



ACS
Chemistry for Life®

The San Diego Chemist

San Diego Section

Volume 37, Number 8 August 2025

ACS Annual Picnic

Food, fun and family!



Register here



ACS
Chemistry for Life®

Sept 20 2025 at 11:00AM-2:30 PM,
San Dieguito County Park-Picnic Area 3
Tacos ! | Dessert Contest | Games & Entertainment

Dear ACS San Diego Members,

August marks a transitional moment as summer winds down and we gear up for a new season of events and engagement. It's also a month with several noteworthy milestones in the history of chemistry. On August 1, 1774, Joseph Priestley famously identified oxygen gas after heating mercuric oxide—an experiment that would later play a critical role in the development of modern chemistry and our understanding of combustion. On August 12, 1865, German chemist Adolf von Baeyer published early research on indigo dye synthesis, laying the foundation for what would become a major advancement in the chemical industry. These moments remind us how far the field has come—and how much innovation still lies ahead.

In keeping with the spirit of groundbreaking science, we were proud to co-host the 2025 San Diego Medicinal Chemistry Symposium in July, alongside SABPA and UC San Diego. This exciting event brought together leaders in drug discovery to share cutting-edge research and foster collaboration across sectors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizers, speakers, and attendees for making it a standout success. Make sure to check out the photos of the event!

We're also looking forward to our annual 50-Year Member Luncheon on Saturday, August 23, held at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. This special tradition honors our longest-standing ACS members and their lasting contributions to the field of chemistry. We invite all members to attend, celebrate their achievements, and enjoy the scenic waterfront views and excellent company. If you have not RSVP'ed yet, make sure to do so.

And don't forget—one of our biggest gatherings of the year is right around the corner! The ACS San Diego Local Section Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 20th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This family-friendly event features catered tacos, lawn games, kids' activities, a dessert contest, and a raffle with fun ACS prizes. It's a wonderful opportunity to unwind and connect with fellow members in a casual, festive setting. Early registration is crucial to help us plan for food and activities, so be sure to RSVP soon! See the link to the Eventbrite in this issue.

As summer draws to a close, we're also reminded that the end of the year is fast approaching, bringing with it some of our most anticipated annual events—including the Distinguished Scientist Banquet and our Year-End Party. Stay tuned for announcements, and be on the lookout for exciting programming from our Women Chemists Committee (WCC) and Young Chemists Committee (YCC) as well

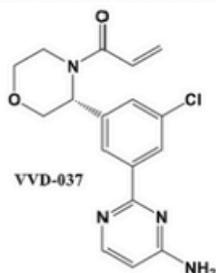
Thank you for being an active part of ACS San Diego. Whether you join us for science, celebration, or community, your involvement strengthens the fabric of our local section. We look forward to seeing you soon—virtually or in person!

Warm regards,

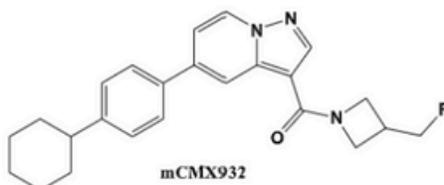
Max Mahler and Jackie Trischman
Co-Chairs, ACS San Diego Section

THE 26th ANNUAL SAN DIEGO MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM

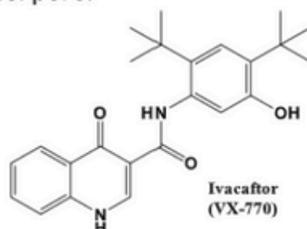
The 26th Annual San Diego Medicinal Chemistry Symposium took place on July 11th at UC San Diego. Hojel Hall in the Institute of the Americas was filled with over 300 attendees who came to hear talks from an outstanding set of local speakers. This year, the opening talk by Dr. David Weinstein from Vividion Therapeutics described the use of quantitative chemoproteomic to identify VVD-037 as KEAP1 activator for the treatment of NRF2-activated solid tumors.



Next, Associate Professor Michael Bollong from Scripps spoke about using small molecules as regenerative medicines. Their discovery of an agonist of the YAP:TEAD transcriptional complex, specifically, mCMX932, could lead to a new treatment for heart failure by reversing heart muscle damage. Compound mCMV852 is currently undergoing preclinical studies.



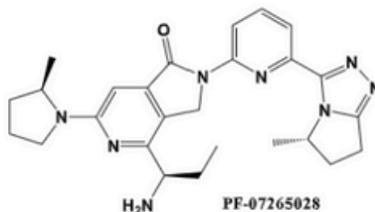
To complete the morning session, Dr. Jinglan Zhou from Vertex Pharmaceuticals elaborated on her group's discovery of Ivacaftor (VX-770), a "potentiator" of CFTR, meaning it increases the probability that the defective channel will be open and allow chloride ions pass through the channel pore.



She showed how combinations of "potentiator" Ivacaftor can be combined with CFTR "correctors", specifically lumacaftor or tezacaftor to treat nearly 50% of cystic fibrosis patients. The addition of another "corrector", elxacaftor to the combo can now treat 90% of cystic fibrosis patients.

After the coffee break, Professor Elizabeth Winzeler from UC San Diego presented on her group's use of genetics to discover how malaria drugs work and which targets are conserved across parasitic species. Her work with the Malaria Drug Accelerator (MaIDA) has helped to identify new targets and early chemical leads for the global malaria drug discovery pipeline.

Dr. Joyann Donaldson from Pfizer delivered the final lecture of the day, presenting on the design of HPK1 small molecule inhibitor PF-07265028. Her talk included the development of novel routes to fused triazoles and chiral amino methylation methodology.



The event was free for attendees because of the generous financial support of our sponsors, BMS, Duane Morris, J&J, Novartis, Pfizer, Vertex, Vividion Therapeutics, Wilson Sonsini, and Wuxi AppTec. The San Diego ACS, SABPA, and UCSD are eager to collaborate on another symposium next year. Please contact Fleur Ferguson (fmferguson@ucsd.edu), Ben Pratt (bpratt@sandiegoacs.org), Mark Tichenor (mtichenor@sandiegoacs.org), David Wallace (davidmw@san.rr.com), or Tao Wu (tao.wu@sabpa.org), if your organization would like to sponsor the event or has an exciting new disclosure for this symposium in 2026!



Dr. David Weinstein, Vividion Therapeutics



Co-organizer, Dr. Fleur Ferguson



Dr. Michael Bollong from Scripps



Dr. Elizabeth Winzeler, UCSD



Dr. Jinglan Zhou, Vertex



Dr. Joyann Donaldson, Pfizer



Co-organizer, Dr. Ben Pratt



Co-organizer, Dr. Tao Wu



A packed auditorium



Networking and lunch

26th Annual MedChem Symposium



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CELEBRATING
OUR



50- YEAR MEMBERS!

Ever wanted to connect with those who've had a lifetime of service experience?



Join us over lunch as we commemorate and dine with our esteemed and longest-serving members, as they reflect on their years of service and involvement.



- **DATE:** AUGUST 23, 2025
- **TIME:** 11:30AM-1:30PM
- **LOCATION:** TOM HAM'S LIGHTHOUSE
- **PRICE:** \$25 PER GUEST

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**San Diego Section, American Chemical
Society Executive Committee – Zoom**

Meeting

June 5, 2025 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Surya De (Councilor), Jesus Cordova (WRM Chair), Vanessa DeLey Cox, Max Mahler (Co-chair), Sharai Mendez, Jim Shih (Alt Councilor), Ryan Smith (Alt Councilor), Jackie Trischman (Co-chair/Sec/Councilor), David Wallace (Councilor), Melody Yang

Absent:

Hui Cai (Councilor), Jiyue Chen (Chair-elect), Juan Gonzalez (Alt Councilor), Desiree Grubisha (Treasurer/Councilor), Valerie Kuck (Councilor), Jessica Le (MAL), Ben Pratt (Alt Councilor), Randall Smith (MAL), Bill Szabo (MAL), Christina Vialva (Past Chair)

Meeting convened: 6:34 pm

Changes/Approval of May Minutes

Motion #1: Approve May 2025 Minutes — M/S/P Approved with 1 abstention

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Desiree Grubisha was unable to attend this evening, but reported that two sponsorships came in for the MedChem Symposium. No other transactions beyond regular monthly expenses.

Recap Meetings

Dr. Matthew Kromer gave a virtual talk on May 27, 2025 on Wildfire Chemistry and its effects soil and air and the relevance to firefighters and to society. With the notice coming a bit late as we set up what was happening for May, we were happy to have 22 in attendance out of the 36 who registered.

Future Meetings

Dr. Nicholas Meanwell will be doing a reboot of his talk on Inhibitors of HIV-1 Attachment on June 19, 2025 at 6pm. The previous session was unfortunately cut short due to technical difficulties, but Dr. Meanwell has graciously agreed to return.

July will be the MedChem Symposium and possibly the 50-year Luncheon, so we will look for an August speaker.

WD-40 can do virtual anytime, but in-person would be best in October or March when more chemists are on the west coast. They invented WD-40 here and still have a small presence of chemists, but the actual R&D is in New Jersey now. They still do a lot of chemical problem-solving in San Diego, but it is not as interesting. We want R&D Chemists for their stories and what's coming in their field. In Person with samples would draw more outside interest. Ask for March in person or August virtual or in October if the Distinguished Scientist/Awards Banquet is moved.

Blue Nalu – September Discussing with their PR folks to try to get a protein chemist.

Jiyue is working on a possible August event as well.

Professional Development Sessions

Vanessa DeLey Cox went through Professional Development Workshop updates with 4 speakers confirmed with rough timing. Exact dates and locations not set, but thinking Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan.

Topics:

- 1) Transition to Project Management - Want more info than if you googled it! More interactive
- 2) Medical Writing – types, what does career look like?
and less formal than work meeting.
- 3) Small vs Large companies – personal perspectives with Vanessa discussing Government vs industry
- 4) Conflict resolution course – self-assessment in group setting. From picking out a shower curtain with spouse to disagreement with boss at work. \$30 per person roughly.

Discussion:

- What would draw you from work? We all agreed having something to eat would be important, even if light. Sessions around 6pm.
- Should we have swag? Mugs, water bottle, pens, notepads, stickers.
- Promotional materials? Advertise all four at once. Put up in break rooms, etc. ?
- Propose opportunity drawing for 5 ACS memberships. 2026 WRM in San Diego – will use as a drawing and will use the meeting to promote helping with the meeting and bringing in companies to sponsor. Discussion = must attend 3 of 4 sessions to be entered into the drawing.
- Looking at venue. Suggested reach out to Randy Smith to see if Hologic is available, send dates/times to Jim Shih for Lilly, others possible.

Food: \$100-\$200 per session = \$600

Swag: \$200 per session = \$800

Marketing: \$100 total for cards

Travel reimbursement for OC/LA speakers: \$600

Drawing for memberships/WRM: \$800 \$2900 total plus up to \$1000 for training materials

for final session.

Motion #2: To allocate up to \$3900 for the Professional Development Series. – M/S/P Unanimous

MedChem

David Wallace – Showed all speakers

Sponsorship was discussed. It was raised from \$1500 to \$2000 because had not been raised in a long time. Ryan noted \$1500 or below typically does not need to go up the chain, so this could be a critical price hike. We will keep an eye on it.

Sponsorships nearly covers the roughly \$11K-\$14K of expenses that include taking speakers to dinner the evening before. Other costs are all event day expenses. We have 7 sponsors, so we should cover all costs.

Jim asked that they ask speakers and attendees to think about WRM sessions.

50-year and 60-year Member Luncheon

We have a tentative date of July 26, but the coordinator has not confirmed since a discussion in April. Jackie will confirm and get information out.

Picnic Committee

Time to get together! Looking at September date again.

Distinguished Scientist

Reviewing several candidates. Will meet again later in June to review our research and narrow in further. Then we will plan the event, likely in middle of October.

ChemExpo Date Set

Background checks now take 1 month to turn around. Given that UCSD begins last week of Sept., late October is no longer feasible. Because of this difficulty in doing all necessary background checks in time for National Chemistry week, and because of Jackie's unavailability on Nov 1, we have set ChemExpo on Nov. 8. We plan to reach out to food and spice places like Penzey's and Blue Nalu to see if they want to be involved as the theme is "The Hidden Life of Spices."

WRM 2026

Jesus Cordova shared that they will be meeting June 10 at 6:30pm virtually. Please come if you can. It was suggested that we reach out to Ajay Nirula, Bryan Jones, and/or Nathan Wright at Lilly to serve as session chairs.

In-person Exec

We discussed September as a good time to have an in-person Executive Meeting. Jackie will investigate to see if Hui can host us.

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: July 10, 2025, 6:30pm, to avoid July 4 holiday

Shear Genius: Advances in Rheology for Polymer and Materials Chemistry
ACS Webinars
August 6, 2025
[Click here](#)

Advanced HILIC Workflows for GLP-1 Agonist Impurity Profiling
FIRST SESSION: August 14, 2025
SECOND SESSION: October 7, 2025
[Click here](#)

Green is the New Standard: How to Integrate Sustainability and Systems Thinking into the Curriculum
ACS Webinars
August 7, 2025 @ 11AM PDT
[Click here](#)

Metrics & Mandates: Driving Chemistry Toward a Greener Future
ACS Webinars
August 14, 2025
[Click here](#)

Analysis for Impurities in Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen by Gas Chromatography
August 7, 2025
11AM PDT
[Click here](#)



c&en
CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS

One for All: Spinsolve NMR with Unlimited Nuclei and Variable Temperature Right on Your Bench
August 12, 2025
8AM. PDT
[Click here](#)

Beyond the Method: Uncovering the Limits of PFAS Detection with Combustion Ion Chromatography
August 13, 2025
10AM PDT
[Click here](#)

Executive Committee Meeting

Dates 2025

6:30– 8:00 PM

August 7th,
September 4th,
October 2nd,
November 6th,
December 4th.

[Zoom Meeting](#)



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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 current Co-Chair, Max Mahler mmahler@sandiegoacs.org Once approved, Max 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!

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For more information, please contact:
Carolina Ibarra at cibarra@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.

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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

Vacant

San Diego Mesa College

Synthia Chang
schang001@sdccd.edu

San Diego Miramar College

Vacant

Southwestern College, Chula Vista

Juan Gonzalez
jgonzalez3@swccd.edu
619-421-6700x5947

University of California, San Diego

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Jiyue Chen email contact for the WCC is ACS-WCC@sandiegoacs.org.

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