

2025 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD BANQUET



DR. JOHN HOOD

Development of ENV-101, a best-in-class hedgehog inhibitor that is first agent to show reversal of fibrotic disease in man

[Register here](#)

Dear ACS San Diego Members,

As we turn the calendar to September, the fall season brings cooler days, new opportunities, and a chance to reflect on the history of our science. On September 28th, 1928, Alexander Fleming made the serendipitous observation of ***Penicillium notatum*** mold inhibiting bacterial growth—an insight that sparked the antibiotic revolution. Discoveries like this remind us how chemistry continually changes lives in profound ways.

Last month, we were delighted to host our 50-Year Member Luncheon at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. This year's gathering welcomed 21 attendees, including four honorees (three of whom were joined by spouses), eight board members and guests, and three prior honorees with guests. It was a joy to celebrate the dedication and achievements of our long-standing members together by the bay. A special thanks goes out to all who joined us—be sure to check out the wonderful photos from the luncheon later in this newsletter!

Looking ahead, we're excited for one of our largest annual gatherings—the **ACS San Diego Local Section Picnic on Saturday, September 20th from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM**. This family-friendly event will feature catered tacos, lawn games, kids' activities, a dessert contest, and a raffle with ACS prizes. It's always a highlight of the year, and early registration is strongly encouraged so we can prepare for everyone's participation. We can't wait to see many of you there! [Register now!](#)

Another highlight this fall will be our **Distinguished Scientist Banquet**, where we are proud to honor **Dr. John Hood** for his groundbreaking work in drug discovery and development. Dr. Hood is being recognized for the **development of ENV-101, a best-in-class hedgehog inhibitor that is the first agent to demonstrate reversal of fibrotic disease in man**. In addition to his leadership at Endeavor BioMedicines, Dr. Hood has a long track record of scientific and entrepreneurial success, including co-discovering and advancing fedratinib, now approved worldwide for the treatment of myelofibrosis. His vision and contributions exemplify the impact of San Diego's life sciences community, and we look forward to celebrating his achievements at this year's banquet. [Register here!](#)

As the year continues, we are thrilled to share that we are in discussions with **Taylor Guitars and BlueNalu** for some exciting end-of-year talks that highlight the intersection of **chemistry, innovation, and industry in San Diego**. In addition, our **Women Chemists Committee (WCC)** is organizing the **Women's Trailblazing Award Banquet in early October**—full details can be found later in this newsletter. These programs promise to bring inspiring stories and fresh perspectives to our community.

Thank you for your continued involvement in ACS San Diego. Whether we gather to celebrate milestones, share science, or enjoy community, your participation makes our section strong. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,

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

Development of ENV-101, a best-in-class hedgehog inhibitor that is first agent to show reversal of fibrotic disease in man

John Hood, PhD
Co-Founder, CEO and Chairman



About the Speaker:

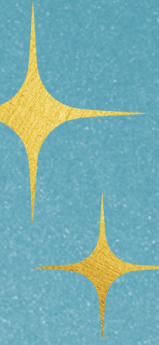
Dr. Hood is Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Chairman of Endeavor BioMedicines. A veteran of the California life sciences community, Dr. Hood has founded and led several successful biotechnology companies throughout his 20-year career. He previously served as the Founder and CEO of Impact Biomedicines (now owned by Bristol Myers Squibb), the company that developed fedratinib, which is now approved worldwide for the treatment of myelofibrosis. Dr. Hood began his career in 2001 as Director of Research at TargeGen, where he co-discovered fedratinib and led a team identifying small molecule therapeutics for the treatment of cancer and eye disease. He is an inventor on 100+ patents and the author of 50+ scientific articles. Dr. Hood earned his PhD in Medical Physiology and a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University.

50+ Year ACS Member Luncheon





“A Big Thank you to Neal Langerman for taking photos
at the 50-Year/60-Year Member Luncheon.”





Sepsis: Rethinking the Fight Against a Global Killer

ACS Webinars - September 10, 2025

7:00 a.m. PST

[Click here](#)

Catalyze the Vote! Meet the 2026 ACS President-Elect Candidates

ACS Webinars - September 11, 2025

[Click here](#)

ChemDraw: Insider Secrets Every Chemist Should Know

ACS Webinars - September 17, 2025

[Click here](#)

Fewer Steps, Greater Strides: Celebrating Breakthroughs in Sustainable Manufacturing

ACS Webinars - September 18, 2025

[Click here](#)

Bonding with Caution: Understanding the Hazards of Peptide Couplers

ACS Webinars - September 24, 2025

[Click here](#)

Making Sense of Microplastics Data Using YABE, a Reporting Tool for the Agilent 8700 LDIR

c&en Webinars - September 11, 2025

12:00 p.m. PST

[Click here](#)

Strategies for Advancing Molecular Glue Drug Discovery

c&en Webinars - September 9, 2025

7:00 a.m. PST

[Click here](#)

Scalable, Automated UF/DF for High-Concentration Monoclonal Antibody Manufacturing

c&en Webinars - September 16, 2025

7:00 a.m. PST

[Click here](#)

Accelerating Drug Discovery: Enhanced Chemistry Strategies for NCEs, ADCs, and Emerging Modalities

c&en Webinars - September 17, 2025

7:00 a.m. PST

[Click here](#)

ADME and Bioanalytical Strategies for ADCs: Challenges, Emerging Technologies, and Regulatory Considerations

c&en Webinars - September 18, 2025

7:00 a.m. PST

[Click here](#)



Executive Committee Meeting

Dates 2025

6:30– 8:00 PM

October 2nd,

November 6th,

December 4th.

Zoom Meeting



SAN DIEGO
MIRAMAR
COLLEGE

ChemExpo2025

San Diego's Celebration of National Chemistry Week



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Saturday, November 8, 2025 • 9am-3pm

San Diego ACS will hold their annual event to promote the value of chemistry in everyday life. The goal is to help our community to explore and understand chemistry with a focus on the chemistry of spices. Together, we will learn about how spices are used by plants and by humans and how chemistry plays a role in all of it.

The main event: 11 am to 3 pm

There will be Girls Scout and Scouts BSA badge work starting at 9am, with setup starting at 8am. K-12 students will come between 11am – 3pm to participate in hands-on activities and watch stage demos from San Diego college students.

Location Information:

Campus Map: <http://sdmiramar.edu/map>

Driving/Walking Instructions: The College is at 10440 Black Mountain Road between Mira Mesa Blvd and Carroll Canyon Road.

- From Black Mountain Road, turn into campus parking lot (look for solar panel structures)
- Park in lot 2. Parking is free during the weekend
- From the parking lot, walk east on "West Compass Walk" to "Compass Point" near the Science Building

What to Expect:

- Local company, ACS, and organization booths
- University student stage demos
- Hands On Tables with Miramar College & CSU San Marcos Students and Faculty

We need volunteers and organizations to:

- Bring company tables
- Staff ACS and other organization tables
- Staff the Scout area
- Keep the stage demos and raffles running
- Coordinate volunteers



***Please sign up to exhibit or to volunteer by
Oct. 1, 2025 at volunteers@sandiegoacs.org.
Let us know any assignment preferences.***

For K-12 Students - We will have raffle drawings for fun prizes like Amazon Gift Cards and chemistry swag.

GUITARS
AND
CHEMISTRY

**A DISCUSSION WITH
TAYLOR GUITARS**



OCTOBER

Chris Wellons and Colleagues
from Taylor Guitars

Place: SDSU

Date: TBD



PACT SUMMIT 2025



Thursday,
6th November, 2025



8:30 AM - 3 PM



Neurocrine Biosciences
6027 Edgewood Bend Ct
San Diego, CA 92130

[Register Now](#)

**ADMISSION TO THE
EVENT IS FREE!**

FEATURED EVENTS

- Innovative Scientific Talks
- Poster Presentations
- Networking Opportunities
- Vendor booths featuring their latest novel Technology!
- Collaborative Discussions
- Latest Developments in Analytical Chemistry

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

July 10, 2025 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Jiyue Chen (Chair-elect), Surya De (Councilor), Jesus Cordova (WRM Chair), Desiree Grubisha (Treasurer/Councilor), Max Mahler (Co-chair), Sharai Mendez, John Palmer, Jim Shih (Alt Councilor), Ryan Smith (Alt Councilor), Jackie Trischman (Co-chair/Sec/Councilor), Christina Vialva (Past Chair), Marta Vuckovic

Absent:

Hui Cai (Councilor), Juan Gonzalez (Alt Councilor, sent affirmative vote on minutes), Valerie Kuck (Councilor), Jessica Le (MAL), Ben Pratt (Alt Councilor), Randall Smith (MAL), Bill Szabo (MAL), David Wallace (Councilor)

Meeting convened: 6:36 pm

I. Changes/Approval of June Minutes

Motion #1: Approve June 2025 Minutes — Moved/Seconded/Passed 7 yes, 2 abs

II. Treasurer Report

- Went through activities for the past month.
- Income included \$12K reimbursement for Spring Councilor reimbursement and \$8K for MedChem sponsors.
- Deposit for Tom Ham's for 50-year member celebration sent and picnic check ready.
- Other costs that hit this month: \$2079 for promotional supplies, \$5874 for newsletter preparation, \$1572 for social media, \$84 for Uber rides on an updated travel claim.
- Jiyue will send costs for yoga event.
- Looked at our accounts, Despite overall market cooling, our investments have done very well.

III. Recap on Past Meetings

Dr. Nicholas Meanwell gave a reboot of his talk on Inhibitors of HIV-1 Attachment on June 19, 2025 at 6pm on Zoom. The previous virtual session was unfortunately cut short due to technical difficulties, but Dr. Meanwell graciously agreed to return. 16 attended and engagement was good, so we were glad we brought him back.

IV. Future Meetings

A. **MedChem Symposium:** July 11 will be the MedChem Symposium.

Already had \$8,000 of sponsorships deposited. Sponsorships are expected to nearly covers the roughly \$11K-\$14K of expenses that include taking speakers to dinner the evening before (where David Wallace is tonight). Other costs are all event day expenses.

We want speakers and attendees to think about getting engaged in local section, especially WRM sessions and potentially ChemExpo. We will have a table at the event for this purpose. Max can cover at 10am, Christina can be there earlier. Brenda and John can help, as well as Jiyue and Marta. Want to network to get volunteers for WRM and ChemExpo. Jackie will drop off tablecloth and infographic on WRM. Jiyue will bring sign-up sheet for WRM. Jackie will bring sign-up for ChemExpo as well.

- B. **Future Talks:** WD-40 or Blue Nalu in October. We have reached out to both and they are checking with potential speakers.

V. WCC Events

Will have a hike in Auguts (possible late July) and rock climbing instruction. They will host the awards event in September.

VI. 50+-year Membership Celebration

Will take place at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Aug. 23 at 11:30am. Jiyue or Jim will coordinate to ensure one can take pics. Jackie will send personal emails to all awardees. Awardee plus one guest attend free of charge.

VII. Distinguished Scientist Awards Banquet

Will be held in September. We have a selection, but cannot reveal the name quite yet until they have been contacted and a date has been set.

VIII. Picnic

We have Area 3 reserved this year on Saturday, September 20. We will have no outlets. Max is contacting the Taco vendor to get a new quote. Melody and Marta will help as well.

IX. YCC

We had discussion about growing our YCC. A Mole Day event was discussed after seeing it with another local section and student chapter. They hid hundreds of moles around campus with a QR code and a chemistry trivia question. They went to the QR code and answered the question to be entered into a drawing that took place at 6:23pm on Oct. 23. Sounded like fun, though it is a busy time.

X. WRM 2026

Jesus Cordova shared that they had a meeting on June 10. He sent an email update with a few questions to collect ideas and information on what sessions people are interested in, names to suggest for plenary speakers, voting on potential date, along with a spreadsheet to add name on a certain role. He included link with explanation of various roles.

Next step – meeting on July 17 6:30-8pm.

Today, Jesus met with Tristan Hicks, Regional Meeting Manager and global events coordinator. He went through the steps for a Meeting Management Agreement (MMA) and confirmed what services we want from ACS. Will go through it in next meeting. Need MOU asap. We have access to many potential venues and he is happy to have a list of some possibilities from us.

XI. In-person Exec

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 p.m.

Next meeting: Aug 7, 2025, Planned to be held at 6:00 WuXiAppTech at 6114 Nancy Ridge Dr, San Diego, CA 92121.



The San Diego Section of the American Chemical Society would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors.

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!

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

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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

Jeremy Klosterman
jkk@ucsd.edu

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Co-Chair	Jackie Trischman, CSUSM	(2026)	858-414-3323
Co-Chair	Max Mahler	(2026)	619-405-5509
Chair-Elect	Jiyue Chen	(2026)	858-260-8283
Past Chair	Christina Vialva, cvialva@sandiegoacs.org		951-287-4503
Secretary	Jackie Trischman, CSUSM		
Treasurer	Desiree Grubisha, Heron Therapeutics, desgrubisha@gmail.com	(2028)	858-254-5497

Councilors

Hui Cai, WuXi AppTec	(2025)	858-361-8838
Surya K. De, Conju-Probe	(2028)	858-337-4961
Desiree Grubisha, Heron Therapeutics	(2028)	858-254-5497
Valerie Kuck	(2027)	973-744-5510
David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting	(2028)	858-638-1866

Alternate Councilors

Ben Pratt, Pratt Pharma Consulting LLC	(2025)	858-945-7893
Jim Shih, Eli Lilly & Co	(2028)	626-826-3561
Juan Gonzalez-Gonzalez	(2027)	619-813-8520
Ryan Smith	(2027)	619-744-2220

Members-at-Large

Bill Szabo	(2025)	858-550-0306
Jessica Le		
Randall Smith	(2025)	

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**Awards Nomination Committee**

Valerie Kuck (Co-Chair)	973-744-5510
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ChemExpo

Jackie Trischman, CSUSM	858-414-3323
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Communications Committee

Surya K. De, Conju-Probe.	858-337-4961
Desiree Grubisha, Heron Therapeutics	858-254-5497
Carolina Ibarra (Newsletter Editor & Social Media Manager)	619-618-9240
David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting	858-638-1866

Distinguished Scientist Awards Nomination Committee

David Wallace (Chair), Biosplice Therapeutics	858-204-5412
Surya K. De, Conju-Probe	858-337-4961
Hui Cai, WuXi AppTec	858-361-8838
Jim Shih, Eli Lilly & Co	626-826-3561
Peter Iovine, USD	619-260-4028
Jackie Trischman, CSUSM	858-414-3323

Education Committee

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Joan Schellinger, USD	619-260-7960

EarthFair

OPEN

Finance Committee

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Ryan Smith	619-744-2220

Fundraising Committee

OPEN

Government Affairs Committee

Hui Cai, WuXi AppTec (Chair)	858-361-8838
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Law Committee

Ryan C. Smith, Duane Morris LLP	619-744-2220
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Mad Science Program

OPEN

MedChem Symposium

Ben Pratt (Co-Chair), Pratt Pharma Consulting LLC
Mark Tichenor (Co-Chair), Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
David Wallace (Co-Chair), Biosplice Therapeutics
Tao Wu (Co-Chair), Kumquat Biosciences

858-945-7893
858-334-8914
858-638-1866
858-922-0428

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626-826-3561

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973-744-5510

Public Relations Committee

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Senior Chemists Committee

OPEN

Seniors Breakfasts

OPEN

Women Chemists Committee

Committee Chair

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

Younger Chemists Committee

Christina Vialva, cvalva@sandiegoacs.org
