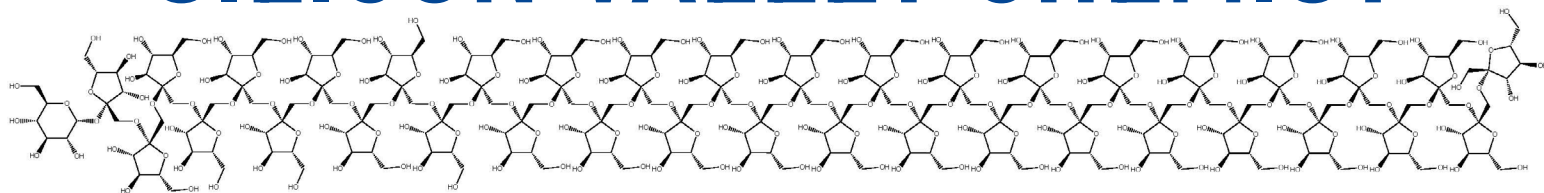


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Local Section News:

Celebrate National Chemistry Week 2026	1
SVACS Elections for 2027 Officers	2
Upcoming Events	3, 4
Mosher Award Call for Nominations	4
Contributors to this Issue	4
New Members	5
K-12 BUBBLE Grant 2026: Submissions Open	7
Bay Area Science Festival	8

ACS News:

ACS Membership - Join or Renew and Save 20%	1, 2
National Chemistry Week 2026 - Educational Resources	6, 7
ACS 150th Year History Book	7
ACS National Award Nominations Now Open	7
ACS Quick Guide to Inclusive Global Collaboration	8
Future of Science Communication Report	8
Science & Interesting News:	
Chemistry Quiz	2
Greene Scholars Program - Volunteer Judges Needed	9
Iota Sigma Pi Membership Invitation	9
Sushi Chemistry: Nori, Wasabi and Sticky Rice Infographic	10

Celebrate National Chemistry Week 2026

Saturday, October 24, 2026 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
San Jose Public Library (King Library), Children's Room, 1st floor
150 E. San Fernando San José, CA 95112

Free! No registration required, [Learn more and get directions](#)

Join us for a free, interactive experience for kids of all ages and their families featuring:

- Hands-on chemistry activities for kids exploring chemistry in the construction industry, including construction materials & techniques best for wind, rain & earthquakes; testing different insulation materials, ink chromatography, boo bubbles & more! (while supplies last)
- Free copy of "Celebrating Chemistry" the ACS publication for kids.
- PRIZES for every child who participates!

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.

Join or Renew Your ACS Membership Today and Save 20%

The ACS is offering a special discount for new and renewing members to become a part of the world's largest chemical society, where you can access a wealth of resources, networking opportunities, and professional development tools. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out,

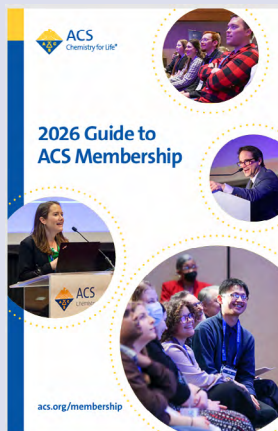
continued on next page

Join or Renew, continued from front page

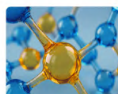
ACS has something to offer. Don't miss out on a limited time offer until 11:59 PM ET on December 11, 2026. Join or renew your membership today and take advantage of a 20% discount on the standard or premium membership package. [Learn more about ACS Membership](#)

How to redeem your discount:

1. Visit <https://membership.join.acs.org>
2. You will be prompted to log in using your ACS ID (username/password). If you don't have one or forget your login, click the appropriate link on the login page.
3. On the Review step of the application, enter the following code to apply the discount to your ACS dues: CGW20



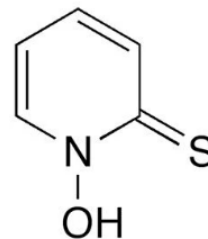
Download 2026 Guide to ACS Membership (PDF)



CHEMISTRY

Quiz

I'm a shampoo ingredient that may have a much more important use.
What molecule am I?



Answer

2026 Election of SVACS Officers, Councilors, Alternate Councilors for 2027

Voting Period: November 2-13, 2026

Silicon Valley ACS members will receive an email notification to cast their votes online.

To help you be more informed when you receive this notification, a sample ballot is shown below. Please also see [duties](#) for each position. Biographies and candidate statements will be posted by October 26, 2026, on the [Silicon Valley ACS website](#).

The ballot will include these open positions:

- **Chair-Elect** (3-year commitment: Chair-elect 2027, Chair in 2028, and Immediate Past Chair in 2029)
- **Secretary** (2-year term, 2027-2028)
- **Councilor** (2 open positions for 3-year terms, 2027-2029)
- **Alternate Councilor** (2 open positions for 3-year terms, 2027-2029)

How to petition to be on the ballot:

Prior to October 15, 2026 any member or affiliate of the Section may, in writing or from the floor at a meeting to conduct governance business, nominate additional candidates for office, provided that the candidates are members of the Section, and the nomination is seconded by another member or affiliate. Nominations shall be equally valid as those from the Nomination Committee. All candidates nominated shall have indicated willingness to serve if elected. Written petitions can be sent to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, [Natalie McClure](#). You may also contact Natalie with questions.

A petition must include the following: name of the proposed candidate, the proposed position, and the name and ACS membership numbers for both the candidate and the person who is seconding the nomination. All petitions must be submitted by October 14, 2025, to [Natalie McClure](#).

ACS is your Society! Voting in an ACS Election is one of many ways to engage and stay connected. The ability to vote in ACS Elections is granted to all ACS regular members who are on standard or premium packages. Society Affiliates cannot vote in ACS Elections, serve in national volunteer roles or hold an elected ACS office. Undergrad Members of the Society cannot serve in national volunteer roles or hold elected office within ACS. [Learn more](#)

Sample Ballot

Chair-Elect

3-year commitment, will be Chair-elect 2027, Chair in 2028, and Immediate Past Chair in 2029
VOTE for ONE (1)

• [TBD]

• Write-in _____

Secretary

2-year term, 2027-2028. Vote for ONE (1)

• Jigisha Shah

• Write-in _____

Councilor

2 open positions for 3-year terms, 2027-2029.
Vote for TWO (2)

• Natalie McClure

• Joseph Monarres

• Write-in _____

Alternate Councilor

2 open positions for 3-year terms, 2027-2029.
Vote for TWO (2)

• Amanda Nelson

• Aneelman Brar

• Write-in _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

- October -

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Oct 1 Project Management Essentials for Scientists: ACS Virtual Office Hours
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00 am-10:30 am, Online, Free, Registration required</p> <p>Oct 1 Who Will Win the #ChemNobel? Predicting the 2026 Nobel Laureate(s) in Chemistry
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and Chemical & Engineering News
11:00 am-Noon, Online, Free, Registration required</p> <p>Oct 2 Bay Area Chemistry Symposium (BACS)
Merck Research Labs, South San Francisco
Registration is full, apply to waitlist, Learn more</p> <p>Oct 5 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</p> <p>Oct 7 Designing a Life in Science: How Purpose Shapes a Career
Cristina Padilla, International Atomic Energy Agency and 2026 Jean Dreyfus Lecturer for San Jose State University
6:30 pm-7:30 pm, In-person, SJSU Student Union Theater, One Washington Square, San José, CA 95192 (see map), Learn more and RSVP</p> <p>Oct 8 Improving All Lives Through Science: The Case for Fundamental Research, Public Policy, and Advocacy
Wayne Elfed Jones Jr., current Chair of the ACS Board of Directors & recently retired Professor of Chemistry & Materials Science, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of New Hampshire
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry and Silicon Valley ACS
3:00 pm-4:20 pm, In-person, Stanford University, Sapp Center for Science Teaching and Learning, Sapp Lecture Hall (STL 114), 376 Lomita Dr, Stanford, Learn more</p> <p>Oct 8 Science for Everyone: Tactile Braille Periodic Table of Elements at Stanford
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry and Silicon Valley ACS, ACS National, ACS Committee on Chemists with Disabilities (CWD), and Center for STEMM Mentorship at Stanford
5:00-7:00 pm, in-person, Stanford University, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111), 376 Lomita Drive, Learn more and RSVP</p> <p>Oct 9 Seeing Biology in a New Light: Nanosensors for Real-Time Biosensing
Sponsored by ACS Webinars and ACS Publications
8:00 am-9:00 am, Online, Free, Registration required</p> <p>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</p> | <p>Oct 15 The Element of Trust: Chemistry, Ethics, and Real-World Decisions
Sponsored by ACS Webinars, ACS Communications Division, and Chemical & Engineering News
8:00 am-9:00 am, Online, Free, Registration required</p> <p>Oct 16 Live-cell Protein Chemistry in Health and Disease
Prof. Peng Chen, Peking University
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00 pm-4:00 pm, In-person, Stanford University, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111), 376 Lomita Drive, Free, Learn more</p> <p>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</p> <p>Oct 18-24 National Chemistry Week: Theme is Chemistry Under Construction
Sponsored by American Chemical Society
Learn more</p> <p>Oct 19 Host-Pathogen Interactions on a Virome Scale
Prof. Stephen Elledge, Harvard University
Sponsored by Stanford Department of chemistry
3:00 pm-4:00 pm, In-person, Stanford University, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111), 376 Lomita Drive, Free, Learn more</p> <p>Oct 20-21 Introductory Overview: Polymers in Advanced Semiconductor Technologies
Sponsored by Gold Gate Polymer Forum, 1.5-day live virtual short course
Regular registration rate ends Oct. 5, 2026, at 8:00 pm, Course info & registration</p> <p>Oct 21 How to Find and Apply for a Higher Education Position: ACS Careers Pathways Virtual Workshop
Sponsored by ACS Careers
9:00 am-10:30 am, Online, Free, Registration required</p> <p>Oct 22 Surface Chemistry of Supplementary Cementitious Materials: A Key Lever in Cement Decarbonization
Sponsored by Southern California Section ACS
3:00 pm-4:00 pm, online, free, registration required</p> <p>Oct 23 & 30 SLAC Public Tours
Sponsored by SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
10:30 am-Noon & 1:00 pm-2:30 pm, In-person, Free, Registration required – Opens October 2nd and fills quickly, Learn more</p> <p>Oct 24 National Chemistry Week Celebration 2026
Sponsored by Silicon Valley ACS and San Jose Public Library
11:00 am-2:00 pm for kids ages 5-12. In-person at the Martin Luther King Library, Children's Room, 1st Floor, 150 E San Fernando St, San Jose, free, no registration required, Learn more</p> |
|--|---|

continued on next page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

All Times Given are Pacific Time Zone

continued on next page

Oct 26 Strategies and Methods for Chemical Synthesis Inspired by Complex Natural Products
Prof. Richmond Sarpong, University of California, Berkeley
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, in-person, Stanford University, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111), 376 Lomita Drive, [Learn more](#)

Oct 30 Chemistry's Role in Environmental Solutions
Profs. Kurtis Carsch, Univ. Texas at Austin; Julius Lucks, Northwestern Univ.; Mahesh Mahanthappa, Univ. Minnesota.
Sponsored by Hertz Foundation
9:30 am-10:45 am, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)

- November -

Nov 2 The Cellular Biophysics of Biomolecular Condensates and Co-condensates
Prof. Bo Huang, University of California, San Francisco
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, in-person, Stanford University, Sapp Center Auditorium (STLC 111), 376 Lomita Drive, [Learn more](#)

Nov 2 Silicon Valley ACS Executive Committee Meeting
Sponsored by the Silicon Valley ACS local section
7:00-8:30 pm, hybrid event, free, guests welcome: [contact Chair](#) to attend

Nov 7 Two Centuries of Chemistry, One Afternoon of Ideas: CACS-ACS Seminar Celebrating ACS 150th, Cal ACS 125th, & CACS 45th Anniversaries
Prof. Jian Qin, Stanford University, and Prof. Bingqing Cheng, UC Berkeley
11:00 am-3:00 pm, In-person at UC Berkeley: Latimer Hall Room 120 (Presentations) and Tan Kah Kee Hall Lobby (Lunch), \$20 per person, Free for CACS Members and Students, [Learn more and register](#)

Nov 11 AI and the Expanding Computational Toolbox for Chemistry
Prof. Connor Coley, MIT
Sponsored by Stanford Department of Chemistry
3:00-4:00 pm, in-person, Stanford University, Sapp Center Lecture Hall (STLC 114), 376 Lomita Drive, Free, [Learn more](#)

Nov 12 Optimizing Polymer Synthesis and Advanced Material Processes with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
Prof. Rigoberto Advincula, University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Sponsored by Golden Gate Polymer Forum
6:00 pm-7:00 pm, Online, Free/\$5 Donation, [Registration required by Nov. 11 at 1pm](#)

Nov 14 Building Communities that Transform Chemistry Education for a Sustainable Future
Juliana Vidal, PhD, Beyond Benign
Sponsored by California ACS Women Chemists Committee
10:30 am-12:30 pm, Online, Free, [Registration required](#)
[Download flyer \(PDF\)](#)

Contributors to this Issue

Grace Baysinger
Eefei Chen
Jane Frommer
Natalie McClure
Howard Peters
Madalyn Radlauer
Jigisha Shah

Silicon Valley ACS Harry & Carol Mosher Award

Call for Nominations

Award recipients selected on the following criteria:

- Recognition of outstanding work in chemistry
- Advancing chemistry as a profession
- Recognized service to ACS

Submit nomination dossier to
Natalie McClure nmccclure@drugregulatoryaffairs.com
by December 31, 2026

Nomination dossier to consist of:

- 2 letters of recommendation
- nominee CV

For more details:

<https://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/awards-funding/mosher/>

Previous recipients:

Bruce and Cynthia Maryanoff, 2023
Richard Zare, 2022
Resa M Kelly, 2021
P. Andrew Evans, 2020
Chad Mirkin, 2019
Gary Molander, 2018
Nicola Pohl, 2017
John Warner, 2016
Attila Pavlath, 2015
Scott Denmark, 2014



National Chemistry Week

2026 NCW Illustrated Poem Contest "Chemistry Under Construction"



The Silicon Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Write and illustrate a poem using the NCW theme, "Chemistry Under Construction"

Your poem must be no more than 40 words and in the following styles to be considered:

**HAIKU - LIMERICK - ODE - ABC POEM -
FREE VERSE - END RHYME - BLANK VERSE**

Winners of the Silicon Valley ACS Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the [National ACS Illustrated Poem Contest](#) for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win prizes!

Contest Deadline: October 25, 2026 by 8:59 pm Pacific Time

Prizes: Win an Amazon gift card

Contact: Jigisha Shah (jigishapshah85@gmail.com)

Topics related to the theme include:

- Chemical reactions
- Molecules
- Copper
- Rust
- Adhesives
- Metals
- Concrete
- Cement
- Insulation
- Stucco
- Polymers
- Wood

Entries will be judged based on:

- Artistic Merit - use of color, quality of drawing, design, and layout
- Poem Message - fun, motivational, inspiring about yearly theme
- Originality Creativity - unique, clever and/or creative design
- Neatness - free of spelling and grammatical errors

[Click for contest rule details](#)



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.

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

James Arnold
David Andrew Carr
Gourab Chatterjee
Hengrui Chen
Laura Dynan Elmendorf
Caitlyn Fick

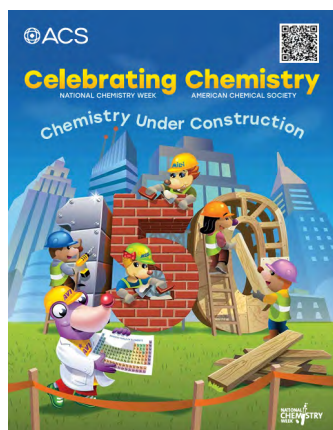
Julian Goetz
Manas Likhith Holekevi Chandrappa
Roland Hu
Jonathan Huang
Anna Johnston
Gabriel Martin

Mayu Matsuda
Danielle Paige
Sophie Puschmann
Carmen Rivera
Winston Tse

National Chemistry Week 2026 – Educational Resources

“Explore the resources below to learn more about chemistry’s contributions to construction, from the materials that build our homes and bridges to the innovations shaping the cities of the future. Together, we can celebrate **National Chemistry Week** by recognizing the many ways chemistry helps build stronger communities.”

Celebrating Chemistry – “Chemistry Under Construction”



In this issue of **Celebrating Chemistry** (view online or download PDF in English or Spanish)

- **Chemistry Under Construction**
- **Concrete through World History**
- **Activity: Magic Foam Building**
- **Activity: Using Candy to Learn About Material Fractures**
- **Houses Through the Ages**
- **Building Better with Metal**
- **Activity: Metal Makeover: A Patina Adventure**
- **Meg A. Mole Interview with Suganya Kuppusamy**
- **Your Home’s Winter Coat**

ChemMatters – October 2026



Free articles

- Can Construction Be Both Sustainable and Strong?
- Do Not Disturb: Building Noise-Cancelling Materials
- Will It Float? Canoes Made from Concrete
- **More free ChemMatters articles**

Videos

The Bioconcrete Revolution (maybe)



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

“Concrete is the most important building material on Earth—and it’s also responsible for a MASSIVE chunk of global carbon emissions. Join George as he discovers how a surprising discovery in 1973 could dramatically change how we make concrete forever.”

New Lightweight Coating to Reduce Wood Flammability



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

“Devastating residential blazes and wildfires take a terrible toll in terms of deaths and injuries, as well as property loss. Today, researchers will report on a new type of coating that could limit the flammability of wood used in construction, potentially providing more time to escape fires and also curbing their spread. The environmentally friendly flame retardant could also be used for other flammable materials, such as textiles, polyurethane foam and 3D-printed parts.”

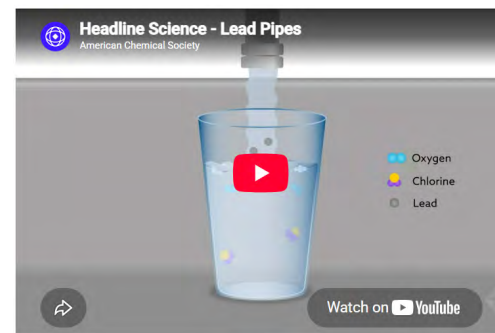
Why is the Statue of Liberty Green?



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

“The Statue of Liberty and her green color is filled with science. Did you know she wasn’t always green? When France gifted Lady Liberty to the U.S., she was a 305-foot statue with reddish-brown copper skin. Her color change is thanks to about 30 years’ worth of chemistry in the air of New York City harbor. Get an education on the chemistry of how this monumental statue transitioned from penny red to chocolate brown to glorious liberty green in this Reactions video.”

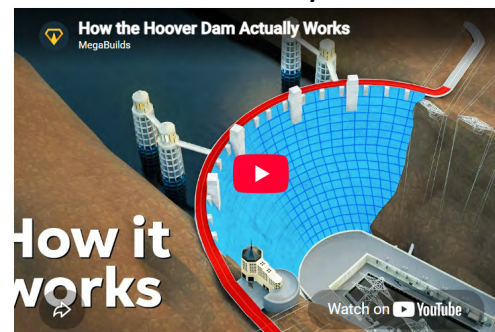
Lead Pipes



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

“Researchers have developed a promising technique that uses a small electrical current to rapidly form protective phosphate coatings inside lead pipes, helping prevent lead from leaching into drinking water. The approach could restore pipe protection in hours instead of years, offering a faster and more affordable way to improve water safety.”

How the Hoover Dam Actually Works



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

“The Hoover Dam is one of the most famous construction projects in history, but its success depended on chemistry as much as engineering. Learn how scientists and engineers managed the heat generated during concrete curing to prevent cracking and build a structure that continues to grow stronger nearly a century later.”

Museums and Resources

National Building Museum

“Discover how chemistry, engineering, and construction come together to shape the buildings and cities where we live, work, and play. The

continued on next page

continued from previous page

National Building Museum showcases the science behind the built environment."

The Skyscraper Museum

"Explore how chemistry and materials science have transformed skyscraper construction, from steel to concrete to innovative low-carbon building materials."

ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks

"From iconic bridges and dams to monuments and tunnels, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks program showcases engineering achievements that transformed society. Explore the chemistry, materials science, and innovation behind some of the world's most remarkable construction projects."

Chicago architecture Center

"Explore the science and engineering behind one

of the world's most famous skylines. The Chicago Architecture Center highlights how innovative materials, structural design, and construction techniques for transformed modern cities."

Center for Architecture

"Discover how architects, engineers, and material scientists work together to create safe, sustainable, and innovation buildings. The Center for Architecture offers hands-on learning about the structures that shape our communities."

American Institute of Architects, San Francisco – Visiting San Francisco

"From modern skyscrapers to venerable Victorians, San Francisco has some of the most exciting architecture in the world. We list the top 25 as an overview of architecturally significant structures."

The ACS at 150 A History Book



"This commemorative volume brings together personal reflections and essays from ACS Divisions, past and present ACS CEOs, and other voices that have shaped our recent history."

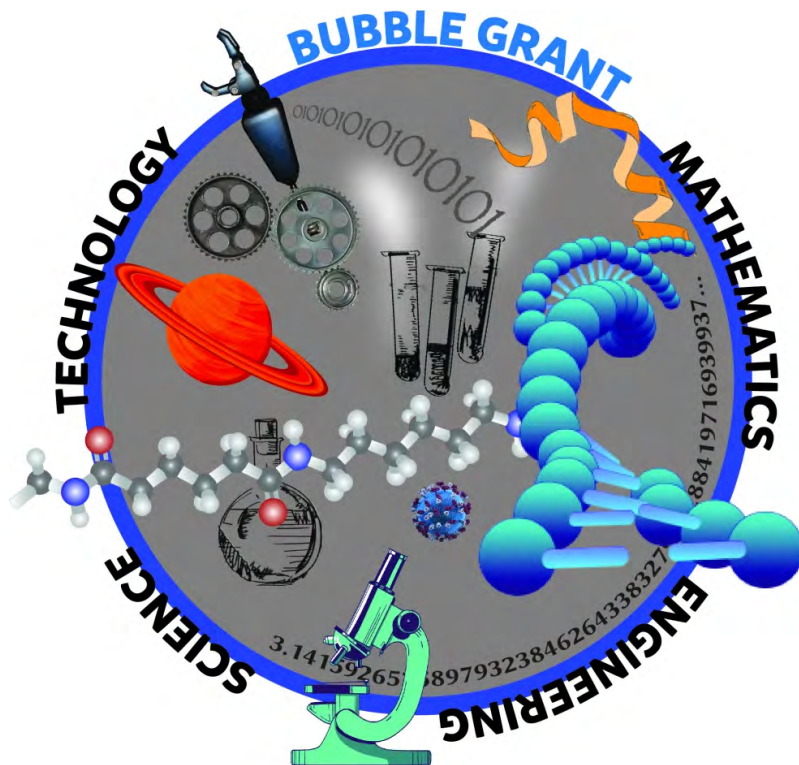
[Download pdf for free](#)



K-12 Bubble Grant: Apply Now

K-12 Science Educators - Get a BUBBLE Grant for your classroom.

The SVACS BUBBLE Grant supports K-12 teachers in California with funds to facilitate teaching science.



For submission guidelines and project description go to

<http://www.siliconvalleyacs.org/awards-funding/bubble-grant>

Bubble Grant application deadline extended to December 15, 2026



ACS National Award Nominations Now Open

Nominations for the 2028 National Awards are open from August 5 to December 5, 2026.

Designed to recognize chemistry in all its branches, from groundbreaking research and commercialization to public service and doctoral work, ACS' National Awards are the perfect opportunity to recognize an inspiring chemist in your community.

Visit the [ACS National Awards website](#) for more information and to submit a nomination.

Also see:

- [ACS seeks nominations for the 2028 ACS National Awards](#), C&EN, September 10, 2026
- [ACS names 2027 National Award winners](#), C&EN, August 31, 2026.
- [Chad Mirkin named 2027 Priestley Medalist](#), C&EN, July 17, 2026



Chad A. Mirkin Credit: Tricia Scully/International Institute for Nanotechnology at Northwestern University



Bay Area Science Festival (BASF) 2026

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 11am-4pm

UCSF Mission Bay Campus, Koret Quad. Free.

[Check out the 2026 Festival Guide](#) | [View Festival Map](#)

“Celebrate the Bay Area’s scientific wonders at this free event for curious science-lovers of all ages. **Silicon Valley ACS participates in this event!** Includes 125+ jaw-dropping demonstrations, hands-on experiments, astounding games, stage performances, behind the scenes lab tours, film screenings and science talks.

Be wowed by: Robot zoo, air rockets, live leopard sharks and STEM magics shows! Then check out a interactive light installation. Solve a forensic science mystery. Discover the physics behind archery and shoot a suction cup arrow. That’s just a taste of what you’ll experience. And there are food trucks too! Thousands of attendees are expected. All on one memorable day.

The setting: Outdoors amid Koret Quad’s lawns and pine groves and indoors at adjacent educational, medical and biotech research facilities. Rain or Shine!”



ACS Quick Guide

Inclusive Global Collaboration



[Read ACS Quick Guide: Inclusive Global Collaboration \(PDF\)](#)

“This guide was created in part with contributions from ACS’ global member community as well as members of the International Activities Committee and the Committee on Minority Affairs.

Global scientific collaboration is essential to advancing knowledge and innovation. Working across cultures, languages, and time zones requires intentional inclusion to ensure respect, equity, and productivity. If not managed carefully, pitfalls can undermine or even derail well-intentioned projects. This guide provides practical guidance to help scientists and teams build inclusive, respectful, and productive collaborations.”

The Future of Science Communication: Trust, Authenticity, and the Modern Scientist

ACS | BrandLab

The Future of Science Communication

Authenticity, Connection, and the Modern Scientist



“Communication is a core skill for scientists. This report explores how scientists can build trust, connect with audiences, and make complex ideas more meaningful.

Discover how to:

- Encourage engagement instead of simply sharing information
- Use storytelling to make science more relatable
- Communicate with trust and authenticity
- Connect more effectively with different audiences

Read ACS’ new free report “[Explain Science to Anyone](#)” that is available online.”



GREENE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Volunteer Judges Needed for GSP Science Fair & Review Board

Submitted by Dr. Howard Peters

"The **Greene Scholars Program** is excited to announce our 25th Annual Science Fair! Its goal is to motivate and stimulate the interests of all scholars in STEM fields. Scholars will conduct Science Fair projects in the following categories: Hypothesis - scientific method, and Applied Engineering - innovation and design.

We need as many volunteer Judges as possible to support the 160+ scholars participating in the Science Fair event. We are seeking individuals from a variety of professions such as teachers, scientists, engineers, corporate professionals, etc. This is also a great opportunity to network with a varied cross-section of participating volunteers.

There are two opportunities to support our scholars:

- **GSP Science Fair Review Board** - Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 8:30 am -1:00 pm at Bellarmine College Preparatory School, San Jose
In our GSP SFRB session, you will meet individually with our 3rd-10th grade scholars to discuss their proposed Science Fair projects, provide insight, and suggest how the Scholars can strengthen their projects.
- **GSP Science Fair & Expo** - Saturday, January 23, 2027 from 8:30 am-5:00 pm at Bellarmine College Preparatory School, San Jose

The GSP Science Fair is the cornerstone of the GSP program. Volunteer Judges are given scientific judging criteria and work in teams to evaluate Science Fair projects and Scholars' presentations. The GSP Science Fair helps to better prepare students for the mainstream Silicon Valley Science Fair at the SJ Convention Center each March.

GSP welcomes your participation in either or both of these activities." [Learn more and sign up here](#)

About

"The Green Scholars Program's Mission:

The Dr. Frank S. Greene Scholars Program helps youth of African ancestry in San Francisco Bay Area communities successfully pursue higher education in science, technology, engineering and/or math (STEM), and serve as positive role models and contributors to their communities.

Frank S. Greene Jr. was a pioneering electrical engineer, inventor and entrepreneur in Silicon Valley, that he was African American set him apart in that early group. He developed high-speed semiconductor memory systems, including the fastest microchip then available for the ILLIAC IV supercomputer. As a leader who recognized the need for greater participation in STEM fields, Greene also was dedicated to mentoring the next generation. The Greene Middle School in Palo Alto is now named after him. In 2026, Greene was inducted into the US National Inventor's Hall of Fame. See: <https://www.invent.org/inductees/frank-s-greene-jr>



IOTA SIGMA PI

The National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

"Seven Nobel Laureates are members of Iota Sigma Pi: Marie Curie, Gerti T. Cori, Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, Carolyn Bertozzi, Frances H. Arnold, Emmanuelle Charpentier, and Jennifer Doudna

Iota Sigma Pi, the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry, offers an opportunity for female and non-binary professional members and students to join. Membership includes professional women chemists, teachers, and professors, as well as undergraduate and graduate students in the field of chemistry or allied fields.

Why join Iota Sigma Pi? There are active chapters all over the United States that sponsor programs (both in person as well as virtual) that include professional talks by members and invited speakers, field trips, and social gatherings.

The National Iota Sigma Pi supports the development of women and non-binary people in chemistry and makes awards to qualified women and non-binary people in chemistry (both for professionals as well as students). For more

information about the awards, see <https://www.iotasigmapi.org/awards>.

A benefit to membership in Iota Sigma Pi is networking opportunity between members and mentoring the next generation of women chemists. The organization includes a variety of chemical interests, with members from industry, government, and academia, both faculty and students. The size of the organization is large enough to constitute a meaningful network, yet small enough for everyone to get to know one another.

The qualifications for student membership are:

- Undergraduate students: women and non-binary people who have taken at least 4 semesters (or equivalent) of chemistry courses and have an overall 3.0 GPA.
- Graduate students: women and non-binary graduate students in chemistry-related fields with at least 1 semester (or equivalent) of graduate school completed with a 3.0 GPA and in good standing with their programs.

The qualifications for professional membership include:

- A master's or Ph.D. degree in chemistry or field closely related to chemistry, OR
- A baccalaureate degree in chemistry or field closely related to chemistry and a one-year employment history in chemistry or a field where the principles of chemistry are important

Female candidates, non-binary candidates, or males that do not fit the criteria for membership can become associate members.

Applications are accepted online on the [Membership](#) page. Complete the [membership application form](#) to upload resumes. Upon successful submission, you will be redirected to a payment page for initiation fees and first-year's dues (\$100 for professional dues and \$45 for students), but you will not be able to checkout until you have been approved for membership and create a site login. You will also receive an email confirmation of your submission. [Video instructions are available on YouTube](#)"

Sushi chemistry: nori, wasabi and sticky rice



Silicon Valley
Local Section

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

Sushi rice stickiness

Sushi rice grains contain a lower proportion of amylose and a higher proportion of amylopectin compared to other types of rice grains. The branched chains of amylopectin can gelatinise (form a water-trapping network) and this makes the rice sticky.

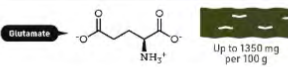
KEY: ● Glucose



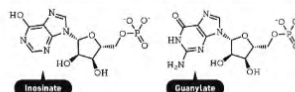
Rice vinegar is added to the rice to increase acidity and prevent bacterial growth. The acetic acid in the vinegar also helps amylopectin gelatinisation.

Nori and umami flavours

Nori is dried seaweed with a strong umami (savory) flavour. This flavour is due to its high glutamate content. Glutamate binds to special taste receptors on our tongues to trigger savory flavours.

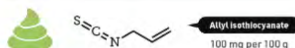


Umami flavour is enhanced by particular nucleotides. Nori contains some of these compounds, inosinate and guanylate. Raw fish also contains high levels of inosinate, enhancing umami flavour further.

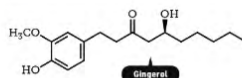


Wasabi and gari

Wasabi's pungency comes from isothiocyanates, which the plant produces from glucosinolates when it is damaged. Most wasabi in supermarkets and restaurants is a horseradish and mustard paste dyed green; its pungency also comes from isothiocyanates.

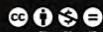


Gari is pickled ginger. The anthocyanins in young ginger turn pale pink in the pickling solution. Gari's flavour comes from gingerol, some of which converts into more pungent shogaol compounds during pickling.



www.compoundchem.com

© Andy Brunning/Compound Interest 2026 | Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence.
Photos: © Adobe Stock, #104985074



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

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.