A Close Examination at the Training and Academic Hiring of Women in STEM Fields

Valerie J. Kuck
Lucent Technologies Bell Laboratories (ret.)

DATE: May 13, 2021
TIME: 6:00 PM
PLACE: Your Computer
RSVP: https://valerie-kuck-discusses-women-in-stem-careers.eventbrite.com

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:
Valerie Kuck retired in 2001 from Lucent Technologies Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, where she was engaged in both basic and applied research during her 34-year career there. After leaving the Labs she refocused her energies on studying the graduate training and hiring of women in the physical sciences and engineering and has extensively shared her findings through numerous talks, articles, and publications. Valerie has 25 US patents and has received the ACS Garvan-Olin Medal, ACS Award for Volunteer Service, ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Chemical Science Careers, and the Bell Laboratories Lincoln Hawkins Award for Mentoring. She was named a Purdue University Distinguished Alumnus and was a Georgia Tech Pete Silas lecturer.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION:
Since 2009 women have received a majority of the doctoral degrees granted by U.S. institutions. In several scientific fields women have made great strides, whereas women in a number of STEM areas have made slow progress. In 2017, women received 53% of the doctorates in biological and agricultural sciences and 70% in the health and medical sciences. In sharp contrast, women earned only 23% of the doctorates in engineering, 25% in mathematics and computer sciences, and 34% in the physical and earth sciences. Furthermore, the percentage of tenure-line female faculty members in the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics has remained low. This talk will address findings from an analysis of the responses to surveys and site visit discussions that involved over 1200 administrators, chemistry and chemical engineering faculty members, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. In addition, the hiring rate of female faculty members and factors contributing to their career choices will be addressed, along with suggestions on ways to support women who want to pursue a PhD degree and pursue a career in academia.
Dear ACS Members,

The blooming of flowers everywhere reminds us it is now May, and I hope everyone is well. We had our fourth Executive Committee Meeting of 2021 virtually on Zoom on Thursday, April 1st, where we planned several future events and discussed the many activities that occurred in March.

On Thursday, April 22nd, Amy Marschilok, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Stony Brook University, joined us and presented “Electrochemical Energy Storage: Progress and Opportunities.” During her talk, she discussed the chemistries of different innovative battery anode and cathode systems, the research into ion transport, and the different analytical methods employed to study the problems. We had over 120 online registrations and over 70 attendees.

On Thursday, May 13th, at 7PM, we will have our own Valerie Kuck, one of our Local Section councilors who retired from Lucent Technologies/Bell Labs, to discuss “A Close Examination at the Training and Academic Hiring of Women in STEM Fields”. This talk will address the hiring rate of female faculty members and factors contributing to their career choices, ways to support women who want to pursue a PhD and pursue a career in academia, and findings from an analysis of responses to surveys involving 1200 administrators, chemistry and chemical engineering faculty members, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Registration for the talk is via Eventbrite - https://valerie-kuck-discusses-women-in-career-careers.eventbrite.com

On a sad note, we note the passing (in October 2020) of Dr. Mario Molina, Mexican chemist and co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, for his role in noting the threat to the Earth’s ozone layer from chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases. A remembrance can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, May 6th, at 6pm on Zoom. I invite all members who wish to become more involved in the Local Section to join us. Bring your ideas, your suggestions, and your unique talents to help make 2021 a wonderful year. Please contact me at jshih@sandiegoacs.org to receive Zoom log-in details.

James J. Shih, 2021 Chair
San Diego Section of the American Chemical Society
E-mail: jshih@sandiegoacs.org
Web: www.sandiegoacs.org

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**CHAIR NOTES**

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**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!**

Does your non-profit organization have an upcoming event that might be of interest to members of the ACS – San Diego Section? If so, please send your announcement to our 2021 Chair, Jim Shih at jshih@sandiegoacs.org. Once approved, Jim will see that your announcement is published on our website (www.sandiegoacs.org) and, if received by the 20th of the month before the event, in The San Diego Chemist newsletter. This is a free service of the ACS – San Diego Section. Take advantage of it!

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS**

Did you know that The San Diego Chemist is the only monthly e-newsletter that targets chemists and chemical engineers in San Diego and Imperial Counties? As soon as our newsletter is uploaded on www.sandiegoacs.org a separate notification is sent to the 2,500 members of the ACS-San Diego Section, each potential customer for your products and services! Quick turnaround: Ad copy submitted by the 20th of each month will be published by the end of that month.

Payments can be made by check or credit card to https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLAPMMDVQ8HQB/checkout/TIKH3SV5-GGW6MVQ2NYGION4N

For more information, please contact: Renate Valois at renate@sandiegoacs.org

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**THE SAN DIEGO CHEMIST**, the official newsletter of the San Diego Section of the American Chemical Society, published on a monthly basis, can be viewed at http://www.sandiegoacs.org/newsletter. All contents are published at the discretion of the Section’s Executive Committee. Events of interest to chemistry professionals in the community may be included in the events calendar as space permits and are subject to editing for brevity. Advertisements and announcements from the chemistry community are accepted at published rates. The deadline for items submitted is the 20th of the month for publication by the end of that month.

**Advertisers:** Ad prices as of January 1, 2015:

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Discounts will be available for issues not shown

Please send your jpg to: Renate Valois at renate@sandiegoacs.org

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**SECTION E-MAIL LISTSERVER!**

Get up-to-the-minute reminders of local events and develop dialogs with your fellow members!

To subscribe to our moderated listserver:

1. Send an e-mail with SUBSCRIBE TO LISTSERVER in the subject line, and your name and e-mail in the body of the message to Ken Poggenburg at ikp135@att.net.

2. If you receive a message from the postman, reply to confirm that you wish to be added to the list, otherwise it will not take effect.

3. You will receive reminders approx. 5-7 days prior to upcoming events and messages of general interest to members.

4. To post topics for discussion, or informational items to the listserver members, send the message to sandiego-chemist-1@ucsd.edu.

5. If the moderator approves the post, it will be sent to the members.

**NOTE:** That is the letter “l”, not the number “one” following the word “chemist”.

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**Executive Committee Meeting Dates 2021**

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**Zoom Meetings until further notice**
The San Diego Section of the American Chemical Society would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors. Here are a few examples of our annual outreach programs that are made possible by their generous donations:

**Mad Science** - Stage demonstrations for 4th and 5th graders which make science fun for kids! Last year the program was viewed by over 8000 students in low-income areas and from military families.

**ChemExpo** - A science event for middle and high school students held in Balboa Park annually for the past 27 years. It features live stage demonstrations and interactive booths that teach kids about applied science. Last year over 1000 local students participated!

**EarthFair** – We participate in the world’s largest free annual environmental fair, held in Balboa Park.

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**POSTPONED**

**HPLC 2020 IN SAN DIEGO**

Due to the extraordinary circumstances we have all found ourselves in surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are genuinely disappointed to announce that we must postpone the HPLC conference based on CDC guidance and shelter-in-place orders. As the health and safety of all of our participants remains our primary concern, the HPLC conference is postponed and will take place at the same location on **June 18-23, 2022**, at the Town and Country Hotel and Conference Center in San Diego, CA.

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**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The Executive Committee of the [Division of Organic Chemistry](https://nationalorganicsymposium.org/) of the American Chemical Society and the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, San Diego, invite you to attend the 47th National Organic Chemistry Symposium. **This biennial event will be held from Sunday, June 27, to Thursday, July 1, 2021, at UCSD.**

For more information please see [https://nationalorganicsymposium.org/](https://nationalorganicsymposium.org/).  
For volunteers please see [https://nationalorganicsymposium.org/organizers/](https://nationalorganicsymposium.org/organizers/)

Volunteer opportunities include chairing sessions during the plenary talks, judging the poster sessions, and running registration tables and social events.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**EARTH DAY - EARTHFAIR 2021**


**New Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021, Balboa Park • 10am - 5pm**

San Diego ACS volunteers will set up a table in the Children's Activity Area. This special area has crafts, games, face painting, storytelling, and hands-on activities for children of all ages. Activities are intended to educate, entertain and inspire youth, in the spirit of Earth Day.

Please contact [James Caldwell](jcaldwell@sandiegoacs.org), to volunteer **Sunday, September 19, 2021**. We need 3-4 persons for each of the 3-4 hour shifts on **September 19**. Please support us and share your care for our earth, chemistry education, and the San Diego ACS!

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**ACS Webinars™**

Welcome to ACS Webinars, your source for online live and on-demand content, created by the American Chemical Society. **Please join us weekly, Thursdays at 2pm ET.**

For more information and upcoming Webinars see: [https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars.html](https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars.html)

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**REMINDER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE SAN DIEGO CHEMIST**

The deadline for advertisements and announcements from the chemistry community is **the 20th of the month** for publication by the end of that month.
On October 7th of last year, our Local Section lost Dr. Mario José Molina, one of our most accomplished and distinguished members. Mario Molina was born in Mexico City in 1943. From an early age, he wanted to study chemistry. When he was 22, he obtained a chemical engineering degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Molina pursued graduate studies in West Germany and then at the University of California, Berkeley where he was awarded a doctorate in physical chemistry in 1972.

In 1973, Molina moved to the University of California, Irvine to work as a post-doctoral fellow under Sherwood Rowland (1927-2012). There, he started the work for which he is best remembered today. In 1974 Rowland and Molina published an article in *Nature*\(^1\). They predicted that the photodissociation of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) in the stratosphere would lead to the depletion of the Earth’s ozone layer. Rowland and Molina showed that UV photons could decompose CFCs, producing chlorine radicals. Chlorine radicals could then react with stratospheric ozone, O\(_3\), thereby yielding ClO and molecular oxygen. ClO, being a radical, could further react with ozone as well. The mechanism Rowland and Molina outlined in *Nature* is now a mainstay of undergraduate and graduate education in chemical kinetics.

The significance of Rowland and Molina’s predictions contained dire warnings for the management of worldwide public health because a decrease in stratospheric ozone would result in more UVB photons reaching the Earth’s surface, which could lead to higher rates of skin cancer. Moreover, UVB radiation is linked to negative impacts on the development of plants, marine ecosystems, and biogeochemical cycles.

A decade after the *Nature* article was published, the British Antarctic Survey reported that a vast depletion area in the ozone layer over the South Pole had appeared. Molina’s activism helped establish the 1987 Montreal Protocol, an international agreement to phase out CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals. In the end, 197 countries ratified the Protocol and agreed to ban CFC production by 1996.

The Montreal Protocol demonstrated that nations could come together to take bold action to address environmental crises. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at the current momentum the ozone layer will heal in the middle latitudes by 2030. The worst ozone depletion found in the Antarctic is estimated to be fully repaired by 2050.

Dr. Molina went on to have an illustrious career in atmospheric chemistry. In 1995, Molina shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Sherwood Rowland and Paul Crutzen (1933-2021) for their research into the photocatalytic decomposition of ozone. Dr. Molina held research and teaching positions at institutions such as the University of California, San Diego, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Unsurprisingly, he won numerous other awards and honors for his contributions to the advancement of chemistry, which included a Presidential Medal of Freedom and the ACS Prize for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology. Additionally, Dr. Molina held over 30 honorary degrees.

In early 2020, Molina was a contributing author to an article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* titled, “Identifying airborne transmission as the dominant route for the spread of COVID-19”\(^2\). The research concluded that face masks, social distancing, and quarantining could slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2. This work became highly influential for the management of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world.

The San Diego Local Section will remember Dr. Molina as one of those rare and transcendent figures in our field. He used his skills and knowledge of chemistry to help make the world a better place for all humanity. His legacy will continue to inspire generations of students hungry to create positive change in the world through science. Dr. Molina’s achievements strike an especially resounding chord with fellow scientists of Mexican descent, as his life is truly a metaphor for *sí, se puede*.

*Juan Gonzalez  
SDACS 2021 Chair-Elect*  

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Treasurer’s Report – Unavailable at this point; sale of Vanguard fund shares has not occurred
Action: if needed, Finance Committee will assist.

Minutes of March ExComm Meeting -- Approved as distributed

Monthly Seminars – March Seminar: 220 registered, 139 attendees, a good number students attended; April Seminar: presentation on battery development
Action: Create a QR code to add to Seminar announcement

Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair – Five judges volunteered from ACS, each reviewed ~12 projects, judging lasted from approximately 8 a.m. to noon, topics in both divisions were exceptional; three in each level selected for awards from the Section

Chemistry Olympiad – 69 students participated, 14 volunteers as proctors; a few high schools consistently have representatives that make it to National competition such as Canyon Crest, Del Norte, Rancho Bernardo, Westview; suggestion for Section to provide an assistant to help with paperwork and an outreach person to interact with high schools that usually have not participated
Action: volunteers for outreach: Bill S, Jim S, Tom B, CSUSM representative

ACS Council Meeting -- ~500 councilors participated, Council is considering means to harmonize committees, such as: some committees require members to be councilors while others are open to non-councilor members; membership dues are being reduced to $160, National instituting new benefits of membership, members with lesser levels of participation to be offered lower dues; National Meeting registration set to $99 for regular members / $29 students; 87,000 abstracts were submitted for the Spring meeting;

YCC – Hosting a Chemistry Slam – May 20, applications due Apr. 23, opportunity for students to present unique research results; planning a Chemistry Trivia Night as a way to introduce ACS to students modeled on an event from Silicon Valley, up to 5 members on a team; four rounds, 1 hour scheduled for Apr. 15
Motion: allocate $200 prize for 1st place team and $100 for 2nd place team (prized to be awarded to the teams to be divided among the team members) -- Approved

San Diego Science Festival – 4/24 – 5/2; all events are to be held virtually this year, CSUSM holding an event “Chemistry is Better than Magic” in the prior week where participants will be assembling chemistry teaching kits
Motion: allot $200 for 10 prizes for CSUSM event -- Approved

Next meeting: May 6

CHEMPLOYMENT 801

POSITION TITLE:
Advanced Production Chemist-Organc Synthesis

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:
Education: Bachelor’s or Masters in Organic Chemistry

EXPERIENCE:
Minimum of 4yrs+ in production or industrial setting. Strong Laboratory bench skills, including synthesis, purification, and analysis of organic compounds using HPLC (UV and MS detection), NMR, IR, GC, TLC, and elemental analysis.

Strong background in synthetic organic chemistry, modern analytical techniques, and excellent problem-solving skills. Small molecule experience.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY:
Sciex is a global leader in mass spectrometry, SCIEX delivers solutions for precision detection and quantification of molecules to help protect and advance the wellness and safety of all. Because of our 50 years of groundbreaking innovation, our customers can quickly respond to environmental hazards, better understand biomarkers relevant to disease, improve patient care in the clinic, bring relevant drugs to market faster, and keep food healthier and safer. At SCIEX, you’ll find a rewarding role that amplifies your impact on the world and helps you realize life’s potential.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
Address for sending résumé:
Please apply to the link:
ATTENTION COMPANIES!
Do you hire student workers?

If you have open positions in chemistry and biochemistry that would be of interest to college students, such as summer internship opportunities, here is a list of contacts you’ll want to keep handy. The people listed below are the faculty advisors of the ACS Student Affiliate groups for all chemistry programs in San Diego County. These professors can get the word out to all chemistry and biochemistry majors at their schools about jobs, career fairs, open houses, etc.

California State University, San Marcos
Jacqueline Trischman
trischma@csusm.edu
760-750-4206

Point Loma Nazarene University
Sara Choung
SaraChoung@PointLoma.edu
619-849-2627

San Diego Mesa College
Dwayne Gergens
dgergens@sdccd.edu
619-388-2609

San Diego Miramar College
Fred Garces
fgarces@sdccd.edu
619-388-7493
Linda Woods
lwoods@sdccd.edu
(619) 388-7750

Southwestern College, Chula Vista
Juan Gonzalez
jgonzalez3@gwccd.edu
619-421-6700x5947

University of California, San Diego
Stacey Brydges
sbrydges@ucsd.edu
858-246-0993
Thomas Bussey
tbussey@ucsd.edu
858-822-6665

University of San Diego
Tammy Dwyer
tdwyer@sandiego.edu
619-260-4030

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Your ad in the next issue of
THE SAN DIEGO CHEMIST
For information contact:
Renate Valois – renate@sandiegoacs.org

2021 ACS REGIONAL MEETINGS
Northwest Regional Meeting (NORM) May 9-11 Online
Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM) June 6-9 Online
Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) June 9-12 Online
Northeast Regional Meeting - NERM 21 October 8-11 Boston, MA
Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM) October 21-22 Springfield, MO
Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting (RMRM) October 21-23 Tucson, AZ
Southwest Regional Meeting (SWRM) October 31-Nov 3 Austin, TX
SERMACS 2021 sermacs2021.org/ November 10-13 Birmingham, AL

LOOKING FOR A CHEMIST?
CHEMPLOYMENT IS THE ANSWER!
THE SAN DIEGO CHEMIST
is read by nearly 3000 chemists and biochemists in San Diego and Imperial Counties.
A two-month ad costs only $80.00
For information contact: Renate Valois – renate@sandiegoacs.org

JUST PUBLISHED: THE FUTURE OF GENE EDITING
Last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the first CRISPR technology—a COVID-19 diagnostic. Human clinical trials of gene-editing therapies are ongoing; ethicists continue to discuss the ramifications of technology that tinkers with the very instructions for life. Inside this latestmDiscovery Report: The Future of Gene Editing, you’ll meet some of the many entrepreneurs who aim to use gene-editing technology to provide more organs for transplants, combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria, companies to watch, current research literature, and more.

Access all the Discovery Reports published to date at www.acs.org/discoveryreports, and look for the next release in June 2021.

PHUN & GAMES
Periodic Graphics: Faking Flavors with Chemistry
UPCOMING EVENTS

A CLOSE EXAMINATION AT THE TRAINING AND ACADEMIC HIRING OF WOMEN IN STEM FIELDS
Valerie J. Kuck
Lucent Technologies Bell Laboratories (ret.)
May 13, 2021

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262nd ACS NATIONAL MEETING & EXPOSITION
Atlanta, Georgia
August 22-26, 2021

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EARTH DAY - EARTHFAIR 2021
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
http://www.earthdayweb.org/
Sunday, September 19, 2021

THE SAN DIEGO SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS

Lindsay Abbott
Zachary Auvil
Tyler Billing
Lauren Carnevale
Brandon Coyle
Jimmy Fahr
Hanyu Fan
Mackenna Gentry
Debra Harris
Andrey Malyutin
Vivian Nguyen
Abdulakeem Osumah
Jean Quigley
David Richardson
Sanjay Sethuram
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SAN DIEGO SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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Past Chair: James Caldwell, Accelagen, Inc., jcaldwell@sandiegoacs.org (2021) 815-262-9697
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Secretary: William Tooley, Seacoast Science, Inc., p_tolley@juno.com (2021) 858-780-9578
Treasurer: Desiree Grubisha, Heron Therapeutics, dgrubisha@gmail.com (2021) 858-254-5497

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Hui Cai, WuXi AppTec (2022) 858-361-8838
Desiree Grubisha, Heron Therapeutics (2021) 858-254-5497
Valerie Kuck (2023) 973-744-5510
Jackie Trischman, CSUSM (2022) 858-414-3323
David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting (2021) 858-638-1866

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Julann Miller, Waters Corporation (2023) 800-252-4752 x8602
Ken Poggenburg (2022) 760-635-2573
Ben Pratt, Pratt Pharma Consulting LLC (2022) 858-945-7893
Shannon Woodruff, HP Inc. (2023) 949-735-9021

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James O’Brien, TE Connectivity (2023) 858-336-0654
Bill Szabo (2022) 858-550-0306
Joann Um, Southwestern College (2022) 510-823-8637

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Ken Poggenburg 760-635-2573
Renate Valois (Newsletter Editor) 619-692-0638
David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting 858-638-1866

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Tammy Dwyer USD 619-260-4030
Barbara Sawrey 858-729-0689
David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting 858-204-5412

Education Committee
Joann Um (Chair), Southwestern College 510-823-8637
Valerie Kuck 973-744-5510
Joan Schellinger, USD 619-260-7960

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James Caldwell, Accelagen, Inc. 815-262-9697

Finance Committee
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Tom Beattie 858-293-3012
James Caldwell, Accelagen, Inc. 815-262-9697

Fundraising Committee
OPEN

Government Affairs Committee
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Ken Poggenburg 760-635-2573

Law Committee
Ryan C. Smith, Duane Morris LLP 619-744-2220

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Mark Tichenor (Co-Chair), Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 858-334-8914
David Wallace (Co-Chair), Wallace Scientific Consulting 858-638-1866

Membership Committee
OPEN

Nominations Committee
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Julann Miller, Waters Corporation 800-252-4752 x8602

Picnic Committee
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Jim Shih, Eli Lilly & Co. 626-826-3561

Professional Development Committee
Valerie Kuck 973-744-5510

Public Relations Committee
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Senior Chemists Committee
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Seniors Breakfasts
Thomas R. Beattie 858-293-3012

Women Chemists Committee
Valerie Kuck 973-744-5510

Younger Chemists Committee
Kristen Counsell, Drawbridge 319-830-3097
Alexander Rovira, Janssen Research and Development 858-784-3013
Brittany P. Witherspoon, Janssen Research and Development 619-373-2436
Voice Mail – San Diego Section 619-687-5570