Navigating Chemical Space, Career and Family

Ryan Shenvi, PhD
Professor
Department of Chemistry
Scripps Research, La Jolla

DATE: Tuesday, June 15, 2021
TIME: 7:00 PM PDT
PLACE: Your Computer
RSVP: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/navigating-chemical-space-career-and-family-tickets-155531519963

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:
Ryan Shenvi completed his B.S. studies at Penn State University where he did research with Prof. John Desjarlais on protein biophysics and Prof. Raymond Funk on chemical synthesis. He earned his Ph.D. as an NDSEG Doctoral Fellow with Prof. Phil Baran at The Scripps Research Institute, and then joined the laboratory of Prof. E. J. Corey at Harvard University as an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow. He began his career in 2010 at The Scripps Research Institute and was tenured in 2014. In 2015, he became the primary caretaker of four children (ages 0–4) for five years, while his wife undertook a surgical residency.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION:
The Shenvi Group conducts research on the chemistry of “natural products”. These are small molecules that control the state and fate of individual cells, tissues, and organisms. Unlike most FDA-approved small molecules, natural products exhibit a high degree of asymmetry and non-planarity. Viewed as information carriers, natural products condense a remarkable amount of data into a very small volume.

Shenvi will discuss how the beauty and challenges of natural products inspired discoveries at the interface of chemistry, biology, catalysis and mechanism. These discoveries led to new methods and mechanistic models that have become widely adapted. He will also discuss the navigation of chemical space to discover “supernatural products” – that is, natural products with gain-of-function mutations.

In addition, he will examine the challenges faced by U.S. faculty in the 21st century. The rise of dual-career families, delocalization/mobility and housing costs are altering the traditional models of an academic career. This talk will chart the strategic choices, sacrifices, mistakes and rare successes in an ongoing path through academia.
Dear ACS Members,

Boy, time sure flies by fast! Unbelievably, June is already upon us, and I hope everyone is well. We had our fifth Executive Committee Meeting of 2021 virtually on Zoom on Thursday, May 6th, where we planned several future events and discussed the many activities that occurred in April.

On Thursday, May 13th, Valerie Kuck, one of our Section councilors who retired from Lucent Technologies/Bell Labs, presented "A Close Examination of the Training and Academic Hiring of Women in STEM Fields". Based on surveys, interviews and onsite discussions, Val presented the obstacles women in STEM fields have faced in graduate school and beyond. We had over 80 online registrations and over 60 virtual attendees.

On Thursday, June 15th, at 7PM, Professor Ryan Shenvi, Department of Chemistry at Scripps Research, La Jolla, will discuss "Navigating Chemical Space, Career and Family". He will discuss how the beauty and challenges of natural products inspired discoveries at the interface of chemistry, biology, catalysis and mechanism. He will also examine the challenges faced by US faculty in the 21st century in mobility, family, housing, and other career choices. Registration for the talk is via Eventbrite - https://www.eventbrite.com/e/navigating-chemical-space-career-and-family-tickets-155531519963

Our next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, June 3rd, at 6pm on Zoom. I invite all members who wish to become more involved in the 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 login details.

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

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 jkp135@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-l@ucsd.edu.
5. If the moderator approves the post, it will be sent to the members.

**NOTE:** That is the letter "I", not the number "one" following the word "chemist".

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 customers 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.

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

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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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2021

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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6:00 – 8:00 pm

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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### CONGRATULATIONS

**Tom Beattie** was the recipient of the 2020 Shirley B. Radding Award which is presented annually by the American Chemical Society Silicon Valley Section to an ACS member who has contributed to the local, regional, and national activities of the society.


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### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 USNCO NATIONAL EXAM FINALISTS!

14 San Diego high school students participated in this year’s U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) Digital National Exam Part 1. Congratulations to all students for their outstanding achievement in high school chemistry.

- **High Honors**
  - Nikhil Seshadri, University City HS
  - Ethan Lin, Westview HS

- **Honors**
  - Daniel Wang, Torrey Pines HS

- **Honorable Mention**
  - Anna Liu, Rancho Bernardo HS

**Nikhil Seshadri**, University City HS, ranked top 20 nationwide and will be a participant in this year’s USNCO Virtual Study Camp. Students will join their mentor team for the Virtual Study Camp from Monday, May 31, to Friday, June 11.

Thank you to **Professor Joan Schellinger**, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of San Diego, for coordinating the Chemistry Olympiad for the ACS – San Diego Section.

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### LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE 26 TO JUNE 30, 2022

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 26 to Thursday, June 30, 2022 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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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**VIRTUAL 23rd Annual San Diego MedChem Symposium**

**Start 9:00 AM - End TBD**

**Friday July 16, 2021**

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### IT IS NOT TOO EARLY---- ---- TO THINK ABOUT THE ANNUAL SAN DIEGO ACS LOCAL SECTION ELECTIONS 2022

Nominations for Section offices are now in order. Per our Bylaws, the current Chair-Elect will assume the Chair, but other positions are open for election, including:

- **Chair-Elect**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **3 Councilors**
- **3 Members-at-Large**

Councilors, Alternate Councilors, and Members-at-Large serve for three years, and all incumbents may succeed themselves. We encourage the active participation of our members! In particular, Member-at-Large is an excellent way to get involved in Section leadership. If you have an interest in becoming involved in the ACS-San Diego Section and want to make a self-nomination as a candidate for an elected position, please contact: **Jim Shih** at jshih@sandiegoacs.org

Please send your bios to **Renate Valois** at renate@sandiegoacs.org by September 23.

**NOTE: VOTING WILL AGAIN BE DONE ELECTRONICALLY**

Voting will be done electronically using your email address on record for the ACS. If you wish to receive a paper ballot instead, please call or e-mail **Jackie Trischman**, Election Coordinator, at **858-414-3323** or trischma@csusm.edu by **Tuesday, November 2** and leave your name and mailing address. You will be mailed a paper ballot.

If you do not request a paper ballot, you will receive instructions on how to vote via email. Please be sure your email address on file with the ACS is current! To update your email address with the ACS, use [www.chemistry.org](http://www.chemistry.org).
TRIVIA NIGHT

On April 15th, the Younger Chemists Committee (Kristen Counsel, Chris Fisher, Alex Rovira, Brittany Witherspoon), student affiliate member Mara Alonso, and Chair-elect, Juan Gonzalez, hosted a Trivia Night event over Zoom for our Local Section. A diverse representation of the Local Section attended the event, which included both chemistry undergraduates to late-career professionals. In all, about 30 people from the local chemistry community participated. The competition was fierce and exciting! Teams battled for one of two cash prizes over four rounds, then wagered it all in a "go big or go home" final round. Trivia Night was so well received that the Local Section will consider holding more of these kinds of events in the future.

-Juan Gonzalez

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF ELECTRICAL CHEMICAL BATTERIES

On April 22, Prof. Amy Marschilok of Stoney Brook University in Long Island, shared findings from her research with seventy-one attendees at the San Diego Section's General Interest Meeting. She discussed her latest efforts in identifying new materials for the next generation of high power, high energy, environmental, sustainable chemical batteries. Using electron microscopy and energy dispersive X-ray diffraction, she monitored the chemical processes occurring during battery discharge. She noted that during discharge only the metal moieties present on the electrode surface were active. By using smaller-sized magnetite crystallites deposited on a carbon electrode, she was able to lower the amount of undesired heat generated during discharge. Ideally, she stated that small, densely packed structures appear to be the best approach. The meeting concluded with a lively discussion on other metals that would be good candidates in developing electrodes with low resistance that would continuously generate current.

Text: Valerie Kuck

A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE TRAINING AND ACADEMIC HIRING OF WOMEN IN STEM FIELDS

On Thursday, May 13th, Valerie Kuck, one of our Section councilors who retired from Lucent Technologies/Bell Labs, presented "A Close Examination of the Training and Academic Hiring of Women in STEM Fields". Based on surveys, interviews and onsite discussions, Val presented the obstacles women in STEM fields have faced in graduate school and beyond. She presented challenges encountered by female graduate students and post-docs, as well as female faculty members. Val also discussed the way forward and what must change to improve the situation. Jackie Trischman, who is also a San Diego Section councilor, commented that it was very encouraging to hear that several local universities are working hard to support underrepresented PhD students and to change the landscape of hiring practices, onboarding processes, and mentoring of new faculty in Chemistry. There were over 80 online registrations and over 60 virtual attendees.

Text: Jim Shih, Jackie Trischman

Photo Credit: Jim Shih
IN MEMORIAM

Professor Emerita Marjorie C. Caserio passed away in April 2021, while on a visit to Mexico. Many chemists, and others who were students of sophomore organic chemistry, may remember Marjorie as a co-author of “Basic Principles of Organic Chemistry” along with John D. Roberts. Their textbook was first published in 1964, and went through many subsequent editions.

Marjorie was born in England, and attended the North London Collegiate School. Her MS and PhD were earned from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. Her postdoctoral years were spent at Cal Tech, working with Professor John D. Roberts. In 1964 she joined the Department of Chemistry at the new University of California, Irvine campus. During her years as a professor at UC Irvine, she held a number of administrative roles, including chair of the department, campus academic senate chair, and UC-wide faculty representative to the Board of Regents.

In 1990 she joined the UC San Diego campus as Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs. Even while in this full-time position as the #2 administrator on campus, she continued to teach introductory organic chemistry. In 1995-96 she served as Interim Chancellor of the university.

Marjorie retired in 1996, but remained active in the UC Emeriti Association. She was honored with the Revelle Medal at UC San Diego in 2019. Her National ACS activities throughout her career included a long stance on the Committee on Professional Training (CPT), where she also served as chair. She received the Francis P. Garvan Medal from ACS in 1975, and our local San Diego ACS Distinguished Scientist Award in 1994.

She always had time for mentoring others, especially women chemists, and I count myself fortunate to have known her for the past several decades, and to have benefitted from her advice, humor, and friendship.

- Barbara A. Sawrey

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (ACS) AND YOUR CAREER

The ACS is big! In fact, it is one of the world’s largest scientific organizations with more than 155,000 members in 150 countries. It takes a big organization (and a big website) to serve its many members. If you are like me, sometimes it is difficult to know what is on acs.org or to find what you need to know by just using the ACS website search function.

As a member of CEPA, the National ACS Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, I had occasion recently to connect with the ACS offerings for members to develop their careers at any career level. No, at my age, I was not looking for a job! Rather, I was fulfilling one of my responsibilities to evaluate and critique the online “Career Pathways” that ACS currently offers to its members.

I reviewed four ACS courses, each 1-2 hours in length, which were among a suite of 14 courses offered under the "ACS Career Navigator™" heading at https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/careers.html and divided among four categories:

- Developing and Growing in Your Career
- Exploring Career Options
- Finding and Landing a Job
- Finding Networking Opportunities

What I reviewed was excellent information well presented, and I judge very helpful in many ways. The networking offering stressed that only 30% of jobs available are advertised and advised how to connect with the other 70%. Two offerings in the job-finding category explored finding a government position. My take home message from these: Don’t try it without reviewing these ACS courses. The process for finding a government job is so very different from job finding in academia, industry or entrepreneurship.

Also, you will find at the same website opportunities for working with a personal career consultant and for having your resume reviewed by a pro.

Do take advantage of this valuable resource!

Tom Beattie
Councilor
ACS San Diego Local Section
Learn more and get started on the foundational courses for undergraduate and graduate students to more deeper learning aimed at extending the career experience offered will support a broad spectrum of learner needs traditional academic curriculum or that are required to advance in one's career, yet not readily available. The goal of the ACS Institute is to offer courses that are essential to the development of any scientist yet may fall outside a suite of new courses from ACS Education.

ACS Science Coaches: Sharing Experience and Enthusiasm!

Support and enhance K-12 chemistry education through the ACS Science Coaches program! Science Coaches is a unique opportunity for teachers to partner for a year with a chemist like you, who can:

- Provide advice on real-world applications of lessons, demos, or experiments
- Help develop and enhance lesson plans
- Mentor student research projects
- Promote inquiry-based learning
- Support classroom-based experiments
- Assist with chemical storeroom organization and safety
- Sponsor after school science clubs

And much more!

Take advantage of this great opportunity to give back to your community, share your expertise with teachers and students, and inspire the next generation of chemists! For 2021-2022, partners may hold meetings virtually to ensure the safety of all participants during the COVID-19 pandemic. 

Apply today! Applications are open now through September 1, and you will be notified by October 1. Learn more on the Science Coaches webpage.

A New Gateway to Learning Resources: The ACS Institute

ACS is pleased to announce the launch of the ACS Institute, a centralized portal with over 100 educational and training products and programs from across the Society. The portal includes a new series of both in-person and online courses from ACS Publications and a suite of new courses from ACS Education.

The goal of the ACS Institute is to offer courses that are essential to the development of any scientist yet may fall outside of the traditional academic curriculum or that are required to advance in one’s career, yet not readily available. Courses and programs offered will support a broad spectrum of learner needs, from foundational courses for undergraduate and graduate students to more deeper learning aimed at extending the career experience and credentials of practicing educators and industry professionals. Learn more and get started on the ACS Institute homepage!
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2021 ACS REGIONAL MEETINGS

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 | November 10-13 | Birmingham, AL

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

San Diego Mesa College
Linda Woods
lwoods@sdccd.edu
(619) 388-7750

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

University of California, San Diego
Stacey Brydges
sbrydges@ucsd.edu
858-246-0993

Thomas Bussey
bussey@ucsd.edu
858-822-6665

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

VIRTUAL
NAVIGATING CHEMICAL SPACE, CAREER AND FAMILY
Ryan Shenvi, PhD, Professor
Department of Chemistry, Scripps Research, La Jolla
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
**********

VIRTUAL
23rd ANNUAL SAN DIEGO MEDCHEM SYMPOSIUM
Start 9:00 AM - End TBD
Friday, July 16, 2021
**********

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

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

Rebecca Bader
Thomas Beardslee
Rohan Beckwith
Vagarshak Begoyan
Tom Carr
Pratik Rajesh Chheda
Adam Cooper
Thomas Cummins
Dharmpal Dodd
Carolina Farnham
Eva Fong
David Gedymin
Howard Hang
Samuel Hays

Michael Hocker
Natalie Holmberg-Douglas
Jim Hughes
Richard Jenkins
Lei Jia
George Johnston
Adam Kallel
Eleanor Landwehr
Allison Lim
Brandon McCullough
Giulianna Miseo
Maina Ndungu
Alok Nerurkar
Ealin Patel

Gordon Peiker
Geoffrey Piland
Hannah Powers
Anne Marie Prentiss
Francisco Sarabia
Suraj Saraswat
Lisa Savagian
Tumul Srivastava
Megan Stone
Sarah Waller
Justin Washabaugh
Jin Xu
Pengyu Yang
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SAN DIEGO SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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Hui Cai, WuXi AppTec (2022) 858-361-8838
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Valerie Kuck (2023) 973-744-5510
Jackie Trischman, CSUSM (2022) 858-414-3123
David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting (2021) 858-638-1866

Alternate Councilors
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Julann Miller, Waters Corporation (2023) 800-252-4752 x6802
Ken Poggenburg (2022) 760-635-2573
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Shannon Woodruff, HP Inc. (2023) 949-735-9021

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Bill Szabo (2022) 858-550-0306
Joan Um, Southwestern College (2022) 510-823-8637

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Jackie Trischman, CSUSM 858-414-3323
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Surya K. De, Supra Sciences, Inc. 858-337-4961
Desiree Grubisha, Heron Therapeutics 858-254-5497
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
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Valerie Kuck 973-744-5510
Joan Schellinger, USD 619-260-7960

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

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Ken Poggenburg 760-635-2573

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

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Valerie Kuck 973-744-5510

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Women Chemists Committee
Valerie Kuck 973-744-5510

Younger Chemists Committee
Kristen Counsell, Drawbridge 319-830-3097
Christopher Fisher, CG Life, 860-455-5297
Alexander Rovira, Janssen Research and Development 858-780-0013
Brittany P. Witherspoon, Janssen Research and Development 619-373-2436

Voice Mail – San Diego Section 619-687-5570