

SAN DIEGO MEDCHEM SYMPOSIUM

Friday, July 17, 2026



UC San Diego
CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

- 8:30 AM **Breakfast and registration**
UCSD Institute of the Americas Auditorium
- 8:55 AM **Opening Remarks: Dr. Fleur Ferguson**
- 9:00 AM **Dr. Brendan Parr, Drug Hunter**
Drug Discovery Highlights from San Diego
- 9:30 AM **Dr. Ian Seiple, The Scripps Research Institute**
Giving new life to natural antibiotics through chemical synthesis
- 10:00 AM **Dr. Zhe Nie, Schrödinger**
Accelerated in silico Discovery of SGR-1505: a Potent MALT1 Allosteric Inhibitor for the Treatment of Mature B-cell Malignancies
- 10:30 AM **Break and Networking**
- 10:55 AM **Dr. Rohan Beckwith, Neomorph**
Expanding the Druggable Genome with Molecular Glues
- 11:25 AM **Dr. Dean Phillips, Novartis**
Pan-KRAS Inhibitors: Innovative Macrocycle Designs from Discovery to Preclinical Studies
- 11:55 AM **Closing remarks**
- 12:00 PM **Lunch and networking**
- 2:00 PM **Symposium Conclusion**

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Dear members,

June is a busy month in San Diego's biotech and chemistry community, driven by the **BIO International Convention (June 22-25, 2026)**, the **T-Cell Engager Therapeutics Summit**, and numerous satellite networking events and industry meetings. Together, these gatherings bring thousands of researchers, biotech and pharmaceutical professionals, and investors to the region. With strong focus areas in drug discovery, medicinal chemistry, and therapeutic development, San Diego continues to serve as a major hub for life sciences innovation.

Looking ahead to our upcoming local events, the webinar featuring **Dr. Zhongwei Li** from USC, originally scheduled for June 25, has been rescheduled to **July 23**. Dr. Li will present his cutting-edge research on **organoid technologies and their applications in biomedical science**. [Register here](#)

In observance of the Independence Day holiday, our **Executive Committee meeting** will be moved to **July 9**. We host monthly Executive Committee meetings, and members interested in attending are welcome to join. Please contact me for the Zoom link.

We are also in the final stages of planning for the **2026 Medicinal Chemistry Symposium on July 17, co-organized by UC San Diego, SABPA, and the ACS San Diego Section** on the **UC San Diego campus**. This symposium is one of the largest events hosted by the ACS San Diego Section each year. We are actively seeking sponsors for this event. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact me at jchen@sandiegoacs.org or Mark Tichenor at mtichenor@sandiegoacs.org for additional information.

Finally, please save the date for our **Annual ACS San Diego Section Picnic**, scheduled for **September 26**. Additional details will be announced soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best regards,

Jiyue Chen, Ph.D.
San Diego ACS Local Section Chair

**San Diego Section, American Chemical Society
Executive Committee – Zoom Meeting
Thursday, May 7th, 2026, 6:30pm**

In Attendance: Jiyue Chen (Chair), Marta Vuckovic (Secretary), Jackie Trischman, James Shih, Joan Go Schellinger, Mark Tichenor, Christina Vialva, Jessica Le, Myra Gupta, John Palmer, Randall Smith, Surya De, and other Executive Committee members.

Absent: Hui Cai (Councilor), Valerie Kuck (Councilor), Jesus Cordova (WRM Chair), Desiree Grubisha.

Meeting convened at 6:35pm

1. Approval and review of meeting minutes for April 2026 (Jiyue)

2. Chemistry Olympiad Update (Joan Schellinger)

- Joan provided an overview of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad program and competition structure.
- The 2026 local exam was disrupted due to a national exam leak, resulting in cancellation of the originally scheduled local exam.
- An alternative local exam was administered on March 28 with support from volunteers.
- Participation decreased from the usual 75–100 students to 58 students from 11 local high schools.
- Sixteen students were selected to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam held at USD on April 12.
- Joan acknowledged USD student volunteers and laboratory staff for supporting both the local and national examinations.
- ACS San Diego will continue its tradition of providing:
 - \$50 awards to National Exam participants.
 - Electronic certificates for volunteers.
 - Jiyue will coordinate volunteer certificates and work with the Treasurer to distribute student awards.

3. 50-, 60-, and 70-Year ACS Member Recognition Luncheon (Jackie Trischman)

- Event date confirmed for **August 8, 2026**.
- Jiyue has received award certificates and recipient information.
- Jackie will begin invitations and event promotion.
- The event will be included in upcoming newsletters.
- Jim Shih volunteered to serve as event photographer.
- Discussion included inviting ACS student chapter members to attend and learn from long-term ACS members.
- Jackie will contact student chapters and offer complimentary attendance opportunities.

4. MedChem Symposium 2026 Update (Mark Tichenor)

Event Details

- Date: July 17, 2026
- Location: UCSD Institute of the Americas

Planning Updates

- All speakers have been confirmed.
- Five sponsors have committed, totaling approximately \$10,000.
- Additional sponsorship discussions are ongoing.
- Sponsorship level remains \$2,000 per sponsor.
- The final flyer is expected by the end of May.
- Promotion will begin in the June newsletter.
- Poster board rental upgrades are being evaluated to improve stability during the poster session.
- The symposium is organized jointly by ACS San Diego, SABPA, and UCSD.
- Discussion continued regarding reimbursement and payment logistics with UCSD related to previous symposium expenses.

5. Distinguished Scientist Award Update (Jackie Trischman)

- Award committee membership is being finalized. Current committee members include Jackie Trischman, Jim Shih, Surya De, and Hui Cai. Additional academic representatives are being recruited.
- Nominations are now being accepted.
- The committee will continue its practice of alternating between academic and industry awardees.

6. Trailblazer Women Chemists Award

- Planning is underway for the 2026 Trailblazer Women Chemists Award program.
- Volunteers are being recruited for the organizing committee.
- Nominations are expected to open during the summer.
- The award event is tentatively planned for October 2026.

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was proposed by Jiyue Chen and seconded by Christina Vialva and Surya De.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33 PM. Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2026, via Zoom.

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**Executive Committee Meeting
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**First thursdays of
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[Zoom Meeting](#)

***Subject to change if
in person meeting**

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June 10, 2026

10:00 a.m. PDT

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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 Chair, Jiyue Chen jchen@sandiegoacs.org. Once approved, Jiyue 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 content is 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 submitted items is the 5th 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.

CSUSM

Kang Du kdu@csusm.edu

SDSU

Peter van der Geer - undergrad. advisor
pvanderg@sdsu.edu

UCSD

Jereny Klosterman jkk@ucsd.edu

San Diego Mesa College

Synthia Chang
schang001@sdccd.edu

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Past Chair Max Mahler	(2026)	619-405-5509

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Valerie Kuck	(2027)	973-744-5510
David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting	(2028)	858-638-1866

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Randall Smith	(2025)	
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David Wallace, Wallace Scientific Consulting		858-638-1866

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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
