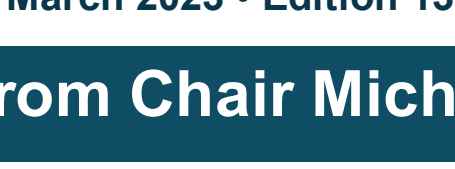


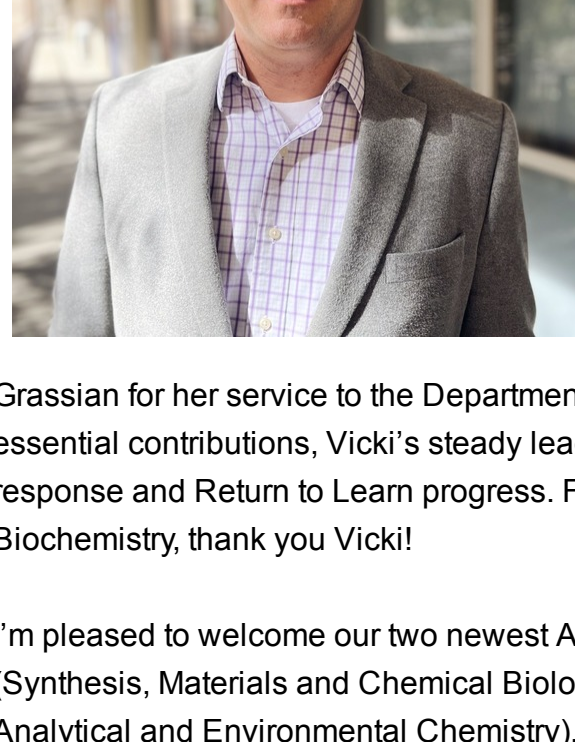
THE PERIODICAL

A Newsletter from the
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry



March 2023 • Edition 13

Message from Chair Michael Burkart



Dear Friends and Alumni of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,

As the [new Department Chair](#), I'd like to welcome you to the Winter edition of The Periodical! I have been a faculty member of our Department for 20 years, doing research in Organic Chemistry and Chemical Biology.

First and foremost, I would like to recognize our outgoing Chair Vicki

Grassian for her service to the Department since 2019. Among her many essential contributions, Vicki's steady leadership was critical to our COVID-19 response and Return to Learn progress. From all of us in Chemistry and Biochemistry, thank you Vicki!

I'm pleased to welcome our two newest Assistant Professors, Kent Griffith (Synthesis, Materials and Chemical Biology) and Andrew Pun (Physical, Analytical and Environmental Chemistry), who officially start on March 1st. More details about Profs. Griffith and Pun will be included in our Spring Newsletter. In addition, I would like to welcome Professor Julia Ortony, who joined us from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. You can read about Professor Ortony's research below.

At this time of year, we are well into our recruitment efforts for both faculty and graduate students. For the first time since the start of the pandemic, we have returned fully to in-person graduate student recruitment, which includes 1-on-1 visits with faculty and a dinner/poster session held at the Scripps Oceanography Seaside Forum. It is good to be back to "normal" and meeting the next generation of scientists for our Department.

Please enjoy the contents of this newsletter, and don't forget to keep us posted on your news and developments!

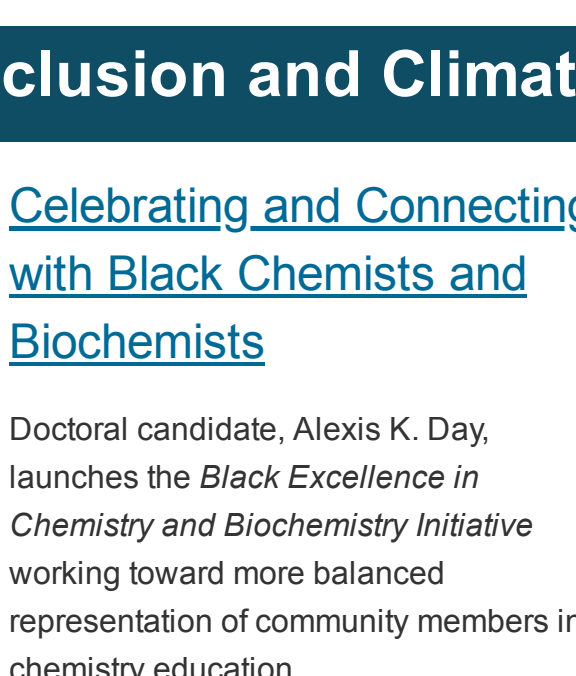
Best regards,

Mike Burkart
Professor and Chair

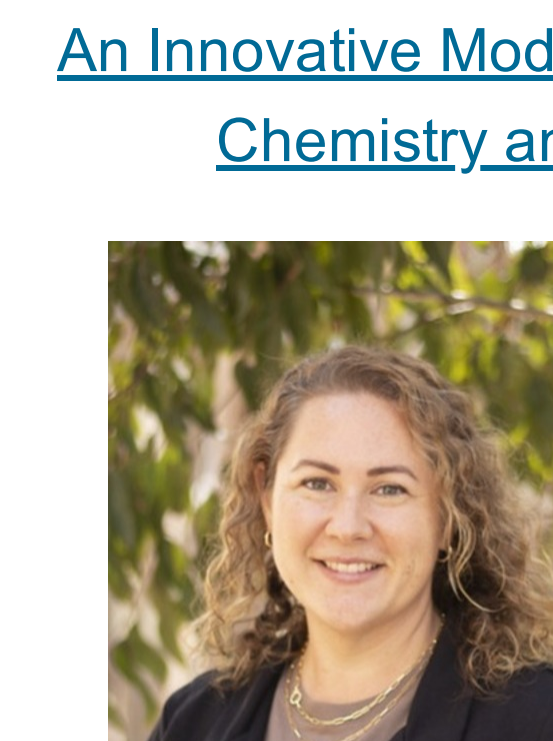
New Faculty

[Professor Julia Ortony Joins the Faculty](#)

Professor Ortony joins us from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research focuses on the design of small molecule nanostructures, and the characterization of their conformational and water dynamics. Ortony's research combines both nanomaterials design and development of dynamics characterization methodologies.



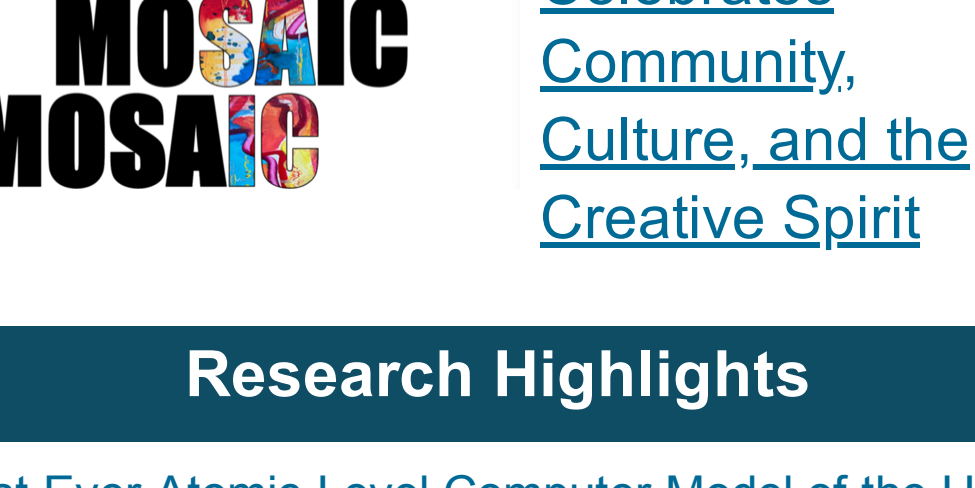
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Climate



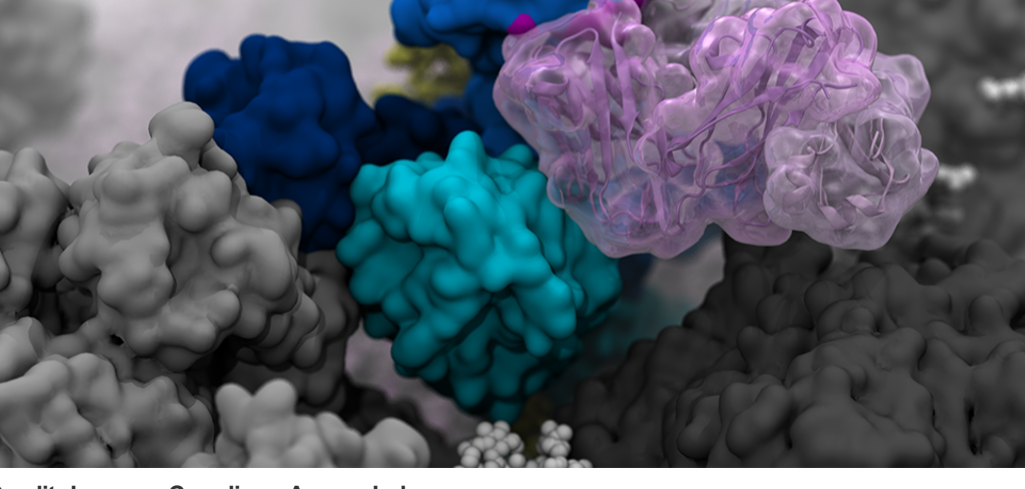
[Celebrating and Connecting with Black Chemists and Biochemists](#)

Doctoral candidate, Alexis K. Day, launches the *Black Excellence in Chemistry and Biochemistry Initiative* working toward more balanced representation of community members in chemistry education.

[An Innovative Model for Peer Support in Chemistry and Biochemistry](#)



[New Art Celebrates Community, Culture, and the Creative Spirit](#)



Research Highlights

[First Ever Atomic-Level Computer Model of the H1N1 Virus Created by Amaro Lab](#)

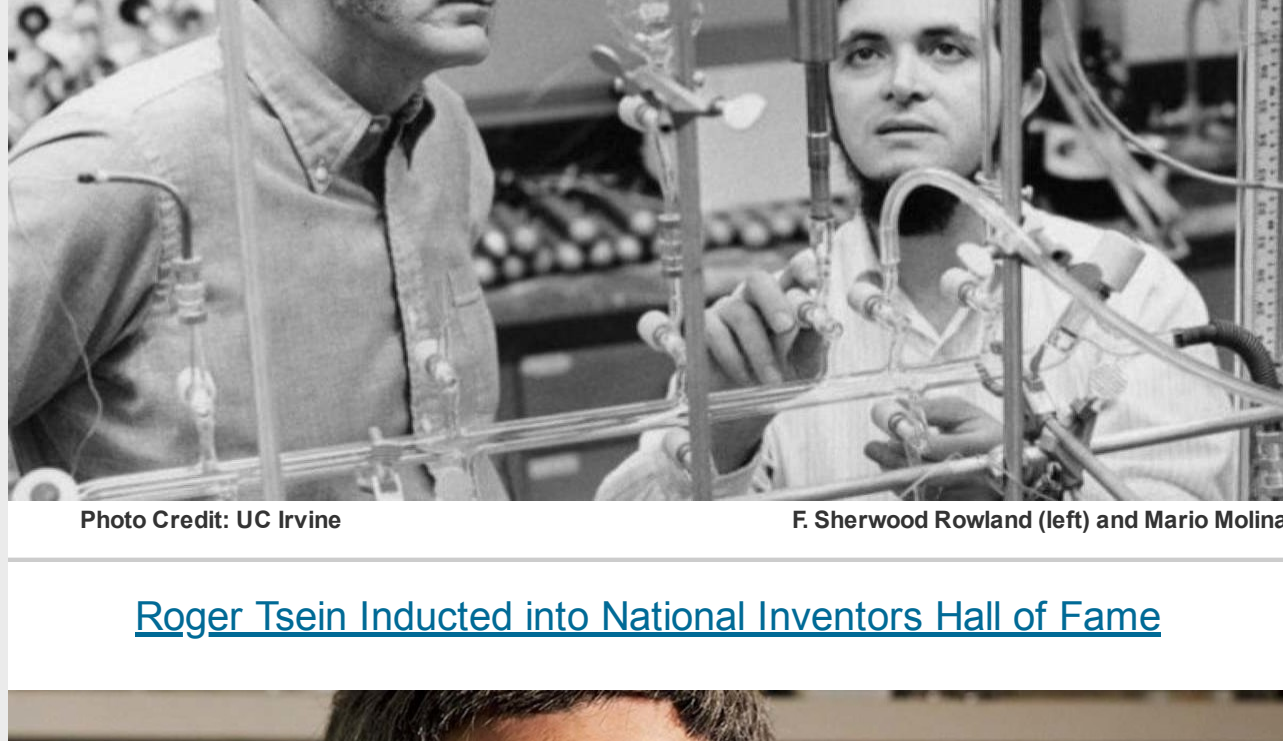


Photo Credit: Lorenzo Casalino - Amaro Lab

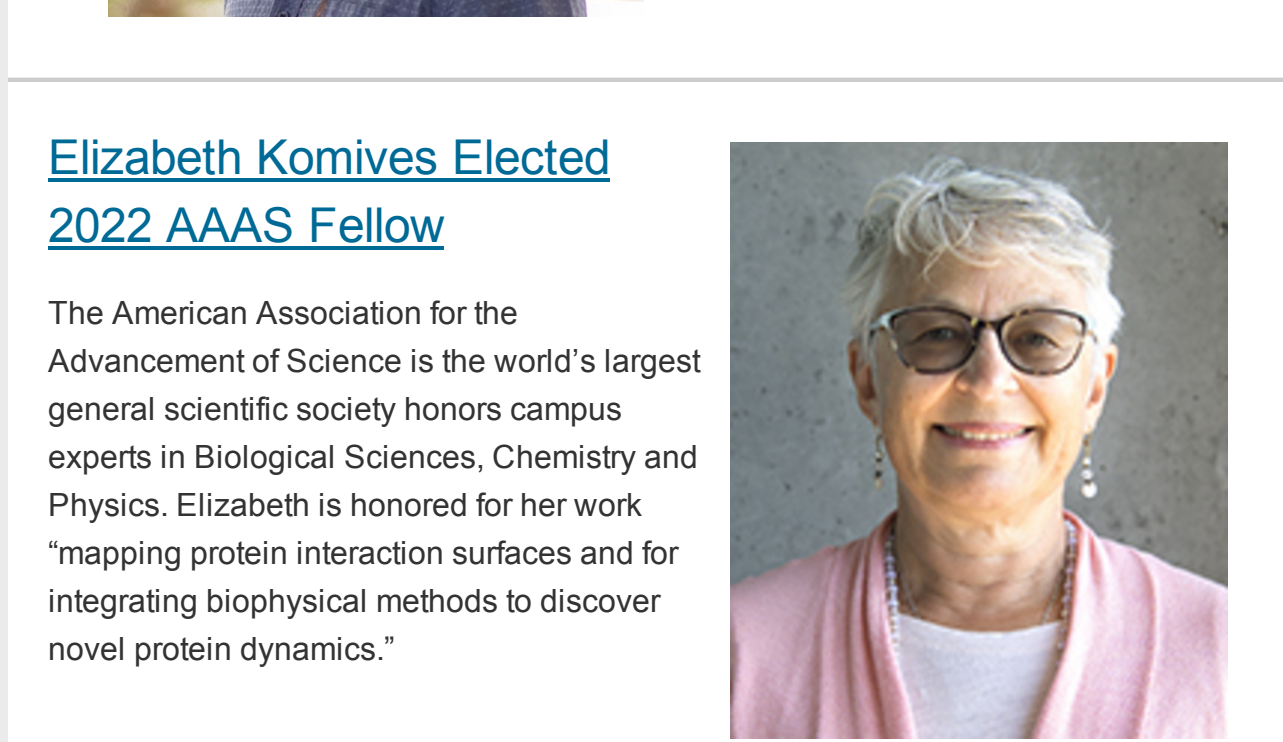
[Mario Molina's Postdoctoral Research Featured in UC Irvine Article](#)



Photo Credit: UC Irvine

F. Sherwood Rowland (left) and Mario Molina

[Roger Tsein Inducted into National Inventors Hall of Fame](#)



Faculty Spotlight

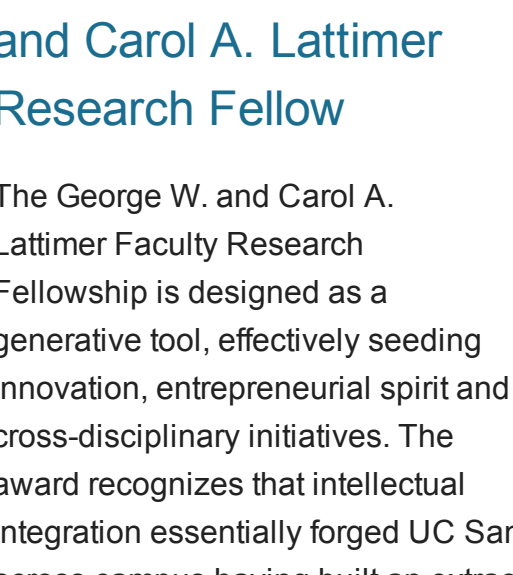


[Wei Xiong Selected as 2023 Coblenz Award Recipient](#)

The Coblenz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist and is the Society's original and most prestigious award.

[Elizabeth Komives Elected 2022 AAAS Fellow](#)

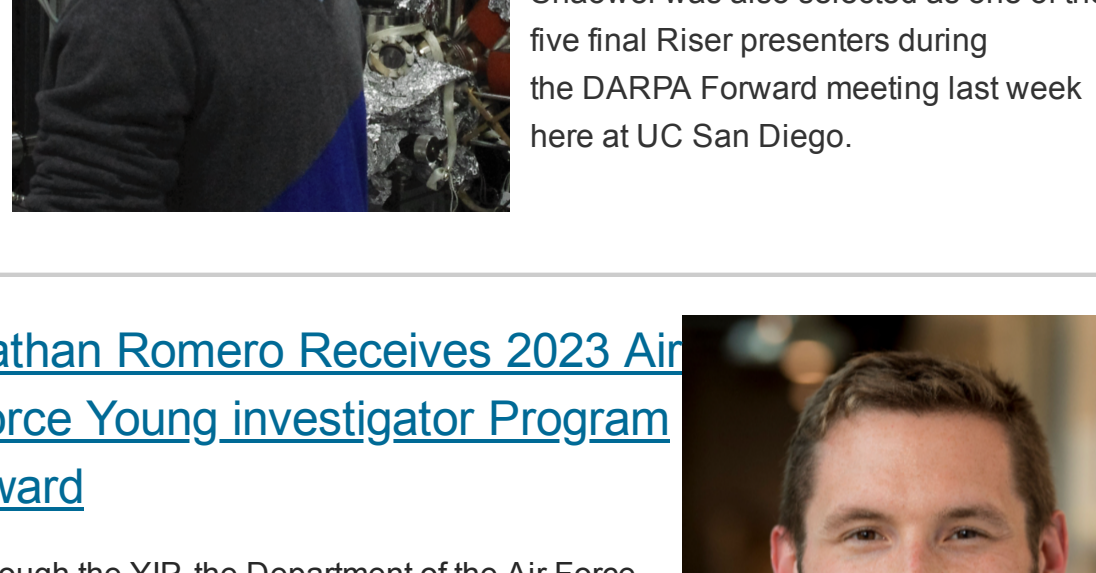
The American Association for the Advancement of Science is the world's largest general scientific society honors campus experts in Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics. Elizabeth is honored for her work "mapping protein interaction surfaces and for integrating biophysical methods to discover novel protein dynamics."



[Mark Herzik named 2023 Cottrell Scholar by Research Corporation for Science Advancement](#)

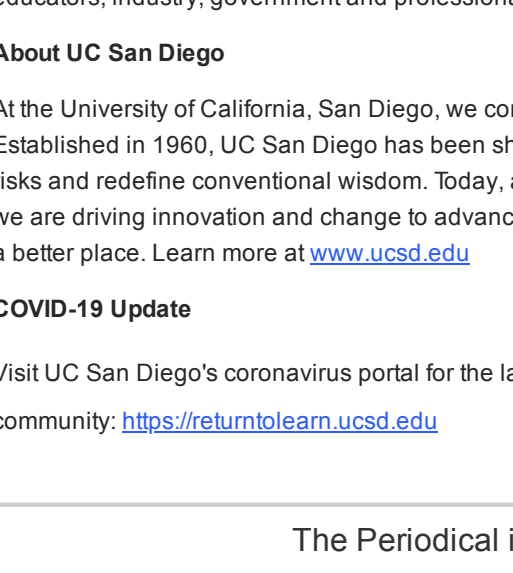
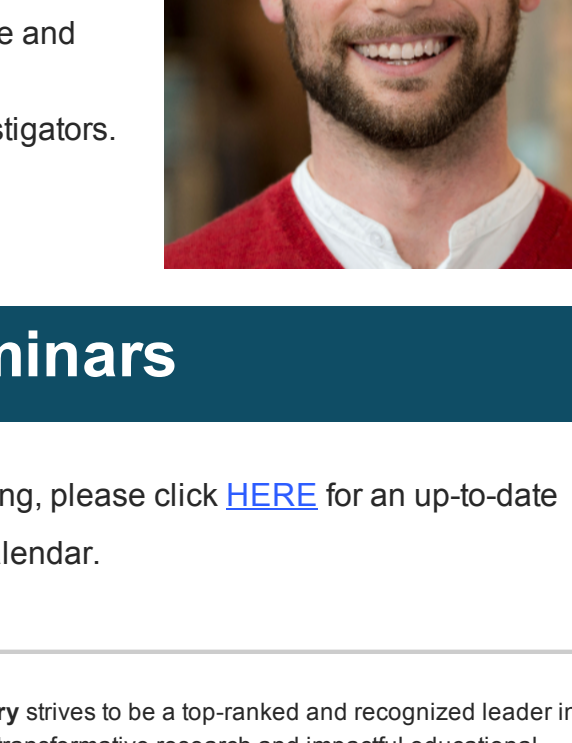
Cottrell Scholars are chosen through a rigorous peer-review process of applications from public and private research universities and primarily undergraduate institutions across the United States and Canada. Their [award proposals](#) incorporate both research and science education.

[New UC San Diego Meta-Institute for Airborne Disease in a Changing Climate to be led by Kimberly Prather and Rommie Amaro](#)



[Jeffrey Rinehart Selected As George W. and Carol A. Lattimer Research Fellow](#)

The George W. and Carol A. Lattimer Faculty Research Fellowship is designed as a generative tool, effectively seeding innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and cross-disciplinary initiatives. The award recognizes that intellectual integration essentially forged UC San Diego's reputation, with faculty from across campus having built an extraordinary network for interdisciplinary research and training. This award provides for the continuation of this momentum for generating new ideas and research areas.

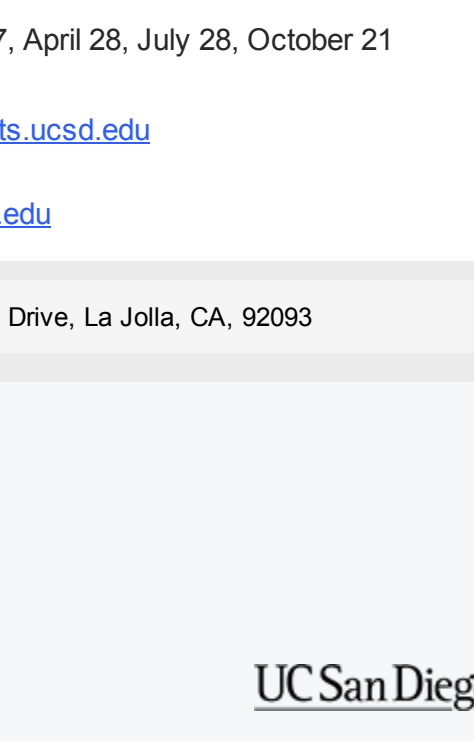


[Shaowei Li Selected as a 2022 DARPA Riser](#)

DARPA Risers are up-and-coming standouts in their fields, whose research is related to national security and demonstrates the potential to lead to technological surprise. Shaowei was also selected as one of the five final Riser presenters during the DARPA Forward meeting last week here at UC San Diego.

[Nathan Romero Receives 2023 Air Force Young Investigator Program Award](#)

Through the YIP, the Department of the Air Force fosters creative basic research in science and engineering and enhances early career development of outstanding young investigators.



Seminars

Our seminars are constantly evolving, please click [HERE](#) for an up-to-date calendar.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry strives to be a top-ranked and recognized leader in the chemical and biochemical sciences through transformative research and impactful educational programs.

We are committed to excellence in teaching and mentoring excellence and supporting students and postdoctoral researchers in safe and inclusive environments as they prepare to become leaders in science and society.

We value collegiality, equity and diversity with the Department, and promote a culture of collaboration and transparency.

We aim to enhance our impact in local and global communities through partnerships with other educators, industry, government and professional societies. Learn more at <https://chemistry.ucsd.edu>

About UC San Diego

At the University of California, San Diego, we constantly push boundaries and challenge expectations. Established in 1960, UC San Diego has been shaped by exceptional scholars who aren't afraid to take risks and redefine conventional wisdom. Today, as one of the top 15 research universities in the world, we are driving innovation and change to advance society, propel economic growth and make our world a better place. Learn more at www.ucsd.edu

COVID-19 Update

Visit UC San Diego's coronavirus portal for the latest information for the campus community: <https://returntolearn.ucsd.edu>

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Got News? chempr@chemists.ucsd.edu

<https://chemistry.ucsd.edu>

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