

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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Chair's Message

By the time you read this, Dr. Andy Sae may have given his talk about Chemical Magic from the Grocery Store. If it's not too late, be sure to sign up on our website: www.scvacs.org. If you can't dine with us, come to hear the talk.

I remember in grade school and high school "experimenting" with just about everything I could find, mostly in the kitchen, using my trusty Gilbert chemistry set. There was a certain magic about those experiments with grocery items my mom brought home from the store. There were a few surprises, like foul odors and weird happenings in my "stew", such that I can now understand how phobias might be generated. But I was also amazed at what happened when feeding my pot

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January Dinner Meeting Cascade Radical Annulations: From Curiosity to the Clinic

Dennis P. Curran

Abstract:

The road to drug discovery and development in an academic setting is a long and tortuous one, especially if you don't even set out to discover a drug in the first place. Having developed many 3-atom + 2-atom radical annulations during the 1980's, we became curious around 1990 whether we could develop a 4-atom + 1-atom radical annulation. The reaction that we discovered was not entirely the one that we planned, but in many ways it proved even more interesting. One thing lead to another, and soon we were making the anti-cancer agent camptothecin, and later new analogs.



and the chemistry and biology results eventually lead to the preclinical and

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January Dinner Meeting

Date: Monday, January 7, 2008

Time: 6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Presentation

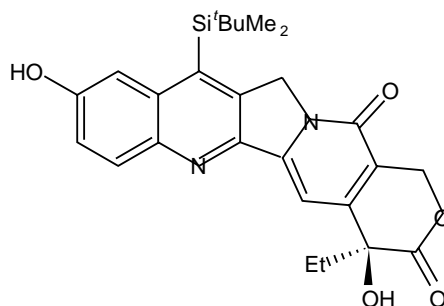
Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Speaker: Dr. Dennis P. Curran
University of Pittsburgh
Cascade Radical
Annulations

Cost: \$27.00 with the choice of
Grilled Salmon or
Vegetarian Crepes
Includes wine with dinner.

Reservations: www.scvacs.org
Shirley Radding
408-246-2564
408-296-8625 Fax

Reservations should be made by January 3rd stating your name, address, company affiliation, number of people in party, and menu selection. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Friday, January 4th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.



One unusual class of new camptothecins bearing a silicon substituent, "silatecans", was especially exciting,

Chair's Message, continued from front page

with things like baking soda and watching the bubbles and the movement. Hmm, what's happening here? I suppose these wonderings were the genesis of my interest in chemistry. Perhaps some of you would want to share your own experiences about how you got started with the science. If so, send me an email with your musing recollections. I'll see that they get into the newsletter.

We finally clarified our proposed bylaws revisions and documented the discussion so that we can all vote on whether to accept them. All this is part of an effort to make voting for officers and the running of the section easier to do while reducing costs. The Executive Committee voted to approve the changes in the bylaws to allow electronic voting and now it's your turn to tell us what you think about it. Watch the mail for your ballot and VOTE. As you know, elections are costly and time consuming. We hope to streamline the process and make our funds go farther in supporting section events such as National Chemistry Week in October, the Teachers' Chemistry Workshop held almost every year for the science teachers in our communities, the Section Awards Program, and the monthly dinner meetings.

We need your help. As I have stated before and I'm sure you know, we have a large group of chemists in our Section at varying levels of expertise and education. We need your ideas and support to not only sustain the ongoing programs but develop new ones that will capture the young chemists, women chemists, chemistry & science teachers at all levels, and students aspiring to education and careers in science and chemistry. If you can be of service to the community and to the Society, please let us know of your interest.

See you at a dinner meeting soon!

George Lechner

January Dinner Meeting, continued from front page

now clinical development of the silatecan "DB-67". This lecture recounts the DB-67 story from curiosity to the clinic.

Biography:

Dennis P. Curran received his B.S. in 1975 from Boston College. His Ph.D. was granted from the University of Rochester in 1979 where he worked under Professor Andrew S. Kende. After a two-year postdoctoral stay with Professor Barry M. Trost at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Curran joined the faculty of the Chemistry Department at the University of Pittsburgh in 1981. He now holds the ranks of Distinguished Service Professor and Bayer Professor of Chemistry, and is the founder of Fluorous Technologies, Inc. (www.fluorous.com). Among other awards, Dr. Curran has received the Blaise Pascal International Research Chair, Préfecture de la Région D'Ile-

de-France Paris (2007-2008), the Pittsburgh Award, Pittsburgh Section, American Chemical Society (2006), the Morley Medal, Cleveland Section, American Chemical Society (2006), the Pittsburgh Magazine Innovators Award (2003), American Chemical Society Award for Creativity in Organic Synthesis (2000) and the Cope Scholar Award (1988), and the Janssen Prize for Creativity in Organic Synthesis (1998). He is currently an ISI "Highly Cited Researcher" (www.isihighlycited.com). Dr. Curran has authored over 350 papers, thirty patents and two books, and is well known for his work in at the interface of radical chemistry and organic synthesis. More recently he has made significant contributions to the emerging discipline of fluororous chemistry. Additional information is at <http://radical.chem.pitt.edu>.



Mosher Award

One of the Santa Clara Valley Section's highest honors is the Harry and Carol Mosher Award. This award is granted annually to an ACS member chosen from the national community who has demonstrated excellence in chemistry, worked to ensure advancement of the chemical profession and has participated fully in the ACS on a national, regional and local level. This award was established in 1980 in honor of Harry and Carol Mosher, two founding members of the Santa Clara Valley section who both epitomize these values.

The Mosher award has been presented to industrial chemists, including Paul Anderson, (Bristol-Myers Squibb, 2004), and Joginder Lal, (Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, 1996), to academic chemists including Robert Parry (University of Utah, 2006), Michael P. Doyle (University of Maryland, 2005) and Joseph Lambert (Northwestern University, 2003) and to chemists who work at non-profit research institutes including Darleane Hoffman (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2000).

The recipients of the Mosher award are a very distinguished group of individuals including at least 2 past National ACS presidents (Helen Free and Robert Parry), and multiple winners of national ACS recognitions. This year's recipient of the Mosher Award, Dr. Dennis Curran (see adjoining story) will also be recognized in 2008 as the recipient of the ACS national award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry. Please be sure to attend the January 7 dinner meeting to meet with Dr. Curran.

ACS Podcasting Science for Members and Public

ACS members now have the opportunity to share exciting, cutting-edge scientific discoveries with their children, local science teachers, museums, libraries, and other venues through a new podcast launched this summer by the ACS Office of Communications (OC). The science podcast, unveiled in July, reports on the latest studies published in the ACS journals to a broad public audience at no charge.

The podcasts are available by going to <http://www.acs.org>. At the upper right of the page, click on "Press Room", and then on the Press Room page, click on "Science Elements" near the bottom of the page under the heading, "Podcasts." It describes research reported in ACS's prestigious suite of 36 peer-reviewed scientific journals and Chemical & Engineering News, ACS's weekly news magazine. Those journals, published by the world's largest scientific society, contain about 30,000 scientific reports from scientists around the world each year. The reports include discoveries in medicine, health, nutrition, energy, the environment and other fields that span science's horizons from astronomy to zoology.

Those discoveries improve peoples' lives, and Science Elements will make that information more widely available. The podcast draws on an Office of Communications product, PressPac, which initially was developed to assist science journalists in researching and reporting news.

The podcaster for Science Elements is Steve Showalter, a chemist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M. Showalter's work at Sandia focuses on the design and development of new batteries. "As an active member of the ACS since 1987, I view these podcasts as part of a broader commitment to improving public understanding of chemistry," Showalter said. He also works toward that goal as a member of the ACS Committee on Public Relations and Communications and as a councilor for the Central NM Section, ACS.

Podcasting is an increasingly popular way of accessing news, information, and entertainment content from the Internet. The term was derived from Apple's "iPod," a portable digital audio and video player, and "broadcasting." Podcasts allow users to subscribe to a "feed" and receive new

files automatically whenever posted to the Internet. New installments of Science Elements will be posted weekly and available without charge.

For more information, contact the ACS Office of Communications at newsroom@acs.org

Happy Thanksgiving



November Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 13th

Time: 6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Presentation

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

Speaker: Dr. Andy Sae
Chemical Magic from the
Grocery Store

Cost: \$27.00 with the choice of
Pork Marsala
Pasta Primavera
Includes wine with dinner.

Reservations: www.scvacs.org
Shirley Radding
408-246-2564

Reservations should be made by November 9th stating your name, address, company affiliation, number of people in party, and menu selection. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Monday, November 12th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

November Dinner Meeting Chemical Magic from the Grocery Store: Dispel Chemophobia

Dr. Andy Sae

Andy Sae was born in Hong Kong. He received a B.S. degree in chemistry, an M.S. in genetics, and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Kansas State University. Dr. Sae joined Eastern New Mexico University in 1969 and is now Professor Emeritus after 31 years of service. He is a member of the Division of Chemical Education of the ACS, and a member of the National and New Mexico Science Teacher Associations. He received the 1994 Outstanding Service to Science Award from the



New Mexico Science Teacher Association. He has presented numerous chemical magic shows to school teachers, children, and parents and many demonstrations in regional and national meetings. He participated in the ACS Operation Chemistry Training of Trainers Program in 1994 and has conducted many science teacher workshops. Dr. Sae was named the 1998-1999 New Mexico Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Highlights of National Chemistry Week

Photos Courtesy of Lois Durham







SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION
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<http://www.scvacs.org/newsletter/>

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ChemPloyment Abstracts

Director: **Charles Sullivan** 650-359-0731 cdansullivan@sbcglobal.net

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Nov 4-6** ACS ProSpectives
Successful Biologics
Philadelphia, PA
- Nov 13** Section Dinner Meeting
Chemical Magic from the
Grocery Store: Dispel
Chemophobia
Dr. Andy Sae
Santa Clara, CA
- Jan 7** Mosher Award Dinner and
Presentation
Dr. Dennis P. Curran
Santa Clara, CA
- Mar 2-4** Pittcon
www.pittcon.org
New Orleans, LA



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