

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Silicon Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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## SVACS February Dinner Seminar

### Influenza: Epidemic and Pandemic in Modern Times

Dr. Jack Nguyen

#### Abstract:

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the Spanish flu pandemic, which killed an estimated 50-100 million people around the world. Since then, there have been at least 3 other influenza pandemics, with the last one occurring in 2009. This talk will examine the different pandemics in the last centuries and the influenza strains that caused them, and will discuss the factors involved in the creation of an influenza pandemic, including the biology of influenza and zoonotic forces that contribute to influenza evolution.



#### Biography:

Jack Nguyen is Vice President of Research at Adamas Pharmaceuticals, where his past research has focused on influenza, antiviral development, and neurological diseases. Previously Dr. Nguyen was a founder of Catalyst Biosciences. Dr. Nguyen has over 15 years of experience working in pharmaceutical industry. He holds a B.A. from Grinnell College and a Ph.D. in Biophysics from UCSE.

## Connect with Chemists

An early morning chat with fellow chemists

**Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 7 a.m.**

Coupa Café, 538 Ramona Street, Palo Alto  
Contact Ean Warren ([ewarren@scvacs.org](mailto:ewarren@scvacs.org))  
for more information or ask for Ean at Coupa.

## Chair's Message

Melody Esfandiari



Hope your 2018 is off to a great start. Now that the January blues are over, we move into month of love as we celebrate Valentine's Day in February. As the ACS logo tells us life is chemistry, and I would like to remind everyone that it is also about love. A lot of time we may think that we are using our heads to make decisions of the heart, but in reality, we are simply responding to the chemicals that are released into our bodies. While numerous chemicals are involved, my molecule of the month is phenylethylamine (PEA), which is

central to for us falling in love, or at least partially responsible. PEA is commonly nicknamed as the "love molecule." This chemical stimulates the production of dopamine and norepinephrine, which are important neurotransmitters in regulating our mood and emotional responses. PEA is extra special because it is found in chocolate. So giving chocolate to your loved one on Valentine's Day might just help you develop more "chemistry."

Besides being in the month of love,

*continued on next page*

## SVACS February Dinner Seminar

**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2018

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

**Speaker:** Dr. Jack Nguyen  
Adamas Pharmaceuticals  
*Influenza: Epidemic and Pandemic in Modern Times*

**Location:** Michael's at Shoreline Park  
Mountain View, CA

<http://michaelsatshoreline.com/>

**Cost:** \$30/ACS member  
\$15/student  
Breast of Chicken, Coq au vin  
Broiled Salmon  
Mushroom Crepes

**Registration:** [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org)

Reservations must be made by February 18th, 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 Tuesday, February 20th.

Chair's Message, continued from front page

Unfortunately it is also the flu season, and as some of us are battling the flu, our February dinner talk is just right for this month. Dr. Jack Nguyen from Adamas Pharmaceuticals will give a talk on the history and significance of the influenza pandemics and factors contributing to the evolution of influenza. Dr. Nguyen is the Vice President of Research at Adamas Pharmaceuticals and has over 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, so don't miss this talk!

We have recently changed our section name from Santa Clara Valley ACS to Silicon Valley ACS. Since we made the transition, it's time to adopt a new logo. We have decided to launch a logo design contest to involve our members and foster creativity. The winning design will receive a prize (possibly chemistry related of course). Read the section in the newsletter to know all the rules. I can't wait to see how creative the bay area gets!

Have a great Valentine and hope to see you at the February talk!



SVACS March 15th Dinner Seminar

## Bridging the Gap for Biotherapeutics Development Joining Automated Oligosaccharide to Automated Peptide Synthesis

Dr. Nicola Pohl, 2017 Harry and Carol Mosher Awardee

### Biography

Nicola Pohl, professor of chemistry and the Joan and Marvin Carmack Chair in Bioorganic Chemistry at Indiana University in Bloomington, received her B.A. degree from Harvard College in 1991 and her Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997. Following an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Chemical Engineering doing metabolic engineering at Stanford University, she joined the faculty at Iowa State University in the fall of 2000. She was a professor of chemistry and of chemical and biological engineering and held the Wilkinson Professor of Interdisciplinary Engineering at Iowa State University before moving to Indiana University in summer 2012. She is currently also a Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard and a Visiting Professor at MIT. She has

served as on the executive committee of the Division of Biological Chemistry of the American Chemical Society, a member-at-large and Chair-Elect/Chair/Past-Chair of the ACS Carbohydrate Chemistry Division and is currently on the editorial advisory boards for the ACS journals Organic Letters and The Journal of Organic Chemistry. Her work has been recognized with a Cottrell Scholar Award (2003-2008), an NSF Career Award (2004-2009), a Sloan Foundation Fellowship (2005-2007), the Horace S. Isbell Award (2010) and Melville L. Wolfram Award (2018) from the ACS Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry, and the International Fluorous Technology Award (2017). Her research aims to understand and exploit the subtle differences amongst sugars in order to develop automated workflows to synthesize and analyze carbohydrates and incorporate them into biotherapeutics designs.

## SVACS Logo Design Contest

Your local ACS section has recently changed its name to Silicon Valley ACS, and we need a new logo to go along with this change! We would like to invite any SVACS members and any local students to participate in our Logo Design Contest. The rules of the contest are as follows:

1. Please include the section name "Silicon Valley American Chemical Society" either in its entirety, abbreviated "Silicon Valley ACS", or abbreviated "SVACS".
2. Only submit original designs. No copyright infringement is permitted, and the selected design will have to get approval by ACS National before we announce the winner.
3. Any colors used should be CMYK, and the colors should stand out against a white background.
4. Use of programs such as Inkscape or Adobe Illustrator is encouraged.
5. Please submit files to [SVACSLogo@gmail.com](mailto:SVACSLogo@gmail.com). Your submissions should be PDF files. If your design is selected, we will ask for a higher quality file.
6. All submissions should be labeled as: **LASTNAME\_FIRSTNAME\_#.PDF**. If you submit more than one logo, please number your files appropriately (# = 1, 2, or 3). No more than three submissions per person.

Please submit designs by **March 30, 2018**.

The winning logo will be featured on our website, will be used in the SVACS letterhead, and will be displayed at SVACS functions. There will also be a prize awarded to the winner!

We enthusiastically await your creative designs!

## SVACS March Dinner Seminar

### Mosher Award Presentation

**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2018

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. Social Hour *New time!*  
7:30 p.m. Dinner  
8:00 p.m. Presentation

**Speaker:** Dr. Nicola Pohl  
Indiana University  
*Bridging the Gap for  
Biotherapeutics Development*

**Location:** Biltmore Hotel & Suites  
2151 Laurelwood Blvd.  
Santa Clara, CA 95054

**Cost:** \$30/regular member  
\$15/student  
Grilled Salmon or Pasta Primavera

**Registration:** [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org)  
Sally Peters 650-477-3027

Reservations should be made by March 11th 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 Tuesday, March 13th.

# A Tale of the Bylaws

by George Lechner, Councilor, SVACS

Toward the end of 2016, there was some discussion among several members about changing the name of our section, but to what? The discussion topics were about where is Santa Clara Valley (?) and shouldn't we have a name that talks about "us" and where we are that people recognize (?). The section covers a very large geography in California with many diverse peoples, agriculture business, high-tech companies and chemical interests. Although most of our members live and work just below South San Francisco in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, there are three more counties south of us, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey, where a lot of chemistry is going on in agriculture, marine science and education. Silicon, a very useful element in the high-tech arena, whose works involve everyone throughout our area, also known worldwide as "Silicon Valley", seemed like a good fit.

When the discussion came to the attention of our Executive Committee, our then Chair, Jane Frommer, queried some of the membership about changing our name to something like-Silicon Valley Section-with a positive response. The proposal was approved by the Executive Committee and placed on the November 2016 election ballot. The membership voted to approve the measure with 80% of the vote. Following this was a successful petition to the ACS Council Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) to approve at the ACS Spring meeting in San Francisco. This caused us to start looking at our existing bylaws, which identifies us as the Santa Clara Valley Section, Inc., of the American Chemical Society.

Wait! What? INC.? Yes, we are incorporated in California. OK, where are our Articles of Incorporation? No one knew! We need to change them! By luck, we received a

copy of the Articles from ACS in the form of a California Section (The Vortex) newsletter article, dated September, 1955, the year of our incorporation. The Bylaws Committee then got busy finding out what to do and successfully got a certification from the California Secretary of State to change our name to the Silicon Valley Section, Inc., of the American Chemical Society. We supplied LSAC all the necessary paperwork and, voila!, here comes in the mail our "new" bylaws with the name change. Job finished!

No?! Wait! Now, ACS wants us to further revise the "new" bylaws with a "ton" of new and suggested items of revision. A couple of years ago, ACS developed a set of Model Bylaws, and, with the assistance of Barbara Polansky at ACS, we received a blended version of our existing bylaws with the model and are just about to have our new set of bylaws approved by the Executive Committee, ACS LSAC, and a vote of the membership for approval in the November 2018 election. Now! The job is done! Well, almost!

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## Local Science Fairs in 2018

by Susan Oldham-Fritts

While chocolates and flowers are high on many people's Valentine list, how a gift that keeps on giving? While the cost is minimal (a day of your time judging at the local science fair), the return is great (encouraging middle and high school students to participate in the world of STEM – science, engineering, math, and science). Sign up as either a **category judge** for one the following local area science fairs or **join our SVACS sponsored special awards judging team at the Synopsys Championship**. The latter is a qualifier for the International Science and Engineering Fair, ISEF.

Please contact me at [sfritts@gmail.com](mailto:sfritts@gmail.com) to join our team of dedicated chemists at the Synopsys Championship on March 15th.

No matter which fair is close to home, **please volunteer now!**

**Sciencepalooza\*** (Santa Clara County Fairgrounds), February 3

[www.outreach-foundation.org/judges/](http://www.outreach-foundation.org/judges/)

**San Mateo County Science, Math, and Technology Fair**

(San Mateo Events Center, Fiesta Pavilion), March 4

<https://www.stemfair.net/app/signup/judges>

**Santa Cruz County Fair** (Santa Cruz County Fair Grounds), March 10

[http://www.science.santacruz.k12.ca.us/judges\\_registration\\_new.html](http://www.science.santacruz.k12.ca.us/judges_registration_new.html)

**Monterey County Science and Engineering Fair**

(California State University, Monterey Bay, University Center, Bldg.29), March 17

[www.montereycountysciencefair.info](http://www.montereycountysciencefair.info)

**Synopsys Championship** (San Jose Convention Center), March 15

<https://science-fair.org/judges-3/category-judges/judging-registration/>

**Golden Gate STEM Fair**

(San Francisco County Fair Bldg., 9th and Lincoln, Golden Gate Park), March 19

<http://sfbasf.org>

\*Many students at these competitions are first time science fair participants.

## SVACS Book Club

The next meeting of the SVACS Book Club will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 3 p.m., at a location to be confirmed. The book for discussion is: "The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in the Jazz Age New York" by Deborah Blum.

This is a story of the development of Toxicology Forensics in New York City during the Prohibition years. The book is a quick read, although occasionally a little gruesome, as it deals with the causes of murders and deaths. The chemistry is mostly accurate but a little lightweight. The book contains some interesting stories of industrial radium poisoning; deliberate arsenic poisoning; and a lot of methanol poisoning, both deliberate and inadvertent.

Paperback copies are available at Kepler's (1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA, <http://www.keplers.com>) or from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

Interested in joining the ACS Book Club? Add yourself to the email list [svacs-book-club+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:svacs-book-club+subscribe@googlegroups.com) or contact Ean Warren ([ewarren@scvacs.org](mailto:ewarren@scvacs.org)).



## Valentines Day Chemistry from ACS ChemClub

Love is in the air for Valentine's Day! Check out these links for ideas to celebrate it chemistry-style. You can make science-themed valentines, create a borax crystal heart, learn a valentine demo to share with your sweetheart, and more.

### *Valentines Day Science Fun*

Cool Science Experiments

### *Chemistry Valentines*

Delve into your creative side—design your own valentines with chemistry-related sayings and poems.

### *Printable Chemistry Valentines*

Does your valentine shine like a carbon allotrope? Find this and other free chemistry valentines—ready to print and share!

### *Goldenrod Valentines*

Why send your sweetie an ordinary valentine when you can give them a color-changing one? It's all courtesy of chemistry.

### *Valentine's Day Cards Fit for Geeks*

For when a typical Valentine card won't do. Check out the science-themed cards in this collection.

### *Geek Love: Send a #Chemvalentine To Show 'Em You Care*

It's the Top 20 #Chemvalentines to woo your science sweetie.

### *12 Science Valentines*

Still looking for the perfect way to say, "I love you"? Plenty of ideas here, including one done science-fair-style.

## Valentines Day Chemistry in Videos

Milk Vs. Dark Chocolate: The Ultimate Showdown

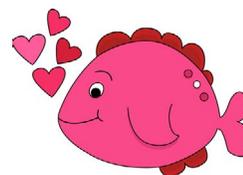
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/pressroom/reactions/videos/2017/milk-vs-dark-chocolate-the-ultimate-showdown.html>

The Science of Love (Queen Parody) | A Capella Science

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCMDawKCBkk>

Why do roses smell so sweet?

[https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/pressroom/newsreleases/2015/february/why-do-roses-smell-so-sweet-video.html?\\_ga=2.143677749.1813382701.1516652072-734584683.1516652072](https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/pressroom/newsreleases/2015/february/why-do-roses-smell-so-sweet-video.html?_ga=2.143677749.1813382701.1516652072-734584683.1516652072)



## ACS Short Courses

ACS Short Courses are a popular way to gain invaluable training in just a few days. Courses range from one to five day courses, including lab/lecture options. The catalog boasts over 90 short courses in eight subject areas taught by excellent instructors who are also incredible scientists. Held conveniently throughout the US during the year, there are plenty of options to receive high quality training from ACS.

Online short courses enable members to access the same high-quality instruction without taking travel time away from work. In online short courses, you can meet live and online with your instructor over a period of weeks. Classes are small to enable customized content relating directly to the work that you are doing today. With the time built in between sessions, you can apply what you've learned and bring up more questions throughout the longer course period. Each course includes email access to the instructor, downloadable materials, and access to the session recordings so that you can keep up even if you can't attend the online session in person.

Additional information for in-person and online ACS Short Courses can be found on the ACS Professional Education Webpage at <http://proed.acs.org/>

## Welcome to the Silicon 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 friend will be our guests. The seminar meetings are held at a number of local venues. If you are unable to attend in the evening, perhaps you would join us for an outreach event, like judging a science fair, proctoring the Chemistry Olympiad or participating in 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 SVACS Members

Margaret M. Abercrombie  
Joseph R. Allin  
Dr. Thomas Wayne Bruice  
Dr. Kara A. Calhoun  
Dr. Charles Minh Chau  
Bryan Dunyak  
Dr. Alexander Edens  
Melissa Fleury  
Dr. Adrian Liam Gill  
Forrest S. Gittleson  
Brooke Husic  
Elizabeth A. Jacobs

Jessica S. Kachian  
Kimberly Larson  
Jan Leeman  
Dr. Katerina Leftheris  
Zerubba Levi  
Yu-Lun Liang  
Dingchang Lin  
Yu Hsuan Lin  
Diana Lok  
Shuguang Ma  
Dr. Danforth Parker Miller III  
Terrence Nguyen

Professor Brynna Quarles  
Dr. David A. Schooley  
Dr. Gregg Schwarzwaldner  
Natalija Sotirovska  
Kannan Srinivasan  
Dr. Richard Steel  
Swee Sein Tan  
Abigail Rae Taussig  
Christopher David Workman  
Richard Wu  
Yilei Wu  
Bin Yao

## Volunteers Needed for the 2018 Chemistry Olympiad

The 50th International Chemistry Olympiad will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia and Prague, Czech Republic, July 19 – 29. Some of the world's most talented high school chemistry students will be attending from about 70 countries. The U.S. will send a team of four outstanding students, who will be selected from a pool of 20 finalists from across the United States. If you remember, in 2013 Stephen Ting from our section, admirably represented the U.S. in Moscow and in 2015 David Wang represented the U.S. and our section in Baku, Azerbaijan and last year, Steven Liu from Monta Vista High School, represented us in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand.

The selection of the 20 finalists begins in the local sections. Chemistry students from the Silicon Valley will participate by taking a standardized ACS written exam to determine their placement. The first round of testing is conducted in the local high schools in March. The local section invites and encourages over 100 high schools to participate and provides the testing materials.

Our section's top 16 students will meet on Saturday, April 21st, to compete in the national exams. That same weekend over 1000 students across the country will take the same written and lab exercises to determine the top 20 finalists for the U.S. This year, our students will join the students from the California section for a day of testing at Las Positas College in Livermore. The California section will host the day's events and provide snacks and lunch. Las Positas will provide the classrooms. This is an excellent time for our south and east bay members to volunteer and proctor the labs and exam rooms.

There is no teaching or paper grading as those exams are quickly sent to national ACS for grading. The top 20 students, chosen from the 1,000 participants, will then attend a weeklong study camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado in June. The top four will then represent the U.S. in Slovakia and the Czech Republic in July.

Would you like to help with the process?

Encourage your local high school chemistry teachers to have their advance placement or honors students participate in the testing process. There are over 100 high schools in the valley and only about 25 schools compete. In January each school's science department is contacted by letter and invited to compete.

Local section members are needed to register the students and proctor the exams on April 21st at Las Positas College. This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer and encourage these students to think about careers in chemistry. It is also an especially good opportunity to get to meet some of your section members. No heavy chemical knowledge is required! 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 certificates that each participant receives before the end of the school year. There are usually about 150 certificates that need to be customized.

So here are some opportunities to help your local section with the 2018 International Chemistry Olympiad – encourage the teachers to participate (maybe even offer to help in the classroom or to grade the local exams!), volunteer to be a proctor, or help print certificates. If you need more information, please contact me or another Olympiad volunteer.

### Sally Peters

Chair of the Chemistry Olympiad  
Committee  
Silicon Valley Local Section of the ACS  
[sallybrownpeters@gmail.com](mailto:sallybrownpeters@gmail.com)  
650-447-3027



Dr. Tara Baney  
[tsbaney@gmail.com](mailto:tsbaney@gmail.com)  
862-246-9940



Dr. Slava Becker  
[sbekker@hartnell.edu](mailto:sbekker@hartnell.edu)  
831-759-6005



## Chemistry Quiz

What did English naturalist John Ray isolate in 1671 by the distillation of large numbers of ants?

The answer will appear in next month's newsletter.

### Last Month's Chemistry Quiz

European mistletoe (*Viscum album*), and to a lesser extent American mistletoe (*Phoradendron serotinum*), contain the toxic lectin viscumin. What is the molecular basis for the toxicity of viscumin?

**Viscumin inhibits protein synthesis by catalytically inactivating the 60 S subunit of ribosomes**

## ACS Meetings in 2018

### 255th ACS National Meeting and Exposition

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings.html>

March 18 – 22, 2018  
New Orleans, LA

### 36th National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium

<http://www.nmcs.info/>

April 29 – May 2, 2018  
Nashville, TN

### Northwest Regional Meeting

June 24 – 27, 2018  
Richland, WA

### 256th ACS National Meeting and Exposition

August 19 – 23, 2018  
Boston, MA

### Southwest Regional Meeting

November 7 – 10, 2018  
Little Rock, AR



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

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

To receive an email when our newsletter  
is published on our web site, sign up at:  
[http://scvacs.org/?page\\_id=99](http://scvacs.org/?page_id=99)

## SILICON VALLEY SECTION

### 2018 Section Officers

Chair	Melody Esfandiari	408-924-4973	melody.esfandiari@sjsu.edu
Chair Elect	Grace Baysinger	650-725-1039	graceb@stanford.edu
Past Chair	Todd Eberspacher	650-723-2505	eberspacher@stanford.edu
Secretary	Jigisha Shah	315-289-5115	jssheth@syr.edu
Treasurer	Ihab Darwish	650-624-1389	darwishis@yahoo.com

### Councilors

2016-2018	Linda Brunauer	408-554-6947	lbrunauer@scu.edu
2016-2018	Sally Peters	650-447-3027	sallybrownpeters@gmail.com
2018-2018	Peter Rusch	650-961-8120	pfrusch@aol.com
2017-2019	George Lechner	408-226-7262	glechner@aol.com
2017-2019	Matt Greaney	510-410-0195	greaney19@gmail.com
2018-2020	Ean Warren	650-329-4554	ewarren@scvacs.org
2018-2020	Natalie McClure	650-906-7831	nmclure@drugregulatoryaffairs.com

### Alternate Councilors

2018-2018	Alex Klevay	408-561-0087	alex.klevay@gmail.com
2016-2018	Heidi Vollmer-Snarr	650-723-9518	hrvsnarr@stanford.edu
2018-2018	Howard Peters	650-447-3027	peters4pa@sbcglobal.net
2017-2019	Elizabeth Pollom	408-924-5012	elizabeth.pollom@sjsu.edu
2017-2019	Slava Bekker	831-759-6005	sbekker@hartnell.edu
2018-2020	Madalyn Radlauer	408-924-5482	madalyn.radlauer@sjsu.edu
2018-2020	Jane Frommer	408-927-2225	jane@collabra.net

### 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

- Feb 13** *23rd Annual Stauffer Lectureship*  
Dr. Scott Denmark, Stanford University
- Feb 22** *SVACS February Dinner Seminar*  
Influenza: Epidemic and pandemic  
in modern times  
Jack Nguyen, Adamas Pharmaceuticals  
Michael's at Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA
- Mar 8** *Hard Earth Talk: Going Green*  
Hal Harvey, Energy Foundation  
Roble Hall, Stanford University
- Mar 8** *Multiple Sclerosis: The State of the Art*  
Dr. Lucas B. Kipp  
Stanford Health Library, Hoover Pavilion  
Stanford University
- Mar 15** *SVACS March Dinner Seminar*  
2017 Harry and Carol Mosher Award  
Dr. Nicola Pohl, Indiana University  
Bridging the Gap for Biotherapeutics  
Development  
Biltmore Hotel & Suites, Santa Clara, CA
- Mar 18-22** *National ACS Meeting and Expo*  
Nexus of Food, Energy and Water  
New Orleans, LA
- Click on links for more information or  
see this newsletter at [http://scvacs.org/?page\\_id=99](http://scvacs.org/?page_id=99)