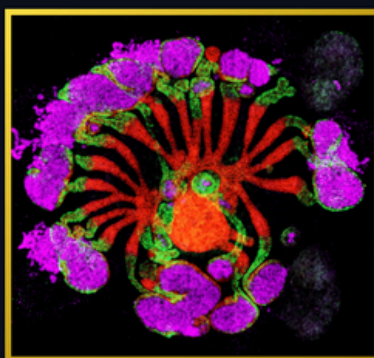




Human Kidney Organoid Platforms for Disease Modeling and Regenerative Medicine



Kidney
Progenitors



Self-Organizing
Organogenesis



Platform
Applications



Speaker:
Zhongwei Li, Ph.D.

Ready to explore the future of regenerative therapeutics
and advanced disease modeling?



Thursday, July 23, 2026



6:30 PM



ZOOM

Register
here



Dear members,

This July, as the U.S. celebrates its 250th anniversary, we reflect on a proud national legacy of scientific discovery. In San Diego, that collaborative spirit thrives across our academic, biotech, and pharma communities. The ACS San Diego Section remains dedicated to fostering these vital connections and supporting the next generation of chemical scientists.

In July 23rd, we will have a webinar featuring **Dr. Zhongwei Li** from the University of Southern California. Dr. Li will present his cutting-edge research on organoid technologies and their applications in biomedical science. We encourage everyone interested in drug discovery, disease modeling, and regenerative medicine to join this exciting virtual seminar. [Register here](#)

We are also pleased to host 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 annual symposium brings together leading scientists from academia and industry to share the latest advances in medicinal chemistry and drug discovery while providing valuable networking opportunities for our local scientific community. We look forward to welcoming all attendees for another successful event. [Click here](#)

In August, we will continue one of our Section's most cherished traditions—the **Annual ACS San Diego 50-, 60-, and 70-Year Member Celebration** on **August 8** at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. This special luncheon honors members whose decades of dedication have made lasting contributions to chemistry and the San Diego scientific community. During the celebration, our honorees will share stories and reflections from their careers, offering inspiration and preserving the rich history of chemistry in our region. A special thank you to **Dr. Jackie Trischman** for her dedication in organizing this meaningful event. We have a limited number of complimentary seats available for students. If you are a student interested in attending, or if you have a student mentee who would benefit from this unique opportunity, please contact me at jchen@sandiegoacs.org. We would be delighted to welcome the next generation of chemists to this special celebration. [Register here.](#)

Thank you for your continued support of the ACS San Diego Section and for helping us build a vibrant and connected chemistry community. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, whether virtually or in person.

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

Human Kidney Organoid Platforms for Disease Modeling and Regenerative Medicine

Dr. Zhongwei Li

*Medicine and of Stem Cell Biology
and Regenerative Medicine
UCSD*



About Speaker:

Dr. Zhongwei Li is an Associate Professor of Medicine and of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

Dr. Li earned his Ph.D. from Tsinghua University and completed postdoctoral training at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. As a stem cell biologist, Dr. Li leverages advanced model systems, including human pluripotent stem cells, kidney progenitor cells, organoids, and assembloids, to investigate stem cell biology, organ regeneration, and disease mechanisms. His laboratory's ultimate mission is to engineer transplantable, stem cell-derived kidneys as off-the-shelf solutions for replacement therapy. In the near term, his team focuses on developing next-generation kidney organoid and assembloid models with the enhanced maturity and function required for precision drug discovery and disease modeling. Dr. Li's pioneering work is supported by the NIH, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), and the University Kidney Research Organization (UKRO). His contributions to the field have been recognized with the NIH Director's New Innovator Award (2022) and the Young Investigator Award from the Chinese American Society of Nephrology (2025).

About the Talk:

Chronic kidney disease affects one in seven adults and frequently progresses to end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Because current survival relies strictly on dialysis or transplantation, the acute shortage of donor organs claims approximately 13 lives daily in the United States alone. To address this crisis, our lab leverages the natural self-assembly principles of kidney progenitors that drive organogenesis. Utilizing human pluripotent stem cells, we developed robust protocols to efficiently differentiate, purify, and expand key kidney progenitor cell populations. Under optimized inductive conditions, these progenitors self-organize into spatially patterned, functional kidney tissues known as kidney organoids. By integrating bioengineering strategies with genome editing and functional genomics, these stem cell-derived human kidney organoid platforms offer powerful, scalable models for advanced disease modeling, targeted drug discovery, and future regenerative therapeutics.

San Diego Section, American Chemical Society

Executive Committee – Zoom Meeting

Thursday, June 4th, 2026, 6:30pm

In attendance (7): Jiyue Chen (Chair), Desiree Grubisha (Treasurer/Councilor), David Wallace (Councilor), James Shih (Alternate Councilor), Surya K. De (Councilor), Christina Vialva (Alternate Councilor), Max Mahler (immediate past chair)

Absent: Marta Vuckovic (Secretary), Carolina Ibarra (Newsletter Editor), Jesus Cordova (WRM Chair), Jackie Trischman (Councilor), Hui Cai (Councilor), Juan Gonzales (Alternate Councilor)

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Previous Executive Committee meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Desiree provided an update regarding the section's bank account transition following the recent fraud incident.
- A new checking account has been established, and new checks were ordered.
- Existing outstanding checks were reviewed; no uncashed checks are currently known to remain outstanding.
- Desiree will update ACS National with the section's new banking information to ensure future deposits are directed to the correct account.

4. July Event Updates

Dr. Zhongwei Li Webinar

- The webinar will be rescheduled for **July 23** (subject to speaker coordination).
- Jiyue, Carolina will continue coordinating logistics with the speaker.

Medicinal Chemistry Symposium

- Final planning continues for the July symposium.
- Student award presentation logistics will be finalized closer to the event.

5. ACS Annual Picnic

- The Executive Committee agreed to **keep the current picnic date on September 26th**, regardless of SABPA's schedule.

- For next year's picnic, the committee will explore coordinating with SABPA to avoid scheduling conflicts and potentially co-host the event.

6. ACS Councilor Meeting Discussion

- The committee discussed participation in future ACS Council meetings.
- Since virtual attendance is now available, alternate councilors can participate more easily if regular councilors are unavailable.
- The Chair will begin confirming councilor attendance plans several months in advance to allow alternate councilors adequate time to prepare.
- If multiple alternate councilors are interested in attending, preference may be given based on:
 - Active participation in the local section.
 - Length of service as an alternate councilor without previous attendance opportunities.

7. Future Executive Committee Meetings

- Due to the Independence Day holiday, the **July Executive Committee meeting** will be held on **Thursday, July 9**.
- The committee discussed returning to one **in-person Executive Committee meetings** for August 6 meeting.
- Jiyue will coordinate room availability at HD Biosciences (WuXi)

8. Investment Discussion

- David will reconnect with Desiree in late July or early August to discuss possible investment strategies for the section's reserve funds after the banking transition is complete.

9. Adjournment

- **Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:36 pm.**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, July 9, 2026 (Executive Committee Meeting), meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99817599801>

50-60-, AND 70-YEAR ACS MEMBER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON



50-60-, and 70-Year ACS Member Recognition Luncheon

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 8, 2026
- **TIME:** 11:30AM-2:30PM
- **LOCATION:** TOM HAM'S LIGHTHOUSE
- **PRICE:** \$25 PER GUEST



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YOU ARE INVITED TO

ACS San Diego Annual Picnic

Food, fun and family

Tacos ! | Dessert Contest

Games & Entertainment

Community, fun & family

Saturday, September 26, 2026

11 AM- 3PM

San Dieguito
County Park



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here*



Neuroinclusion by Design: Rethinking Workplace Dynamics
Article Post Icon
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July 23, 2026
[Click here](#)

Peptide Crystallization: A Scalable Solution in Pharmaceutical Process Development
July 29, 2026
8:00 a.m. PDT
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From Pixels to Pollution: Liquid Crystal Monomers, Neurotoxicity, and Environmental Risk
Article Post Icon
ACS Webinars
July 24, 2026
[Click here](#)



Microplastics Analysis You Can Defend: From Method to Results
July 16, 2026
FIRST SESSION: 3: 00 am PDT (10:00 am BST)
SECOND SESSION: 11:00 am PDT
[Click here](#)



Scaling Flat-Sheet Filtration from Development to Closed Manufacturing
July 21, 2026
8:00 a.m. PDT
[Click here](#)

Office Hours: Lab and Process Titration for the Petrochemical Industry
July 22, 2026
10:00 a.m. PDT
[Click here](#)

**Executive Committee Meeting
Dates 2026**

**First thursdays of
each month**

Zoom Meeting

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



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 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

Jeremy Klosterman jkk@ucsd.edu

San Diego Mesa College

Synthia Chang
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Juan Gonzalez
jgonzalez3@swccd.edu

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Treasurer: Desiree Grubisha, Heron Therapeutics, desgrubisha@gmail.com	(2028)	858-254-5497
Councilor: Hui Cai 2026-2028		
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Past Chair Max Mahler	(2026)	619-405-5509

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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

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Jim Shih, Eli Lilly & Co	(2028)	626-826-3561
Juan Gonzalez-Gonzalez	(2027)	619-813-8520
Ryan Smith	(2027)	619-744-2220
Christina Vialva	(2028)	951-287-4503

Members-at-Large

Jessica Le		
Randall Smith	(2025)	
Sharai Mendez	(2028)	

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

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Ryan C. Smith, Duane Morris LLP	619-744-2220
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Mark Tichenor (Co-Chair), Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
David Wallace (Co-Chair), Biosplice Therapeutics
Tao Wu (Co-Chair), Kumquat Biosciences

858-945-7893
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858-922-0428

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Jim Shih, Eli Lilly & Co.

626-826-3561

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973-744-5510

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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, cvialva@sandiegoacs.org
