



**2026
DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST
AWARD BANQUET**



Dr. Rommie E. Amaro

**CHEMISTRY IN CONTEXT:
EXPLORING LIFE
THROUGH COMPUTATIONAL MICROSCOPY**

The Butcher Shop Restaurant

October 22, 2026

6:00 PM



Register
now!

Dear ACS San Diego Members,

September marks the beginning of a busy and exciting fall for our local section. As summer comes to a close, we look forward to gathering together again, celebrating the accomplishments of our members, and continuing to build opportunities for scientific exchange, outreach, and connection within our chemistry community.

One of the highlights of September will be our **ACS San Diego Local Section Picnic**, taking place on **Saturday, September 26th, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at San Dieguito County Park**. This family-friendly event will feature catered tacos, lawn games, activities for children, a dessert contest, and a raffle with fun ACS prizes. It is a wonderful opportunity to step away from our busy schedules, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with fellow ACS members, colleagues, friends, and families in a relaxed setting. If you have not yet registered, please be sure to RSVP soon so that we can plan accordingly. [Register now!](#)

Looking ahead to October, we are also excited to celebrate our **Distinguished Scientist Award recipient, Professor Rommie Amaro of UC San Diego**. Professor Amaro is a distinguished scientist whose research bridges chemistry, biology, physics, and computational science, with important contributions to computational and theoretical approaches to drug discovery and biological systems. She currently holds the Distinguished Professorship in Theoretical and Computational Chemistry at UC San Diego.

We will celebrate Professor Amaro at a special award dinner on October 22nd at The Butcher Shop. We hope you will join us for an evening celebrating her scientific accomplishments and contributions to our community. Please RSVP if you would like to be part of this special event. [Register now!](#)

As we move into the fall, I want to once again thank all of our volunteers, committee members, event organizers, sponsors, and members who make ACS San Diego such an active and welcoming community. Whether you participate in a scientific program, volunteer at an outreach event, mentor a young chemist, attend a social gathering, or simply stay connected with colleagues, your involvement helps strengthen our local section.

I hope to see many of you at the picnic later this month and at our upcoming fall programs. I look forward to a wonderful season of science, community, and connection together!

Warm regards,

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

Chemistry in Context: Exploring Life through Computational Microscopy

Rommie E. Amaro

*Prof. Molecular Biology
UCSD*



About the Speaker:

Rommie E. Amaro holds the **Distinguished Professorship in Theoretical and Computational Chemistry** at the **University of California San Diego**, where she is a professor in the Department of Molecular Biology. Her research explores the physical chemistry of biological systems, developing and applying computational methods to understand how molecular interactions, dynamics, and surrounding environments shape biological function. Her group integrates physics-based molecular simulation, artificial intelligence, experimental data, and high-performance computing to reveal mechanisms that are difficult to resolve through experiment alone, with applications spanning molecular recognition, drug discovery, infectious disease, and airborne health.

Amaro is a **Fellow of the Biophysical Society** and **co-founder and co-director of the Meta-Institute for Airborne Disease in a Changing Climate at UC San Diego**. Her honors include the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, and the Corwin Hansch Award. She led the team that received the 2020 ACM Gordon Bell Special Prize for COVID-19 Research.

San Diego Section, American Chemical Society

Executive Committee – Zoom Meeting

Thursday, August 6th, 2026, 6:30pm

In attendance (7): Jiyue Chen (Chair), Desiree Grubisha (Treasurer/Councilor), James Shih (Alternate Councilor), Surya K. De (Councilor), Jackie Trishman (Councilor, Immediate pass chair), Ryan Smith (Alternate Councilor), Nik Chekshin (Chair-elect), David Wallace (Councilor).

Absent: Carolina Ibarra (Newsletter Editor), Jesus Cordova (WRM Chair), Christina Vialva (Alternate Councilor), Marta Vuckovic (Secretary), John Palmer (Councilor)

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm

Executive Summary

The August Executive Committee meeting focused on reviewing the Treasurer's report and financial accounts, discussing counselor participation for the upcoming ACS Council meeting, and coordinating several major local section programs and events. Key items discussed included reimbursement for the Greater San Diego Science Fair, potential investment of excess section funds, reactivation of the Younger Chemists Committee, remaining funds from the Scripps DEIR grant, the successful MedChem Symposium and opportunities for future growth, the upcoming 50-60 Year Member Luncheon, launch of nominations for the Trailblazing Women Chemists Award, planning for the Distinguished Scientist Dinner and ChemExpo 2026, outreach strategies for future webinars, a potential Careers in Intellectual Property event, and coordination of the September annual picnic.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The July Executive Committee meeting minutes were reviewed with the following corrections noted:

Motion: Approve the June Executive Committee meeting minutes

Outcome: Moved, seconded, and approved by vote. The approved minutes will be published in the August newsletter.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Desiree Grubisha presented the current financial summary: The section has sufficient budget to cover the reimbursement. Follow-up with Desiree will be made as needed.

- Counselor travel reimbursements for the August ACS Fall Council meeting will be processed after counselors submit documentation of their expenses.
- The committee discussed attendance at the upcoming ACS Council meeting and caucus.

3. Upcoming Events & Technical Programs

A. MedChem Symposium Recap

- The MedChem Symposium was considered highly successful. Sponsorship efforts were particularly successful.
- Attendance appeared to be approximately **300 people**, although the official attendance reported by UCSD was approximately **265**, despite more than 400 registrations.
- The committee discussed whether future events should be held in a slightly larger venue if attendance continues to grow.
- The current venue is preferred because it provides a good attendee experience and convenient parking/access.
- David Wallace prepared a write-up for inclusion in the newsletter.

4. Special Event Planning

A. 50-60-70 Year Member Luncheon (August 8, 2026)

- **Venue:** Tom Ham's Lighthouse.
- No current-year awardees are expected to attend, but several previous awardees who did not previously receive their certificates or give their talks will be recognized.
- Charlie Perrin and Neil Langerman are expected to give presentations.
- A microphone and other equipment are available in the section's storage locker.
- A cake and other food arrangements are being coordinated.

B. Trailblazer Women Chemists Award (October 2026)

- The Women's Chemists Committee (WCC) is preparing to open nominations for the Trailblazing Women Chemists Award.
- Much of last year's process can be reused, including the nomination form, website content, criteria, and promotional materials.
- Nominations are expected to open in early September and close around late-September.
- The selection process is expected to occur in late September/early October, with final selections targeted for mid October.

- Awardees will then be contacted and given approximately 2–3 weeks to confirm acceptance and attendance.
- The committee expects approximately 10 awardees, consistent with the prior year.

C. Annual ACS Section Picnic (September 26, 2026)

- Date confirmed for September 26, 2026. Marta Vuckovic will lead the picnic planning committee (including James, Max, Christina, and Nick) to organize catering, entertainment, and flyers.

D. ChemExpo 2026 (November 7, 2026)

- **Date Confirmation:** Scheduled for November 7th at Miramar College (shifted due to Halloween conflict on Oct 31).
- **Call to Action:** Executive members are challenged to find at least one volunteer or company representative to host an interactive table or assist with logistics.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

- **Meeting Adjourned:** ~7:35 PM
- **Next Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM via Zoom

The 24th Annual San Diego BioPharma Conference

Sep 26, 2026 • Hilton San Diego/Del Mar, 15575 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA



Welcome to the 24th Annual San Diego BioPharma Conference, hosted by SABPA!

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PLENARY SPEAKERS



Adam Mullick, Ph.D.
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Cardiovascular and Renal
Drug Discovery at
Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc



Ardem Patapoutian, PhD
Professor,
Presidential Endowed Chair in
Neurobiology
Department of Neuroscience
Scripps Research



Dimitri E. Grigoriadis, PhD
Distinguished Scholar
Neurocrine Biosciences



Fan Zhang, PhD
VP of Business Development
Bristol Myer Squibb



Jeff Settleman, PhD
CSO for
Oncology Research Unit
and La Jolla Site Head
Pfizer



Mark Merchant, PhD
VP
Translation Research at
Revolution Medicines



Paul Negulescu, PhD
SVP
Research and Disease Area
Executive for Pain at
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

PANEL DISCUSSION



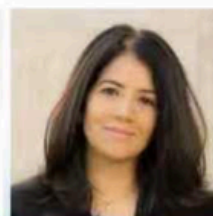
Brendan Eckelman, Ph.D.
CEO
SciThera



Chelsea Hewitt
Senior Director,
External Scientific Innovation,
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Jeremy Caldwell, Ph.D.
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HIGHLIGHTS

Nobel-Winning Discoveries

Transforming Fundamental Science into Therapeutic Breakthroughs

San Diego Biopharma Leaders

Exclusive Insights from Executives at Vertex, Neurocrine, BMS, Pfizer, Ionis, and Other Leading Life Science Companies

Industry Innovation Spotlight

Lessons in Translating Cutting-Edge Science into Breakthrough Medicines from Revolution Medicines

Business & Investment Panel

Navigating Innovation, Strategic Partnerships, Funding, and Growth in Today's Biotech Landscape

Interactive Roundtable Discussions

Engaging Conversations on AI, Emerging Therapeutic Modalities, Entrepreneurship, Career Development, and the Future of Biopharma

Lunch & Learn Sessions

Discover Practical Solutions from Leading CROs and Technology Partners, with Expert Tips, Live Demonstrations, and Gift Card Raffles

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

GOLD



Scan the QR code and click "Register Now" on the [event page](#) to kick-start your event registration. Registration fees will increase after **September 5th, 2026**.

Consider joining SABPA as a member – members enjoy free online registration for all SABPA events. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity – secure your place now!



National
Chemistry Week

Chemistry

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



SAN DIEGO
MIRAMAR
COLLEGE

ChemExpo2026

San Diego's Celebration of National Chemistry Week



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Saturday, October 24, 2026 • 9am-3pm

San Diego ACS invites you to our annual ChemExpo, celebrating the value of chemistry in everyday life! This year's theme, **Chemistry Under Construction**, explores the fascinating chemistry behind the materials we use to build the world around us. Join us for hands-on activities and discoveries as we uncover how chemistry helps make our homes, buildings, roads, and communities stronger, safer, and more sustainable.

The main event: 11 am to 3 pm

There will be Girl Scout and Scouts BSA badge work starting at 9am, with setup starting at 8am. More 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, 2026 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.



Making Chemistry Happen: CTP Career Journeys

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September 23, 2026

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The Sulfur Solution: New Chemistry for Recyclable and High-Performance Polymers

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September 24, 2026

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Nanotecnología en la Agricultura del Futuro: Diseño y Desarrollo de Nanoherbicidas Inteligentes

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ACS Webinars

September 30, 2026

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Who Will Win the #ChemNobel?

Predicting the 2026 Nobel Laureate(s) in Chemistry

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ACS Webinars

October 1, 2026

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Seeing Biology in a New Light: Nanosensors for Real-Time Biosensing

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ACS Webinars

October 9, 2026

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Navigating the Unexpected: Creative Solutions for Early Pharmaceutical Development

September 22, 2026

c&en webinar

8:00 a.m.

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Advancing Metabolic Drug Development: Integrated Preclinical Strategies from Discovery to IND-Enabling Studies

September 29, 2026

c&en webinar

8:00 a.m.

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CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS

**Executive Committee Meeting
Dates 2026**

**First thursdays of
each month
[Zoom Meeting](#)**

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

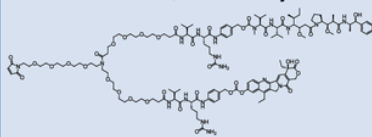
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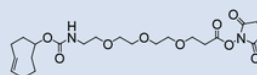


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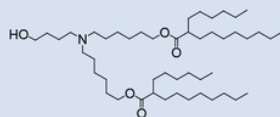
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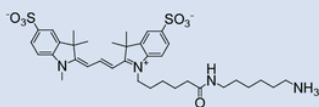
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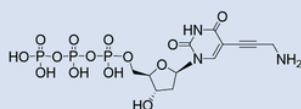
Lipids in Drug Delivery



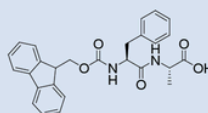
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!

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 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!

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 over 3000 recipients, each potential customers for your products and services! **Quick turnaround:** Ad copy submitted by the 5th of the month will be published by the 15th of that month. Ads submitted after the 5th will be published in the following month.

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.

Size (w x h) Number of Issues & Price/Issue

	1	3	6
2" x 3"	\$ 75	\$ 68	\$ 58
4.5" x 1.5"	\$ 80	\$ 74	\$ 67
4.5" x 4.75"	\$200	\$184	\$163
8.5" x 5.5"	\$400	\$360	\$310
full page	\$655	\$590	\$510

Discounts will be available for issues not shown.

Please send your jpg to:

Carolina Ibarra at cibarra@sandiegoacs.org

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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Southwestern College, Chula Vista

Juan Gonzalez
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Miramar College

Rebecca Bowers-Gentry
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Christopher Daley
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Palomar College

Heriberto Rivera hriviera@palomar.edu

Mira Costa College

Kent McCorkle
kmccorkle@miracosta.edu

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Hima Joshi Hima Joshi@gcccd.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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Ryan Smith	(2027)	619-744-2220
Christina Vialva	(2028)	951-287-4503

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Sharai Mendez	(2028)	

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

Jackie Trischman, CSUSM	858-414-3323
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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

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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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OPEN

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David Wallace (Co-Chair), Biosplice Therapeutics
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858-922-0428

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626-826-3561

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973-744-5510

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Seniors Breakfasts

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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, cvialva@sandiegoacs.org