

Upcoming Dates...

March 13: Executive Committee Meeting

March 18-24: OC Science & Engineering Fair (OC Fairgrounds)

March 21: Section Dinner Meeting

April 7-11: National Meeting: New Orleans, LA

April 10: Executive Committee Teleconference

April 24: College Awards Dinner

April 27: First Year High School Exam

May 8: Executive Committee Meeting

May 23: High School Awards Dinner

June 12: Executive Committee Teleconference

October 13: National Chemistry Week

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## Chair's Message

As we move into the spring, some of us work with our students, some of us head to New Orleans and another National Meetings, and some of us work in labs. But there's a growing group of scientists who are starting their own businesses, blazing their own paths and taking on alternative careers in chemistry.

As our field continues to experience job reductions and outsourcing, the spirit of entrepreneurship is taking root and growing. In the coming weeks, the Orange County Local Section will be rolling out articles, information and resources for all levels of entrepreneurs—from the new business owner to the small chemical business to the serial entrepreneur. Our Section is partnering with local Universities, divisions—such as Small Chemical Business, and Section members to provide a wide range of materials. I hope that you will check our website often and let us know if you want to contribute or have any resources to provide. ([www.ocacs.org](http://www.ocacs.org))

Our National Chemistry Week event at the Santa Ana Zoo continues to be one of the highlights of our Section. Our outreach to the Orange County community is something of which our entire Section should be proud. (see page 3) We do need underwriters for the event, goggles and glassware. If you or your company would like to donate to the Section, please contact me, and we can arrange a sponsorship package.

Our April Newsletter will focus on the 2013 Western Regional Meeting, our 50th Awards Dinner, special members of our Local Section and upcoming events.

Stay in touch and keep innovating!

Dr. Sandra Thompson, Chair

## OCACS Awards News

We were once again nominated for a ChemLuminary Award in 2012 for Outstanding On-Going National Chemistry Week Event! While our Section did not win, we were honored to be in such excellent company.

Dr. Carol Grimes, chair of our Education Committee, is our Local Section Volunteer of the Year. Her work on National Chemistry Week, Chemistry Olympiad and the First Year High School Exam help to keep our Local Section in the top tier of excellence year after year.

A special thank you to our Education Committee for their stellar work each year to educate the Orange County community on the power of chemistry!!



## Join OCACS Online

The Orange County Local Section is online and there are several ways to connect, get information and join the conversation.

Our website is always the first and best place to start for all of the information about our Section. You can connect there at [www.ocacs.org](http://www.ocacs.org). We have information about our Section, along with links to the other Southern California Local Sections.

To get weekly bits and bites about the Section's activities, awards and upcoming events - become a Fan on Facebook. Our Section can be found at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), then search for American Chemical Society (Orange County Local Section).

If you are looking for updates, but only have room in your day for 140 characters or less - then look for us on Twitter. You can find us by

searching @OCACSChem at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com).

If you want to speak at one of our Dinner Meetings, invite us to videotape one of your lectures or presentations for our website or get involved in the Local Section, E-mail us at:

[OCACSChair@gmail.com](mailto:OCACSChair@gmail.com)

[OCACS@sbcglobal.net](mailto:OCACS@sbcglobal.net) or

[sthompson@buchalter.com](mailto:sthompson@buchalter.com).

*"Advertise with or sponsor OCACS and reach 1200 Chemical Professionals in the Orange County area."*

## OCACS March Dinner Meeting

Discovery and Optimization of Small Molecule Inhibitors for the Botulinum Neurotoxin

**Dr. Nicholas Salzameda**

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry  
California State University, Fullerton

The botulinum neurotoxin (BoNT) is a protein secreted by the bacteria *Clostridium Botulinum*. The neurotoxin causes the disease botulism, a severe paralytic illness that can be fatal. The neurotoxin is highly toxic with an LD<sub>50</sub> of 1 ng/kg of human body weight. Currently, there is no approved small molecule therapeutics available for the treatment of botulism. With the fear that this highly toxic neurotoxin could be used as a bioterrorism weapon there is a great need for small molecule therapeutic treatments for botulism. Through the use of chemical synthesis and high throughput screening our research group has identified a small molecule that inhibits the BoNT. I will present the BoNT inhibitor and our progress on optimizing the lead molecule via a Structure-Activity Relationship study.

Nicholas Salzameda received his B.A. in Chemistry from the University of San Diego and Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Nevada,

Reno. His post-doctoral research was in the field of bioorganic chemistry at The Scripps Research Institute. Currently Nicholas is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at California State University, Fullerton. His research group at CSUF focuses on the synthesis of novel compounds for the disruption of protein-protein interactions related to human health and disease.

Social begins at 6PM with dinner to follow at 6:30PM. If you are joining us for the Presentation only, it will begin at 7PM sharp.

All Reservations: Please contact us no later than 12 noon on Monday, March 18, 2013 at [OCACS@sbcglobal.net](mailto:OCACS@sbcglobal.net). Please indicate if you will be attending the dinner and program or the program only. Also, please list all names of attendees. Note: OCACS pays the hotel on the basis of the number of dinner reservations made. Your RSVP for dinner is a commitment to pay for dinner. Dinner cost is \$25 for Members and Member's Significant Others; \$30 for Non-Members or those without reservations. Members and guests are invited to attend the program at 7 PM. There is no charge to attend the program only, but advance reservation is appreciated. Space may be limited.

# Advertise and Post Job Openings With the OCACS

Our Electronic Newsletter will be sent out to over 1200 Orange County chemistry professionals, teachers and students once a month on or around the 15th.

Your company can be front and center to members of our Local Section on a monthly or quarterly schedule.

If you would like to put your ad or job posting in our electronic newsletter, please send your ad and/or job posting, in PDF form (color or black and white) to:

**OCACSCChair@gmail.com**

Our rates are as follows:

### Monthly:

1/4 page: \$25

1/2 page: \$50

Full page: \$100

### Quarterly (3 issues):

1/4 page: \$60

1/2 page: \$125

Full page: \$250

### Job Postings

We are also starting a Job Postings section in our newsletter and online for those companies who want to post a job opportunity. Our rates are \$10/month for a combined online and newsletter job posting. In order to post your job posting, we need the Company Information, Job Title, Job Location, Job Description, Requirements for Application and Deadline for Applications (if available). Send that information to [OCACSCChair@gmail.com](mailto:OCACSCChair@gmail.com).

Don't miss this opportunity to reach out to the Orange County chemistry community!

## OCACS Education Matters

The Orange County section's National Chemistry Week celebration was held on October 14, 2012, at the Santa Ana Zoo. This is a small zoo with many educational programs, which has been cooperating with our local section continuously since the late 1990s for NCW.

Our collaboration for the event involves 12-13 college groups (Student Affiliate groups plus students from chemistry classes at some schools), a high school group, some retired chemists and local section members, and people on the zoo staff.

The vision for this yearly event has been much increased participation in Science at the Zoo by the Orange County population, particularly by the members of the local Santa Ana and Tustin communities, which are overwhelmingly Hispanic. The Hispanic population in general is underrepresented in the sciences at the college level, and we wanted to help introduce the concept that "Science is Fun" to this population. At the same time, most families in the area cannot afford to pay for the entire family to go to the zoo, even with its modest prices. Our collaboration with the zoo has meant free admission for the local population of Santa Ana residents and nearby Tustin residents.

12 college/university groups participated, using "student power" to staff the exhibits and help the attendees with the experiments. We had more than 200 volunteers from the college/university groups, who not only put on the hands-on science experiments, but who passed

out the **Celebrate Chemistry** (in both English and Spanish) booklets we had obtained from ACS and helped put on our mole-themed temporary tattoos.

Most of the schools aligned their experiments in some way with the theme, and had activities new and different from any previous NCW activities. We partnered with the following local Colleges and Universities:

Concordia University  
Golden West College  
Orange Coast College  
Fullerton City College  
Cypress College  
Cal Poly Pomona  
Cerritos College  
Chapman University  
UC Irvine—Iota Sigma Pi  
UC Irvine—ACSSA  
CSU Fullerton  
Irvine Valley College

Additionally, we had a science show – "Rudy's Radical Science Show" – featuring Rudy Gonzales, which attracted 200-300 people.

Attendance this year was about 2510, excluding the more than 200 volunteers – our largest at-

tendance to date! Normal attendance at the zoo during nice weather is normally about 700, so we provided a significant uptick in the attendance.

Of the 2510 total, 763 were children over the age of 3, so we had a large target audience. There were some Cub Scout and Girl Scout troops in attendance, judging from the uniforms we saw (the zoo does not keep a tally of these groups).

Of our 2510 attendees, 1505 qualified for free admission, meaning that they were residents of Santa Ana or Tustin and had heard about the activity through one of our advertising outreach efforts. There were 168 children with paid admissions, and 199 members of Friends of the Zoo (we don't know how many of those were children).

We are at the point where too much more growth is not possible! During the past 2-3 years, we have maxxed out the zoo's overflow parking lot, and began to run out of supplies close to the end of the day. We will focus on keeping our audience large and diverse, and continuing to provide free access to the zoo for the local population for this event.

This day of science at the zoo is one that we all look forward to every year. Our students have as much fun as the kids in attendance, and judging from the attention paid by many of the parents, we are convincing them as well that "Science is Fun"!

Please contact us if you want to support the 2013 Event!



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**Sandra Thompson, Ph.D**  
Shareholder - Intellectual Property  
T: 949.224.6282 | F: 949.720.0182 | E: sthompson@buchalter.com

## OCACS Executive Committee Members

Chair:	Dr. Sandra Thompson	sthompson@buchalter.com
Immediate Past-Chair:	David Marec	dmarec@roadrunner.com
Chair-Elect:	Dr. Michael Kleinman	mtkleinm@uci.edu
Treasurer:	Robert Cohen	cohenr@sbcglobal.net
Secretary:	Dr. Sangeeta Dey	sangeetadeys@gmail.com
Councilor:	Dr. Rabin Lai	rabin@academysavant.com
Councilor:	Robert Cohen	cohenr@sbcglobal.net
Councilor:	Sanda Sun	sanda.sun@gmail.com
Alternate Councilor:	David Licata	chem.prof@verizon.net
Alternate Councilor:	David Marec	dmarec@roadrunner.com
Alternate Councilor:	Dr. Sandra Thompson	sthompson@buchalter.com
Education Committee Chair:	Dr. Carol Grimes	cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu
Education Committee Sec.:	Judy Bechtold	bechtoldjudy@gmail.com
Environmental Comm.:	Ganesh Rajagopalan	rganesh@kennedyjenks.com
Kids & Chemistry:	Sanda Sun	sanda.sun@gmail.com
Website:	Dr. Rabin Lai	rabin@academysavant.com