

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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## AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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## Connect with Chemists

Meet fellow local chemists for an early morning coffee.

Look for Ean at a table with molecular models.

**Thursday, August 18, 2016, at 7 a.m.**

Coupa Café, 538 Ramona Street, Palo Alto (a half a block off from University Avenue)

## Chair's Message

Jane Frommer



With autumn a month away, we enter 2016's homestretch. What does this mean for your Santa Clara Valley ACS section?

Some roles on our leadership team are beginning to

shift toward next year's responsibilities. For example, monthly events are now arranged by our chair-elect, Todd Eberspacher. Todd is preparing a varied slate of events, including:

- The Information Landscape for Chemists, a dinner talk by Stanford's head chemistry librarian, Grace Baysinger, on September

### Abstract:

Most new chemical information is published digitally. Older years for journals and books by major publishers are being digitized too. Print reference books are now searchable as online databases. Major abstracting and indexing services continue to add "power tools" to help users find information more effectively and efficiently. While some resources are limited to current students, faculty, and staff, a growing number of resources are openly accessible to everyone. This presentation will provide an overview about key chemistry resources plus interesting and cool resources to explore for fun. It will also briefly cover opportunities and challenges facing 21st century research libraries. Finally, this talk will summarize opportunities for serving on committees or participating in Divisions in

### September Dinner Seminar

## The Information Landscape for Chemists at Work and Play

Grace Baysinger



ACS that have a chemical information focus.

### Speaker:

Grace Baysinger, has been the Head Librarian and Bibliographer at the Swain Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Library in the Stanford University Libraries, for the past 26 years. Prior

to moving to California, she worked in the

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## September Dinner Seminar

**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016

6:00 p.m. Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Presentation

**Speaker:** Grace Baysinger  
Head Librarian and Bibliographer  
Swain Chemistry Library  
Stanford University  
*The Information Landscape for Chemists at Work and Play*

**Location:** Michael's at Shoreline  
Mountain View, CA  
<http://michaelsatshoreline.com/>

**Cost:** \$30.00  
\$15.00 student  
Breast of Chicken, Coq au Vin  
Mushroom Crepes

**Registration:** <http://scvacs.org/>  
Questions: Sally Peters 650-854-4614

Reservations should be made by September 7th, stating your name, address, company/school affiliation, number of people in party and each one's dinner choice. If you are unable to honor your reservation, please cancel by Monday, September 12th.

14. Register [here](#).

- Wine and cheese tasting at UC Davis with two other Northern California ACS sections on Saturday, October 1st. Keep an eye on our [website](#) for registration details.
- The newly opened Silicon Valley branch of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. Retired patent lawyer, Howard Peters, provides us the benefit of his USPTO experience by arranging this event in the novel setting of the patent office itself, in San Jose City Hall.

The **Silicon Valley USPTO** is a West Coast regional office serving California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Alaska, and Hawaii. Registration details to appear on our [website](#).

Another shift is underway in preparations

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*The Information Landscape, continued from front page*

University of Michigan Library. Grace's interests include scholarly communication and publishing plus discovery methods and interfaces for finding information. On campus she is the project lead for providing federated search services called xSearch (searching multiple resources at one time), and for helping support publication feeds for Stanford Profiles. ACS contributions include serving and Chairing on the ACS Committee for Publications, ACS Committee for Chemical Abstracts Service, ACS Committee on Community Activities, and being Chair of the ACS Division for Chemical Information (CINF). Currently, she is a member of the CAS Committee and Chair of the CINF's Education Committee. Other current professional activities include serving on the advisory boards for the CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, Journal of Chemical Education, and the Science of Synthesis database.



*Chair's Message, continued from front page*

for SCVACS's 2016 election of members for its 2017 leadership team. We are excited to have a ballot this year with multiple candidates for our leadership positions. A number of members and newcomers to SCVACS have stepped up to fuel a surge of interest in rejuvenating our section. Step up and **contact us** if you would like to take part in this transformation. Open positions include Secretary, Chair-elect, Councilors and Alternate Councilors, described on our [website](#).

Updates:

- Our May dinner-lecture with founder Pat Brown of Impossible Foods. The Impossible Foods [website](#) has been updated and now posts locations where you can taste their products.

- Monterey Bay area ACS activity

The **success** of our **kick-off event** in April at Cabrillo College in Aptos has catalyzed the planning of a second event for September at the Moss Landing Marine Labs. The topic is the distribution and speciation of mercury in the California Current from sea to land via fog ...backwards, as most pollutants flow from land to sea. Monterey Bay area events - geared to serve those who live in the southern half of our SCVACS local section from Santa Cruz to Monterey and Salinas - are open to all. Keep an eye on our [website](#) as the details emerge.



## Annual Wine-Tasting, Family Picnic and Award Ceremony

July 9, 2016

### The Radding Award



Peter Rusch presents the Radding Award to Sally Peters

### The Ottenberg Award

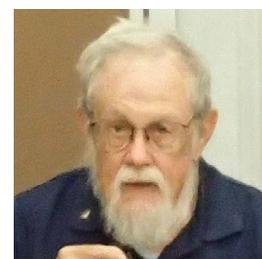


Howard Peters presents the Ottenberg Award to Susan Oldham-Fritts

### 50- and 60-year Member Certificates



Chair-elect Todd Eberspacher presents to Sal Licursi, 50 year member from San Jose



Joseph Evans, 50 year member from Palo Alto



Chen-Hwa Chu 50 year member from Cupertino



Chair-elect Todd Eberspacher presents to 50-year member Carol Lind from Emerald Hills



Martin Katz, 60 year member from Menlo Park

## ChEBI Molecule of the Month: Phenylephrine

<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/chebi/entity/MonthForward.do>

While an effective cure for the common cold remains elusive, there is a large market for over-the-counter cold remedies containing decongestants, that provide some relief from the symptoms. Until 2008, it was possible to walk into a shop on the high street and purchase a cold relief medicine that contained the active decongestant pseudoephedrine. This drug has been used for several decades and has proved to be an effective decongestant, but in 2008 it was placed under tight controls when it became apparent that pseudoephedrine was being used for production of the illicit drug methamphetamine (otherwise known as crystal meth). Since then, pseudoephedrine has been largely absent from shop shelves in the UK, the US and elsewhere. Currently, products containing this drug are only available either through obtaining a prescription, or by requesting a packet from behind the counter of a pharmacy store. Drug companies have responded to the regulations by replacing pseudoephedrine with phenylephrine (CHEBI:8093), a drug already approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), but known to be significantly less effective.

Since then, the actual efficacy of phenylephrine has been called into question. In 2006, cold expert Ronald Eccles at Cardiff University, UK, conducted a review of phenylephrine research and reported that he could not find any evidence that the drug is effective as a decongestant when taken orally [1]. Subsequent studies showed that FDA-approved 10 mg doses of phenylephrine were no more effective than a placebo [2] while a conflicting review indicated that the drug had a small but real effect on nasal airway resistance [3]. As a result, the FDA requested that large, well-constructed, dose-ranging trials be conducted. The study, carried out at the University of Florida, US, involved 539 adults, lasted one week and failed to find a dose of phenylephrine within the 10 mg to 40 mg range that was significantly more effective than a placebo in relieving nasal congestion [4]. Consequently, the researchers have submitted a citizens' petition to the FDA calling for the removal of oral phenylephrine from the over the counter market.

### Reference(s)

1. Eccles, R. (2007). Substitution of phenylephrine for pseudoephedrine as a nasal decongestant.

## Announcement

The 2016 recipient of the SCVACS Mosher Award has been selected. The award committee selected Dr. John Warner, President of the Warner-Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry.

Further details will appear in the December 2016 edition of the Santa Clara Valley ACS newsletter. The award dinner and presentation are tentatively scheduled for January 2017.

An illogical way to control methamphetamine abuse. *Brit. J. Clin. Pharmacol.*, 63, 10–14.

2. Hendeles, L. and Hatton, R.C. (2006). Oral phenylephrine: An ineffective replacement for pseudoephedrine? *J. Allergy Clin. Immunol.*, 118, 279–280.
3. Kollar, C., Schneider, H., Waksman, J. and Krusinska, E. (2007). Meta-analysis of the efficacy of a single dose of phenylephrine 10 mg compared with placebo in adults with acute nasal congestion due to the common cold. *Clin. Ther.*, 29, 1057–1070.
4. Meltzer, E.O., Ratner, P.H. and McGraw, T. (2015). Oral phenylephrine HCl for nasal congestion in seasonal allergic rhinitis: A randomized, open-label, placebo-controlled study. *J. Allergy Clin. Immun. Pract.*, 3, 702–708.

## 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 in 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 at a local spot, somewhat convenient to the 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 for June

Dr. Peter A. Bell  
Hyejin (Jade) Cho  
Bill Cuevas  
Dr. Bianxiao Cui  
Michel Dumontier  
Ruben Fernandez  
Dr. Craig Hill  
Mami Horikawa  
Dr. Vernon Jiang

Jorge Jimenez  
Claresta Joe-Wong  
Arvin Kakekhani  
Prof. Ramki Kalyanaraman  
Henry Korman  
Matthew Naylor  
David H. Peers  
J. Provine

Sally A. Seebode  
Corin D. Slown  
Kristina Ellice Tan  
Bo Wang  
Dr. Haiibo Wang  
Wendell Atom Yee  
Chao Yu  
Han-Jie Zhou

## Chemistry Quiz

From the Swedish word for heavy stone, this metal was discovered as the oxide in 1781 by Carl Wilhelm Scheele. In 1783, José and Fausto Elhuyar discovered the same oxide and successfully converted it to the pure metal later that same year.

### Last Month's Quiz

An analysis of the literature from 1984–2014, found that among the most frequently used synthetic reactions, none were discovered within the last twenty years, and only two in the 1980's and 1990's. What are those two reactions?

**The Buchwald—Hartwig coupling and the Suzuki—Miyaura coupling are the two frequently used reactions developed since the 1980's.**



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[http://scvacs.org/?page\\_id=99](http://scvacs.org/?page_id=99)

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

### 2016 Section Officers

Chair	Jane Frommer	408-927-2224	frommer@scvacs.org
Chair Elect	Todd Eberspacher	650-723-2505	eberspacher@stanford.edu
Past Chair	Abby Kennedy	209-640-2005	akennedycali2007@yahoo.com
Secretary	Richard Bone	650-714-7897	rgab@scvacs.org
Treasurer	Ihab Darwish	650-594-1654	darwishis@yahoo.com

### Councilors

2014-2016	George Lechner	408-226-7262	glechner@aol.com
2014-2016	Herb Silber	408-924-4954	hbsilber@science.sjsu.edu
2016-2016	Peter Rusch	650-961-8120	pfrusch@aol.com
2015-2017	Ean Warren	650-329-4554	ewarren@scvacs.org
2016-2018	Bonnie Charpentier	650-380-5353	charpentierbon@yahoo.com
2016-2018	Linda Brunauer	408-554-6947	lbrunauer@scu.edu
2016-2018	Sally Peters	650-854-4614	sallybrownpeters@gmail.com

### Alternate Councilors

2014-2016	Mark Kent	408-736-0989	markkent@yahoo.com
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2015-2017	David Parker	408-615-4961	drdrparker@comcast.net
2016-2016	Matt Greaney	510-410-0195	greaney19@gmail.com
2016-2018	Natalie McClure	650-906-7831	nmclure@drugregulatoryaffairs.com
2016-2018	Heidi Vollmer-Snarr	650-723-9518	hrvsnarr@stanford.edu
2016-2018	Stephanie Bachmann	408-429-9681	s_gehling@hotmail.com

### Newsletter

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Assoc. Editor	Partha P. Bera		partha.pb@gmail.com

### ChemPloyment Abstracts

Director:	Liang Cao	liang.cao@aol.com
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## FUTURE EVENTS

- Aug 20**      *“Why Tides Matter”*  
Don Edwards Refuge Environmental  
Education Center  
Alviso, CA
- Aug 21-25**    *252nd ACS National Meeting*  
Philadelphia, PA
- Aug 31**      *Behind the Bark: Saving Seals and  
Sea Lions in California*  
Pacifica Library
- Sep 14**      *SCVACS September Dinner Seminar*  
The Information Landscape for Chemists  
at Work and Play  
Grace Baysinger, Head Librarian and  
Bibliographer, Swain Chemistry Library  
Michael's at Shoreline, Mountain View
- Sep 18**      *Fall Free Day at the Exploratorium*  
San Francisco, CA

Click on links for more information or  
see this newsletter at [http://scvacs.org/?page\\_id=99](http://scvacs.org/?page_id=99)