March Dinner Meeting

California Proposition 71
The $3 Billion Stem Cell Initiative

Abstract

Stem cell research and the emerging field of regenerative medicine hold great hope for new medical therapies. Stem cells are able to self renew and have the capacity to differentiate into multiple cell types, thus creating the potential to direct these cells to replace damaged tissues. Adult stem cells are already used and cord blood cells are increasingly being employed for transplantation, while the understanding of embryonic stem cells is at an earlier stage. The technique of somatic cell nuclear transfer provides a means by which patient-specific stem cell lines could be created. Because embryonic stem cells are pluripotent, many believe that they represent the greatest promise for the future.

In November 2004, the people of California voted for Proposition 71 which provides $3 billion to support stem cell research. The initiative is administered by the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, under the direction of the

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March Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 9, 2006
Time: 6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Lecture

Location: Genentech, Inc.
1 DNA Way, Building 5,
Conference Room 5Q
South San Francisco,
CA 94080
650-225-1000

Speaker: Dr. Claire Pomeroy
Dean UC Davis
School of Medical
“CA Prop 71: The $3 Billion Stem Cell Initiative”

Cost: $25.00 Buffet dinner
(including vegetarian items)

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

Reservations should be made by March 5th stating your name, address, company affiliation, number of people in party, and main buffet selection of chicken or vegetarian entrée.

If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Wednesday the 8th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

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Independent Citizen’s Oversight Committee and with the input of experts from around the world who serve on the working groups. To date, lawsuits challenging the initiative have prevented the expenditure of any research funds, but operating policies have been approved, training grants reviewed, and a major scientific conference convened.

Many challenging ethical issues are raised by work in the field of regenerative medicine, especially studies utilizing embryonic stem cells. Questions about the definition of life and personhood have galvanized strong public opinion and political responses. Recent events of apparent scientific fraud in South Korea have raised major concerns. Additional issues including egg donor protections, intellectual property, and academic-industry interactions need to be addressed for the initiative to move forward. In the meantime, patients suffering from chronic illnesses and injuries wait and hope.

**Biography**

Claire Pomeroy, M.D., M.B.A., Vice Chancellor for Human Health Sciences at UC Davis and Dean of the UC Davis School of Medicine, is an expert in infectious diseases and a professor of internal medicine and microbiology and immunology. She oversees the UC Davis Health System and its academic, research and clinical programs, including the 800-member physician group known as UC Davis Medical Group and the 576-bed acute-care hospital known as UC Davis Medical Center. With an operating budget of nearly $800 million, patient visits of nearly 900,000, and more than $100 million in outside research funding, UC Davis Health System is a major contributor to the health care and economy of the Sacramento region.

Dr. Pomeroy joined UC Davis in 2003 as executive associate dean of the School of Medicine. In that role, she guided the development of a new strategic plan, enhanced the infrastructure for research and educational programs, and integrated the operations of the medical school and teaching hospital. Dr. Pomeroy leads an active research team studying host responses to infectious diseases. She has published over 100 articles and book chapters and edited two books. She currently serves on grant review study sections for the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Pomeroy is an appointed member of the Independent Citizens Oversight Commission, charged with governing the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The Institute was established by Proposition 71, the stem-cell initiative, adopted by California voters in Nov. 2004.

With special expertise in HIV/AIDS, Dr. Pomeroy is a long-time advocate for patients with HIV/AIDS and has a special interest in health-care policy. She also has led efforts to advance electronic health records to improve health-care quality. Dr. Pomeroy is president of the CARES Board of Directors in Sacramento and a member of the Board of Directors of the MIND Institute at UC Davis.

Dr. Pomeroy received her bachelor’s and medical degrees from the University of Michigan, then completed her residency and fellowship training in internal medicine at the University of Minnesota. She also earned an MBA from the University of Kentucky. She held faculty positions at the University of Minnesota and the University of Kentucky prior to her move to UC Davis. At the University of Kentucky, she served as associate dean for research and informatics and as a member of the University Board of Trustees. She lives in Sacramento with her husband, William Preston Robertson, a filmmaker and author.

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**Chair’s Message**

Our Section’s new year is underway with a renewed commitment to meet the diverse needs of our membership. As part of this commitment, the Executive Committee is reviewing its goals and objectives for this year. In addition to the many opportunities for your involvement in the local section – National Chemistry Week, the Chemistry Teachers’ Workshop, hosting an opportunity for local high school students to compete for a berth on the 2006 U.S National Chemistry Olympic Team, coaching college students in resume preparation and interviewing skills, judging at the Synopsis Championship Science Fair – we invite you to actively participate in the realization of the following three goals for 2006:

1. Transition from hard copy to electronic distribution of the Silicon Valley Chemist newsletter. The continuing rising costs to produce and mail a hard copy of the newsletter make it imperative that we reduce costs. We already post our newsletter on our website [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org). We want you to subscribe to our Yahoo group by sending an email to SCVACS-newsletters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, so we can notify you as soon as the newsletter is available. The resulting reduced cost of this streamlined process will allow us to balance our budget this year while maintaining valuable ongoing programs and services. In addition to cost reduction, you will receive information from the section in a timelier manner. I am soliciting your expertise and experience in assisting us in this transition.

2. Have Stanford and UCSF designated Historic Chemical Landmarks at the San Francisco National Meeting. The American Chemical Society has a process for designating historic chemical landmarks. We propose to nominate Stanford University and the University of California in San Francisco for this distinction to honor their work in the development of genetic engineering.

3. Co-Host the San Francisco National Meeting...
Volunteers Needed
2006 Chemistry Olympiad

It is that time of the year again – to ask for volunteers to help with the Chemistry Olympiad! It is my 5th year to chair this committee; the work gets easier, and the students get smarter! Remember last year? We had one of the 20 semi-finalists that went to the Air Force Academy for the study/cram session. Perhaps this year we will have a medal winner!

Gyeongsan in the Republic of Korea will be the site of the International Chemistry Olympiad, July 2-11, 2006. The ACS will be sending a team of four high school students to participate in the challenge. Those four students will be selected from a pool of 20 outstanding students from across the United States.

The selection process begins right here in our local section! High school chemistry students from the Santa Clara Valley will participate by taking a standardized ACS written exam to determine their placement. The first round of testing is conducted in the high schools in February and March. The local section encourages the high schools to participate and provides the testing materials. The resulting top 16 students will then meet together on April 22nd to compete in the regional exams. More written tests and a lab exercise will be administered at Las Positas College in Livermore. The California section and their students will be hosting this event this year.

The results from that day of testing will determine who will be among the 20 students from around the nation that attend the week long study camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. The Team to represent the U.S. at the IChO is selected the last day at the camp.

Would you like to help with this process? Encourage your local high school chemistry teachers to have their advanced placement and honors classes participate in the testing process. Only about fifteen high schools out of about 200 schools choose to participate each year. We contact each teacher and school, giving them the Olympiad information and encouraging them to participate.

A few local section members are needed to register the students and proctor the exams on April 22nd at Las Positas College. This is an especially good chance for members who live in the East Bay to volunteer! It is also This is a good opportunity to simply volunteer and encourage these students to think about careers in chemistry! The local section even provides lunch for everyone!

If you can't help on the 22nd, perhaps you can help to customizing the certificates that the all students receive for participation. Access to a good color printer or scanner/printer helps. Or customization with calligraphy would be grand! There should be about 100 ACS supplied certificates that will need personalized!

So, here are your chances to help your local section with the 2006 International Chemistry Olympiad – encourage the teachers to participate (maybe even offer to help them grade the exams!) and volunteer to be a proctor or help print certificates. If you need more information, please contact me.

Sally Peters
Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Section
ChemOlympiad Committee
Sally.Peters@parc.com
650-854-4614
Every five years the ACS participates in the PacifiChem Conference. The Japanese Chemical Society was the primary sponsor for this past December’s Conference. (In 2010, the primary sponsor will be the Canadian Chemical Society.) Over 12,000 chemists from 70 countries participated to take in 11,000 papers and posters. The ACS Board of Directors, as usual, had its December Board meeting in Honolulu (I know, I know - it is a tough job, but then someone has to do it). Initial detailed reports have appeared in C&ENews. The weather was perfect - without a drop of rain.

On Monday 12/19 we had a poster session on "Inventor Awards and Recognition Programs in the Pacific Basin countries. The research so far indicates that only the US and Canada have any national award programs for their important inventors and innovators (See www.invent.org). David Katz our National Chemistry Week speaker on the chemistry of toys was a neighboring presenter. The overall session "Chemistry in the Community" was organized by ACS president Ann Nalley. Since PacifiChem was winding down, our session had a free raffle for a ten pound bar of Guittard chocolate (the supplier for See’s Candies). It was won by another presenter Associate Professor Dr. Yumiko Takagi of Kagawa University, Kasgawa, Japan. (She later reported from Japan that the chocolate was very good.)

Later that day for dinner, a full course Hawaiian luau was in order. Former students and post-docs organized an 80th birthday party for Dr. Koji Nakanashi of Columbia University in NYC. You may remember that Dr. Nakanashi is a former Harry and Carol Mosher Award recipient. The accompanying photo shows (left to right) former post-doc Dr. Roy Okuda of San Jose State University, former post-doc Dr. David Schooley (formerly of Zocon in Palo Alto, and now Professor of Chemistry at the University of Nevada-Reno), Dr. Nakanishi, and Howard Peters, your local ACS Director-at-Large.
Position Title: Staff Scientist - Job Code PPDH-105C
Job Description: Symyx needs a motivated Scientist to join the Polymer Synthesis group. This group is involved in high-throughput research toward the discovery of novel polymeric materials for a variety of applications. This work involves the use of proprietary instrumentation and software for designing and synthesizing arrays of polymers, as well as working with the other members of a multidisciplinary team to modify equipment and design new equipment for high-throughput polymer synthesis.
QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED
Education: Ph.D. in polymer synthesis or a related discipline.
Experience: Postdoc or ind exp is desired but not required. Exp in radical polymerizations, suspension polymerizations, condensation polymerizations and/or biopolymers is preferred. Familiarity with sample preparation & polymer characterizations a plus. Strong verbal & written
LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS
Job Location: Santa Clara, CA
Salary Competitive compensation & excellent benefits
Employer Description: Symyx Technologies develops & applies high-throughput research & software technologies to increase R&D productivity for customers in the chemical, energy, pharmaceutical, electronic & other industries.
Application Instructions: Send resume as a Word document to: staffing@symyx.com. Please put job code PPDH-128C in the Subject line.

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FEBRUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER TOPICS:

- California Proposition 71: The $3 Billion Stem Cell Initiative
- March Dinner Meeting
- February Dinner Reminder
- Chair’s Message
- Call for Papers
- Sign Up for Email Alerts!
- Volunteers Needed – 2006 Chemistry Olympiad
- Brief Report from PacifiChem 2005

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS

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To receive emails when newsletters are published on our web site, send an email to SCVACS-newsletters-subscribe@yahooogroups.com.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

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2006  Vacant

Newsletter

Editor: Carlene Freeman  510-262-6900 carlenefreeman@yahoo.com

ChemPloyment Abstracts

Director: Shirley B. Radding  408-246-2564 sbbradding@sbcglobal.net

FUTURE MEETINGS

Feb 16  SCV Dinner Meeting  
         Santa Clara, CA
Mar 9   Joint Meeting
         WCC of California Section, 
         SCVS and AACC (Clinical 
         Chemistry)
         Genentech, Inc.
         South San Francisco, CA
Mar 26-30  231th National ACS Meeting
          Atlanta, GA
Apr 9-12  BIO 2006
          Chicago, IL
Apr 20  SCV Dinner Meeting
          Location TBD
Jun 12-16  39th National Organic 
          Chemistry Symposium
          Salt Lake City, UT

For the latest information, please visit SCV/ACS web site: www.scvacs.org