

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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## MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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## Family Science Night!

The local SCVACS section will be co-hosting a Family Science night at the East Palo Alto Charter School on Thursday April 24. We are co-hosting this Event with the California Section who have run many of these very popular and successful events. The East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS) is a K-8 public school with a strong academic emphasis and a goal to have all of its graduates attend and complete college. They have 420 students and expect as many as 600 students and parents to attend the science night. The EPACS also has a partnership with Stanford University students who come in weekly for an after-school science event and who run and judge their science fair. The family science night will be the kickoff meeting for this year's science fair.

The science night format consists of many small hands-on projects. Students move from one project to the next, collecting a stamp or sticker for each activity they complete. Each project is a short 5-10 minute experiment (e.g., making slime) or a longer detailed discussion of the science, depending on the interest and attention span of the student. We would like to have the SCV Section run 3-4

## Volunteers Needed

Family Science Night, Chemistry Olympiad and Sally Ride Festival

## Chair's Message

Argh – my time got away from me and I am scrambling to get this message out (never mind timely fashion this month, I am already late as I write this). Oh, well, things have a way of shaking out, and I have a feeling that a hundred years from now it will not be earth-shattering that I was late getting this message put together.

We are nearing the end of the first quarter as you read this message (sometime in early March, presumably), and the year rolls along. I hope that everyone enjoyed Dr. Ariel Fenster's message on The Colors of Art, in February; I was looking forward to hearing it myself, but unfortunately, I had to be out of town that evening.

At this point, we will not have a March meeting, as our scheduled speaker asked that the date be pushed back. At this point there seem to be further issues that have resulted in the presentation being cancelled. I have this sinking feeling that I am not nearly as conversant with the details as I should be (what did I say last month about communication – I guess that really I need to take a slice of my own advice).

Arrangements for the April meeting seem to be going as they should.

of the hands-on experiments and would greatly appreciate volunteers. The activities include making slime, some acid-base chemistry with cabbage indicators, making liquid-nitrogen ice cream, some basic astronomy observing, pen and ink paper chromatography, soap bubble chemistry and

The April meeting will be a joint meeting with the California Section, and the speaker will be Dr. Bruce Roth, of Genentech. The meeting will be at Genentech, on April 23.

The Spring National Meeting will be April 6-10, in New Orleans. For those that are going, safe journey.

Currently we are planning to honor those members of the section that are 50-year members of the Society at our annual picnic/awards meeting in July at Stanford University. Details will follow, as we get them hammered out.



George Lechner presenting Abby Kennedy with her award from National ACS for her outstanding National Chemistry Week programs.

building molecular models. Please let me know if you would like to participate. In addition, please let me know if you would like to be involved in the planning of this event. It will be great fun!

**Natalie McClure**

nmclure@drugregulatoryaffairs.com

## Volunteers Needed – 2008 Chemistry Olympiad

Budapest, Hungary, will be the site of the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), July 12-21, 2008. The ACS will be sending a team of four high school students to participate in the challenge. Those four students will be selected from a pool of 20 outstanding students from across the United States.

The selection process begins right here in our local section! High school chemistry students from the Santa Clara Valley will participate by taking a standardized ACS written exam to determine their placement. The first round of testing is conducted in the high schools in February and March. The local section encourages the high schools to participate and provides the testing materials. The resulting top 18 students will then meet together on April 19th to compete in the regional exams. More written tests and a lab exercise will be administered at Las Positas College.

The students from the California Section will join us for the day.

The results from that day of testing will determine who will be among the top 20 students from around the nation that attend the week long study camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. We have had a representative at the study camp in 2002, 2005 and 2007. The Team to represent the U.S. at the IChO is selected on the last day at the camp.

Would you like to help with this process? Encourage your local high school chemistry teachers to have their advanced placement and honors classes participate in the testing process. We have over 200 high schools in the valley, but few compete. We contact each teacher and school, giving them the Olympiad information and encouraging them to participate.

A few local section members are needed to register the students and

proctor the exams on April 19th at Las Positas College. This is a good chance to volunteer and encourage these students to think about careers in chemistry! Lunch is even provided!

Also, if someone has access to a good color printer or scanner/printer, they could help by customizing the ACS student certificate that each student receives. Or, customization with calligraphy would be grand! There should be about 125 certificates that will need to be personalized!

So, here are some opportunities to help your local section with the 2008 International Chemistry Olympiad –encourage the teachers to participate (maybe even offer to help them grade the exams!) and volunteer to be a proctor or help print certificates. If you need more information, please contact me.

**Sally Peters**

Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Section  
ChemOlympiad Committee  
Sally.Peters@parc.com 650-854-4614

## Highlights from the February 14th Dinner Meeting

Photos courtesy of Lois Durham



## Volunteers Needed for Sally Ride Science Festival on March 29

Volunteers are needed for the Sally Ride Science Festival on March 29 at the University of Santa Clara. The festival brings together hundreds of middle-school girls for a day of science with hands-on experiments, speakers, demonstrations and workshops. Roche Palo Alto is also a financial sponsor of this event.

Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help

set up in the morning, do simple hands-on experiments, distribute giveaway items and clean up after the event. Lunch will be served to all the volunteers.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Ferenc Makra, one of the organizers, at [ferenc.makra@roche.com](mailto:ferenc.makra@roche.com), or (650) 855-5368.



### CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS MARCH 2007

#### CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3896

*Position Title:* Senior Analytical Chemist

*Job Description:* The position requires advanced knowledge and hands-on skills in nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), mass spectroscopy and chromatographic techniques. It uses professional concepts to solve a variety of problems. Conceives, directs, plans, designs and executes R&D on the basis of advanced theoretical knowledge. Analyzes outcomes, interprets results and adjusts R&D strategy based on technical principles and theories.

**QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:**

*Education:* PhD/MS/BS

*Experience:* Ph.D. in chemistry or pharmaceutical science with 0-2 years of experience, M.S. with more than 5 years work experience, or B.S. with more than 10 years of experience.

**LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:**

*Job Location:* Menlo Park, CA

*Salary:* DOE

*Employer Description:* SRI International, an independent non-profit organization founded as the Stanford Research Institute in 1946, is a leader in the development of new products for the treatment and diagnosis of disease, primarily in the areas of cancer, infectious disease, neuroscience, and immunology.

*Application Instructions:* Apply via our web page at:

<https://sri.ats.hrsmart.com/cgi-bin/a/highlightjob.cgi?jobid=3946>

SRI is an equal opportunity employer. <http://www.sri.com/jobs>

#### CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3897

*Position Title:* Associate Director, Compound Services – Medicinal Chemistry

*Job Description:* Coordinate all aspects of compound management with responsibilities for a team of 5-7 scientists & research associates. Majority of time to be spent in management activities of: daily sample bank, compound acquisition & parallel synthesis, HTS, and compound purification. This is a highly collaborative role within key areas of research.

**QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:**

*Education:* A Ph.D. with a minimum of 6 years experience or MS with a minimum of 8 years.

*Experience:* Typically requires 6+ years' relevant experience; in-depth knowledge of state-of-the art principles and theories, applying such knowledge to the research direction that supports Company interests; and demonstrated technical proficiency, scientific creativity, collaboration with others and independent thought in suggesting experimental design & research strategy.

**LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:**

*Job Location:* Foster City, CA

*Salary:* DOE

*Employer Description:* Gilead Sciences is a biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes therapeutics to advance the care of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases worldwide.

*Application Instructions:* Apply online at:

<http://gilead.apply2jobs.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=mExternal.showJob&RID=941&CurrentPage=1>

#### CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3899

*Position Title:* Research Assistant

*Job Description:* The Research Assistant (RA) will be trained in, and responsible for, the use of a circular dichroism spectrometer, UV-vis spectrometer, a precision density meter, and two ultrasensitive calorimeters. The RA will maintain a clean and organized working environment for all laboratory members, and the RA will train and mentor research students in the proper use of instrumentation. Further information may be found at the supervisor's website: <http://www.chemistry.sjsu.edu/deggers/homepage.htm>

**QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:**

*Education:* B.S. or M.S. degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biochemical Engineering, or equivalent.

*Experience:* Experience working in a research environment is desirable. Excellent verbal communication skills are mandatory. A minimum commitment of one year in this position is expected.

**LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:**

*Job Location:* San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

*Salary:* Negotiable.

*Employer Description:* The RA will be paid from a grant administered by the SJSU Research Foundation. Foundation employment is separate and distinct from SJSU or State of California employment.

*Application Instructions:* Send letter of interest, resume, and the names and contact information of at least two references by post, email or fax to: Dr. Daryl K. Eggers, Chemistry Department, SJSU, San Jose, CA 95192-0101; (E-mail) [deggers@science.sjsu.edu](mailto:deggers@science.sjsu.edu); (Fax) 408-924-4945.



## Happy Easter!



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## SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

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Director: **Charles Sullivan** 650-359-0731 [cdansullivan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdansullivan@sbcglobal.net)

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- Mar 9-14** DNA Damage, Mutation and Cancer  
Gordon Research Conference  
Ventura Beach, CA  
<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=dna>
- Mar 29** Sally Ride Festival  
Santa Clara University  
Contact to volunteer:  
Ferenc Makra, Roche BioScience
- Apr 6-10** National ACS Meeting  
Joint with AIChE  
New Orleans, LA
- Apr 19** UNESCO National Chemistry  
Olympiad Exam  
Livermore, CA
- Apr 23** Section Dinner Meeting  
Dr. Bruce Roth  
South San Francisco, CA