

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 36 No. 1

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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February Seminar Meeting

What was Alchemy? The Laboratory Life of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

Abstract:

Alchemy is the quintessential pseudo-science in the popular imagination but it was far more than that in its historical reality. This talk explores the meaning of alchemy in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. It explains why it was a meaningful, indeed profound activity that also was a source of experiential knowledge. The alchemist's laboratory may indeed have something to tell us about the evolution of scientific knowledge and practice.



Biography

Paula Findlen is Ubaldo Pierotti Professor of Italian History at Stanford and Director of the Suppes Center for the History and Philosophy of Science. Her research and teaching focus on the early history of science and medicine in age of Leonardo, Galileo, and their contemporaries, the role of women in early modern science, and the encyclopedic dreams of the Renaissance and beyond. Her essays on the history of science have appeared in *The Nation*.

Chair's Message

Ean Warren

Happy New Year! I am Ean Warren, the new Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Section. With the new year, I would like to start a monthly program with the local section called Connect with Chemists where we meet at a café early in the morning to chat to fellow chemists. The first such event will be on **Thursday, January 23 at 7AM at La Boulange, 151 University Avenue, Palo Alto.** This will provide an opportunity to network with other chemists and discuss ACS, chemistry, careers, life, anything. Everyone is welcome to come and participate. The location will move around our local section. Make it your new year's resolution to join in!



We have some great seminars lined up for this year. You are welcome to attend just the lecture and not the dinner. The seminars are open to everyone, so feel free to invite any of your family, friends, or colleagues. On **January 16th**, Dr. Peter Wipf will give the

Harry and Carol Mosher Award lecture about organic synthesis. On **February 20th**, Dr. Paula Findlen will talk about alchemy during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Dr. Findlen is the Ubaldo Pierotti Professor of Italian History and Director of the Suppes Center for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at Stanford University.

A little about me: I have worked at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the past 22 years. I started as a chemist in a microbiology lab and am now a hydrologist. Along the way, I also spent a several years in management. We studied the biodegradation of heterocyclic hydrocarbons commonly found in creosote waste and gradually moved into crude oil-contaminated groundwater. The USGS has a research site in Bemidji, Minnesota where a crude oil pipeline burst in

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February Seminar Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Presentation

Speakers: Dr. Paula Findlen
Stanford University
History of Science

Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA

Cost: \$26.00
Grilled Salmon or
Vegetarian Crepes

Reservations: www.scvacs.org
or Sally Peters 650-854-4614

Reservations should be made by Monday, February 17th stating your name, address, company/school affiliation, number of people in party. Watch the web site for more information. If you are unable to honor your reservation, please cancel by Wednesday, February 19th.

Chair's Message, continued from previous page

1979. Most of the spilled oil was removed, but the state decided that the residual oil could be left to degrade naturally. Over the course of more than 30 years, the oil has remained in the unsaturated zone and spread out over the water table. Our project first went to the site in 1993 and continues to study the biodegradation of the organics and degradation products. One of the main findings of the research at Bemidji supports the idea that natural attenuation of crude-oil contaminants can be used as a remediation strategy.

I became a member of the ACS in 1993, and in 1997, I volunteered to be the assistant Treasurer. I went on to be Treasurer and then Chair-Elect. (In 1998 - My first time around!) Since 2000, I have also been a councilor for the local section. I have served on the ACS Younger Chemists Committee and Committee on Environmental Improvement where I started the Fun Run and Chemistry and the Environment Film Series at the National Meetings.

In the past 20 years, I have found that my experience with the ACS has augmented my research skills. Being Chair of the local section helped me as manager. Organizing events at the local and national level has given me the understanding needed to succeed at similar endeavors at work. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with your Local Section. If you are interested in Chemical Education, we have programs for grade school through high school as well as college and university. Are you willing to participate in a career day at a local school? Contact us!

A Salute to Excellence Award



Peter Rusch presented awards to Karl Marhenke and Lois Durham in recognition of their outstanding commitment and service to the local section at the December Executive Committee Meeting.

Connect with Chemists

Meet fellow, local chemists for an early morning coffee

Thursday, January 23 at 7 a.m.

La Boulange, 151 University Avenue, Palo Alto

See Chair's Message for more information

Look for Ean at a table with an ACS card

Reminder

January Seminar Meeting

Reminder

Mosher Award to Peter Wipf

Peter Wipf was born in Aarau, Switzerland. He received his Dipl. Chem. in 1984 and his Ph.D. in 1987 from the University of Zürich under the direction of Professor Heinz Heimgartner. After a Swiss NSF postdoctoral fellowship with Professor Robert E. Ireland at the



University of Virginia, Wipf began his appointment at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 1990. Since 2004, he has been a Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry and a Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He also serves as the Director of the Center for Chemical Methodologies and Library Development (UPCMLD). He is a co-Leader of the UPCI Molecular Therapeutics and Drug Discovery Program.

Peter Wipf's research includes the total synthesis of natural products, organometallic chemistry, heterocyclic chemistry, diversity-oriented synthesis, medicinal chemistry and computational chemistry. At the center of his research program is the study of chemical reactivity and the use of synthesis to augment the chemical toolbox and develop new therapeutic strategies. A major emphasis involves

the efficient preparation of poly-functionalized nitrogen-containing building blocks for biological screening and synthesis of natural products and analogs. The discovery of fundamentally new reaction pathways is stimulated by exploratory studies of transition metal complexes, in particular zircono-

cenenes, and strained rings. One of his compounds, a PI3 kinase inhibitor, is currently in Phase II clinical trials in the US and Canada.

Among recent awards, Wipf is a recipient of the Morley Medal (2013), the Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products (2009), the ISHC Katritzky Award in Heterocyclic Chemistry (2003), and a Fellow of the American Chemical Society (2010), the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC, 2004), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS, 2002). He received the ACS Pittsburgh Award in 2012 and the Chancellor's Senior Scholar Distinguished Research Award in 2008. He has been an Associate Editor of ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters since 2009. In 1998, he received the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award.

January Seminar Meeting

2013 Harry and Carol Mosher Award Presentation

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Presentation

Speakers: Dr. Peter Wipf
University of Pittsburgh
From Strained Carbohydrates
to Heterocycles

Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA

Cost: \$26.00, Pork Marsala or
Eggplant Parmesan

Reservations: www.scvuacs.org
or Sally Peters 650-854-4614

Reservations should be made by January 13th stating your name, address, company/school affiliation, number of people in party. Watch the web site for more information. If you are unable to honor your reservation please cancel by Monday, January 13th.

Welcome to the Santa Clara Valley Section of ACS

Each month the section receives a spreadsheet from national ACS with the names of members new to our section. The members are either new to ACS, have transferred from other areas, or are the newest members – students. To welcome you to the section and get to know you, the Executive Committee offers new members a free dinner! To encourage you to attend a monthly section

seminar meeting, we would like you to be our guest. When you register, make certain to mention that you are a new member and you and a spouse (or friend) will be our guests. The seminar meetings are often the 3rd Thursday of the month at a local spot, somewhat convenient to the entire section. If you are unable to attend in the evening, perhaps you would join us for an outreach event, like

judging a science fair, participating in the Chemistry Olympiad, or a National Chemistry Week event in October. Then, there is our annual wine tasting and awards picnic in July. The local section is a volunteer organization. Please attend an event, volunteer to help, and get to know your local fellow chemists. Welcome!



New Members List for December

Dr. Sreenivasan Balasubramanian
Dr. Christiaan Boersma
Kae M. Bullock
Christopher J. Cardinal
Nicholas Chow
Steven Do
Xiaochun Han
Dr. Aaron Patrick Holm
Dr. Thomas C. Hunter
Gayatri Keskar
Andrew D. Kotila
Dr. Tien Sung Tom Lin

Sayantan Mitra
Nikolay Plotnikov
Rebecca Re
Javad J. Sahbari
Samuel H. Schneider
David Stewart
Adam G. Thomas
Dr. Randy Vivian
Ankit Vora
Dr. Zhiyong Wang
Dr. Thomas Roy Webb
Dr. Zheng Zhi Wu



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CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS JANUARY 2014

For a complete list of current abstracts, please visit: www.scvacs.org/Local_Folder/abstract.htm

CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3985

Position Title: Medicinal Chemistry Scientist (Permanent and Temporary Positions Available)

Job Description: Design and independently synthesize novel molecules directed at one or more of our biological targets. Integrate large amounts of data on previously synthesized molecules into the design of novel molecules anticipated to possess increasingly optimal biological profiles. Participate in identification of novel drug candidates and their advancement into clinical evaluation.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: Ph.D. in organic/synthetic chemistry required.

Experience: Post-doctoral research on a synthetic or biological project. Furthermore, the candidate is expected to have a minimum of 4 years of research experience in a high-performance biotechnology environment. The successful candidate will have an excellent scientific publication record and national reputation as a leader in his/her chosen field.

LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER:

Job Location: San Carlos, California

Salary: Competitive. Includes stock options. Reflective of candidate experience.

Employer: Flexus Biosciences is a new company founded by a group of seasoned researchers from the biotechnology industry with the vision of creating new cancer therapeutics through the innovative application of unexploited insights in immunology.

Application Instructions: Please email CV and cover letter to: careers@flexusbio.com

CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3986

Position Title: Medicinal Chemistry Associate (Permanent and Temporary Positions Available)

Job Description: Design and synthesize (with minimal supervision) novel molecules directed at one or more of our biological targets. Integrate large amounts of data on previously synthesized molecules into the design of novel molecules anticipated to possess increasingly optimal biological profiles.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: M.S. in Organic/Synthetic Chemistry

Experience: Proficient in modern organic synthetic methodology. Minimum 4 years of research experience in a high-performance biotechnology environment. Ability to productively participate in complex, time-sensitive team projects. The candidate should also enjoy operating in an exceptionally dynamic and cooperative environment in which the "rules book" has not yet been written.

LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER:

Job Location: San Carlos, California

Salary: Competitive. Includes stock options. Reflective of candidate experience.

Employer: Flexus Biosciences is a new company founded by a group of seasoned researchers from the biotechnology industry with the vision of creating new cancer therapeutics through the innovative application of unexploited insights in immunology.

Application Instructions: Please email CV and cover letter to: careers@flexusbio.com



SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 395, Palo Alto, CA 94302

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is published on our web site, sign up at:
<http://www.scvacs.org/newsletter/>

SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

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Past Chair	Peter Rusch	650-961-8120	pfrusch@aol.com
Secretary	Karl Marhenke	831-688-4959	karlmar@armory.com
Treasurer	Ihab Darwish	650-594-1654	darwishis@yahoo.com

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2014-2016	Herb Silber	408-924-4954	hbsilber@science.sjsu.edu

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ChemPloyment Abstracts

Director:	Liang Cao	liang.cao@aol.com
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FUTURE MEETINGS

- Jan 16** Moshier Award Dinner
Dr. Peter Wipf, Awardee
Biltmore Hotel & Suites
Santa Clara, CA
- Jan 23** Connect with Chemists
La Boulange, Palo Alto
- Jan 29** Sessler Distinguished Alumni Lecture
<https://chemistry.stanford.edu/events/essler-lectures>
- Jan 30** A Celebration of Carl Djerassi
Stanford University Chemistry Dept.
http://chemistry.stanford.edu/special_event/?mini=calendar%2F2014-01
- Feb 20** Dr. Paula Findlen, Stanford University
History of Science
Biltmore Hotel & Suites
Santa Clara, CA
- Mar 16-20** ACS Spring National Meeting
Dallas, TX
- Jun 23-27** National Organic Chemistry Symposium
Seattle, WA
www.organicdivision.org/ama/orig/NOS/index.html