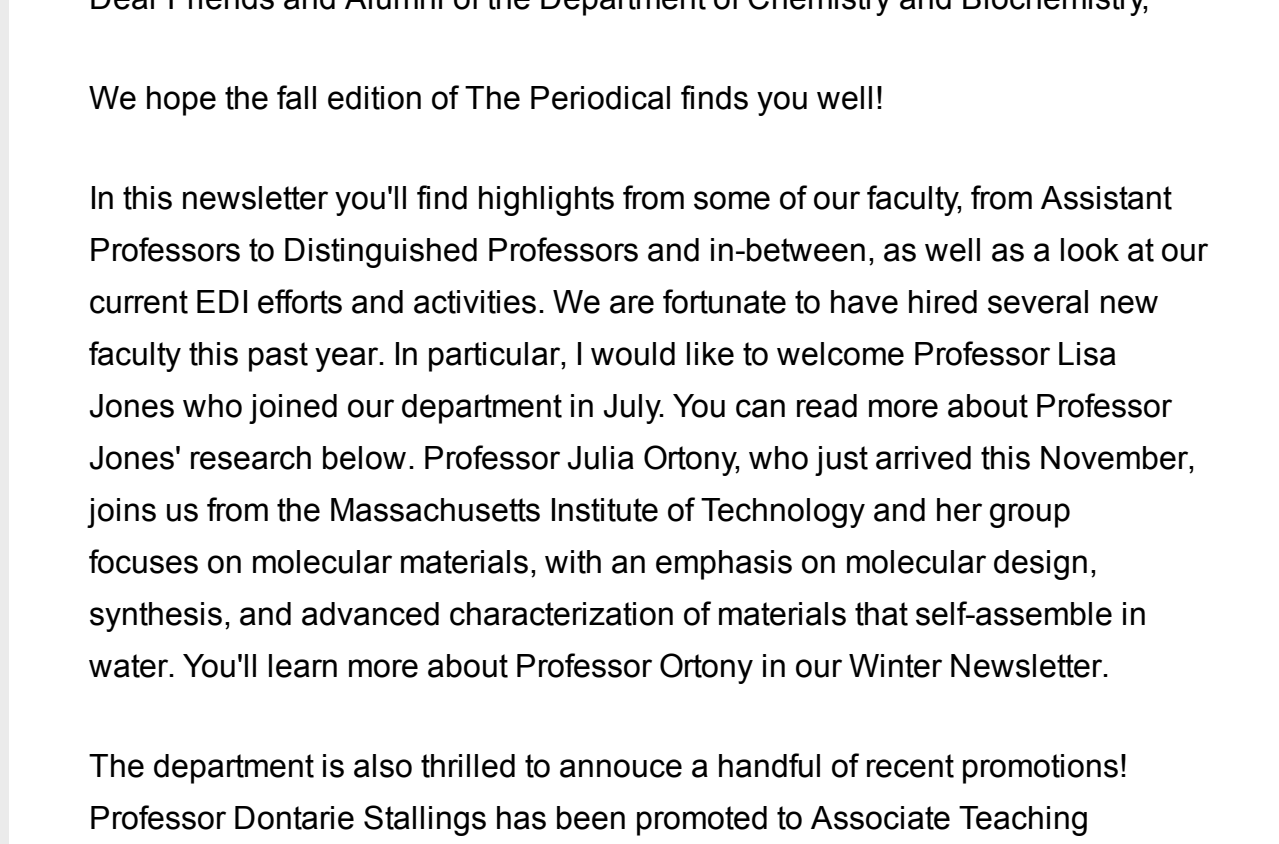




December 2022 • Edition 12

Message from Chair Vicki Grassian



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

We hope the fall edition of The Periodical finds you well!

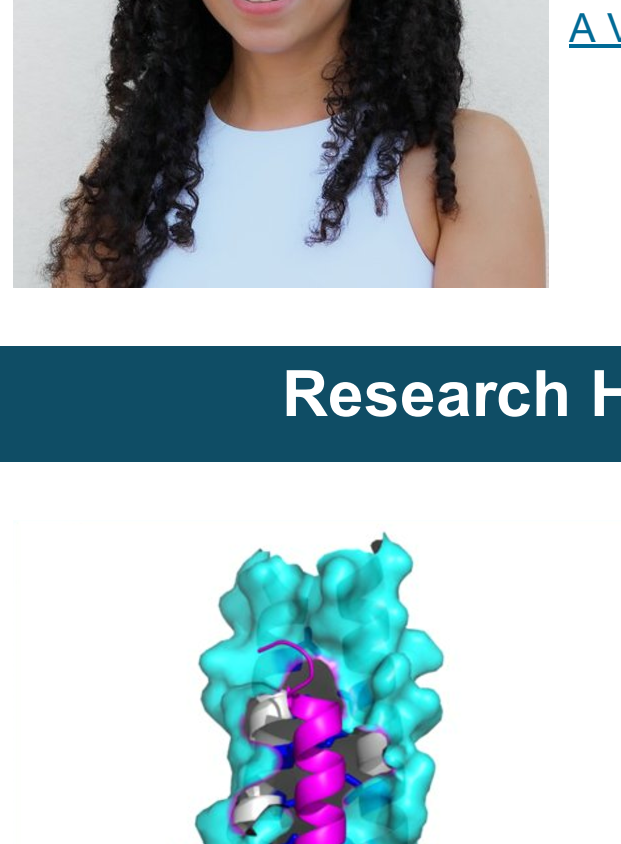
In this newsletter you'll find highlights from some of our faculty, from Assistant Professors to Distinguished Professors and in-between, as well as a look at our current EDI efforts and activities. We are fortunate to have hired several new faculty this past year. In particular, I would like to welcome Professor Lisa Jones who joined our department in July. You can read more about Professor Jones' research below. Professor Julia Ortony, who just arrived this November, joins us from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her group focuses on molecular materials, with an emphasis on molecular design, synthesis, and advanced characterization of materials that self-assemble in water. You'll learn more about Professor Ortony in our Winter Newsletter.

The department is also thrilled to announce a handful of recent promotions! Professor Dontarie Stallings has been promoted to Associate Teaching Professor, Professors Ulrich Muller and Wei Xiong have both been promoted to Full Professor and Professor Daniel Donoghue has been promoted to Distinguished Professor. Congratulations to all!

As always, please keep us updated with exciting news and developments in your lives!

Best Regards,
Vicki Grassian
Distinguished Professor and Chair

New Faculty



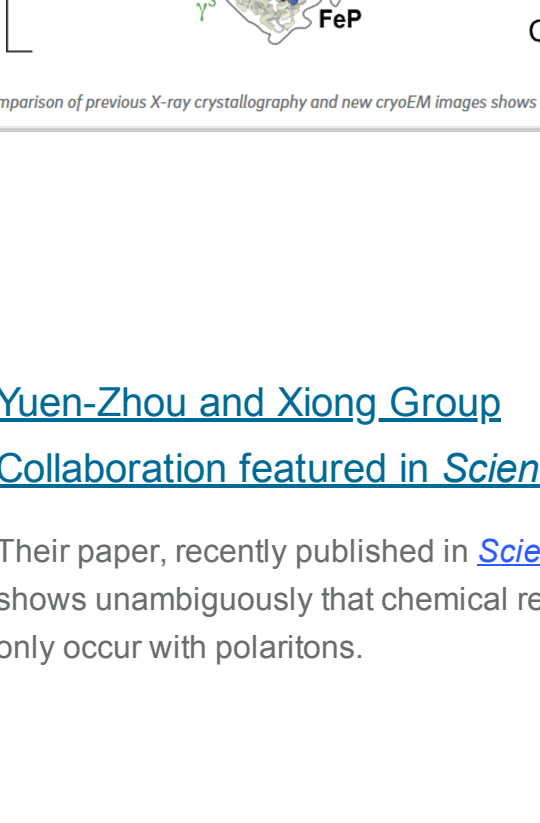
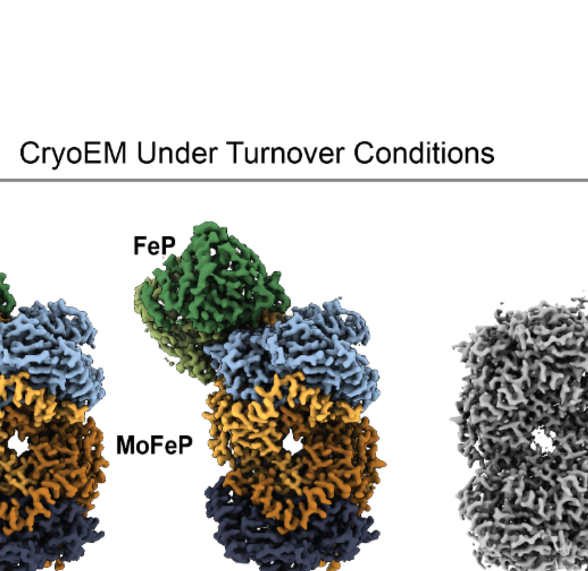
[Professor Lisa Jones Joins the Faculty](#)

Professor Jones joins us from the University of Maryland Baltimore. Currently, her lab uses oxidative labeling for the structural characterization of proteins in their native cellular environment as part of a visionary approach to developing methods to understanding complex, detailed biological phenomena in living cells.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Climate

[Supporting the Transfer Student Experience](#)

Take a look at how Chemistry and Biochemistry celebrated current and future transfer students during National Transfer Student Week!



[Catalyzing Critical Conversations: A Visit from Dr. Chrissy Stachl](#)

Research Highlights



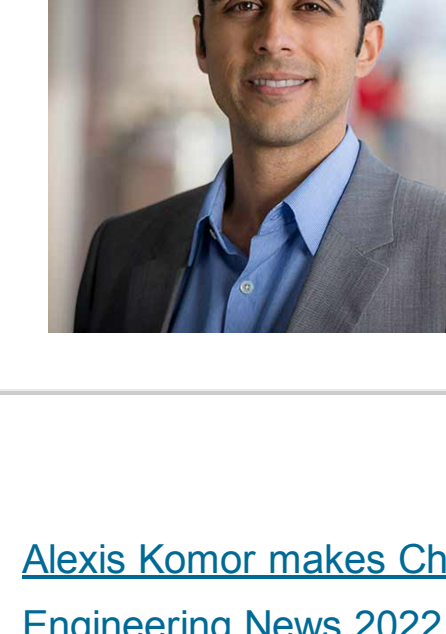
M87 protein (blue) uncurls and opens up an interior cavity to grab LL-37 (pink)

[Partho Ghosh Research Paper Published in eLife](#)

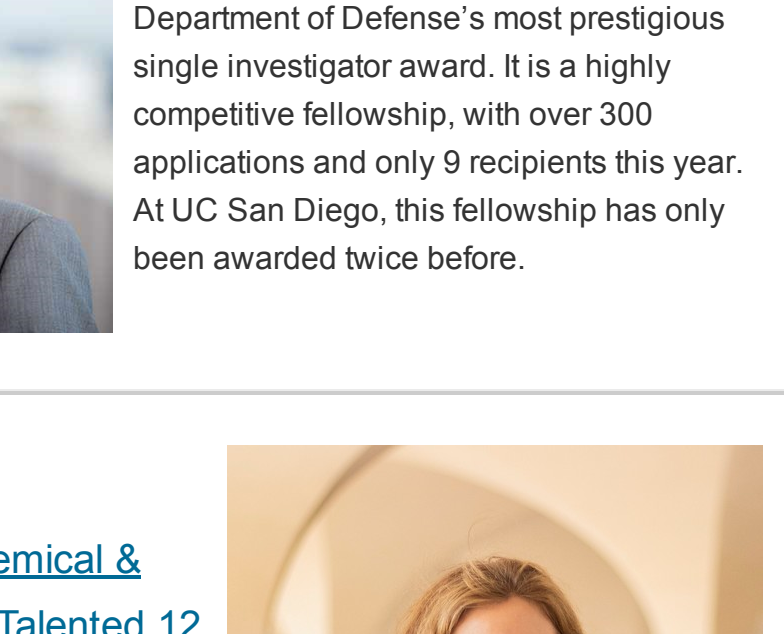
Professor Ghosh collaborated with Victor Nizet of UC San Diego, Department of Pediatrics for their feature in [eLife](#).

Research Collaboration Between Tezcan Lab and Herzik Lab Yields Publication in Science

Prior X-Ray Studies



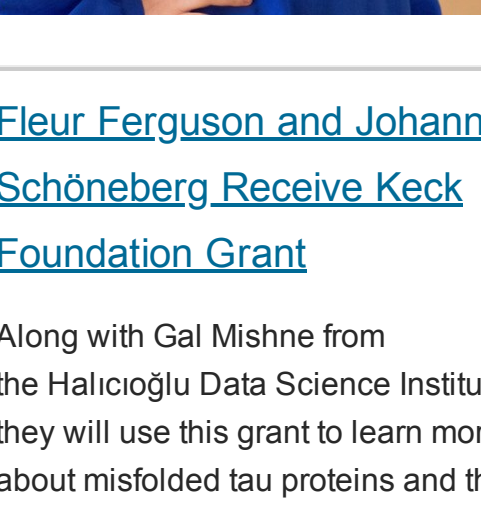
CryoEM Under Turnover Conditions



A comparison of previous X-ray crystallography and new cryoEM images shows remarkable clarity and detail with cryoEM. (for Tezcan and Herzik groups / UC San Diego)

[Yuen-Zhou and Xiong Group Collaboration featured in Science](#)

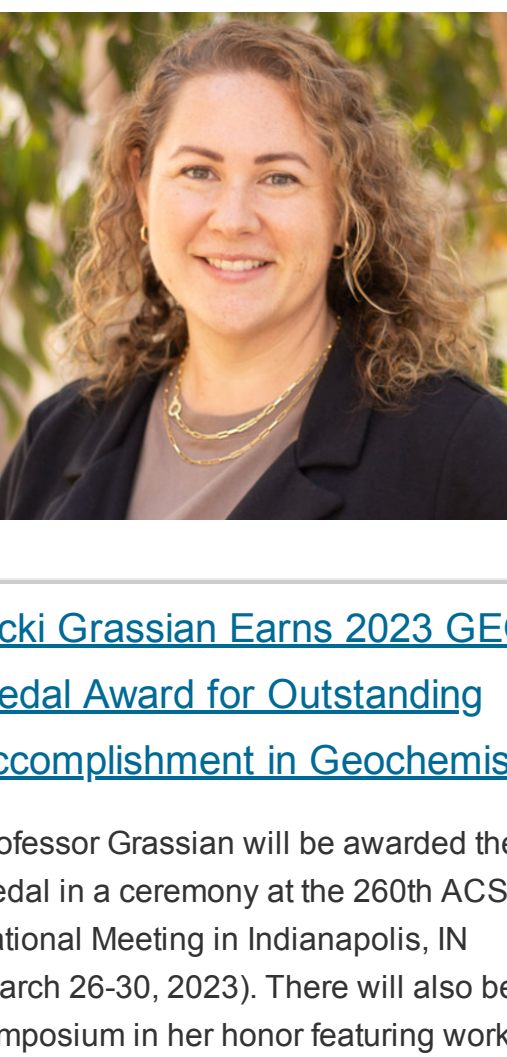
Their paper, recently published in [Science](#), shows unambiguously that chemical reactions only occur with polaritons.



Faculty Spotlight

[John Sous wins 2022 PHYS Award for Young Investigators in Theory](#)

The awardees will give presentations on their current research at the ACS fall meeting. John will be joining our faculty in July 2023.



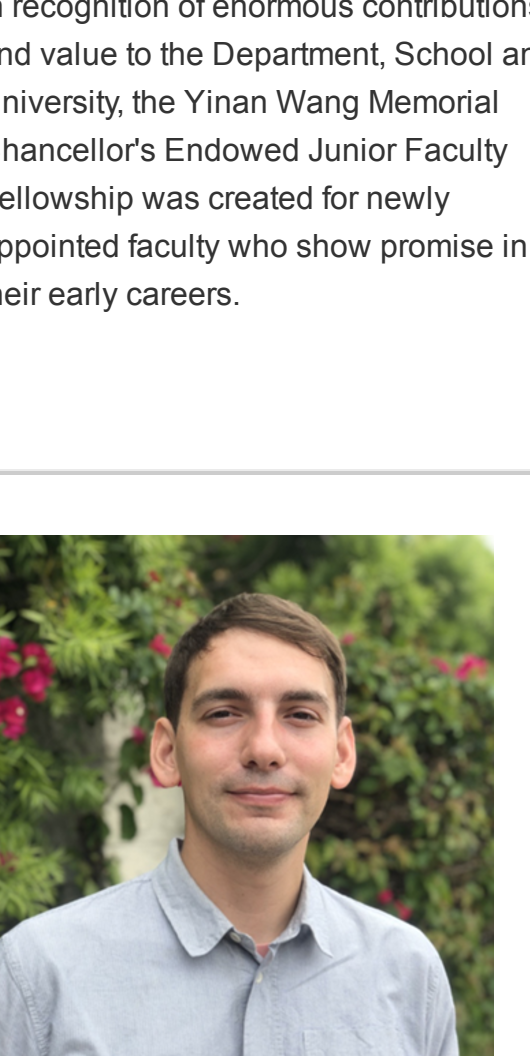
[Neal Devaraj Named Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellow](#)

The Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship is the Department of Defense's most prestigious single investigator award. It is a highly competitive fellowship, with over 300 applications and only 9 recipients this year. At UC San Diego, this fellowship has only been awarded twice before.

[Alexis Komor makes Chemical & Engineering News 2022 Talented 12](#)

C&EN's Talented 12 is a list of early-career researchers who are using chemistry to make the world a better place. There were more than 400 nominations this year.

Professor Komor was chosen for her work in developing tools to decipher how variations in our DNA might affect health.

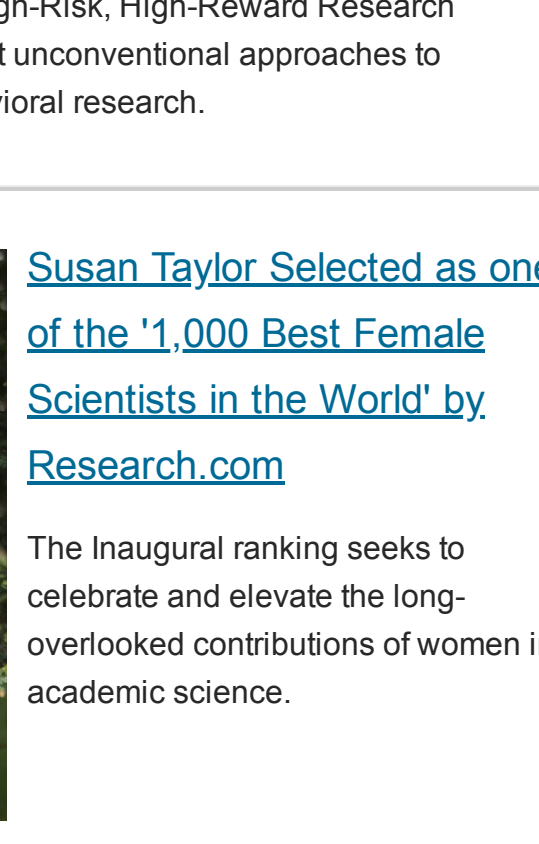


[Fleur Ferguson and Johannes Schöneberg Receive Keck Foundation Grant](#)

Along with Gal Mishne from the Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute, they will use this grant to learn more about misfolded tau proteins and their role in causing neurodegenerative diseases.

[Valerie Schmidt Appointed William A. Lee Junior Faculty Fellow](#)

The William A. Lee Chancellor's Endowed Junior Faculty Fellowship provides funding to recruit and retain exceptional tenure-track and newly tenured junior faculty members.



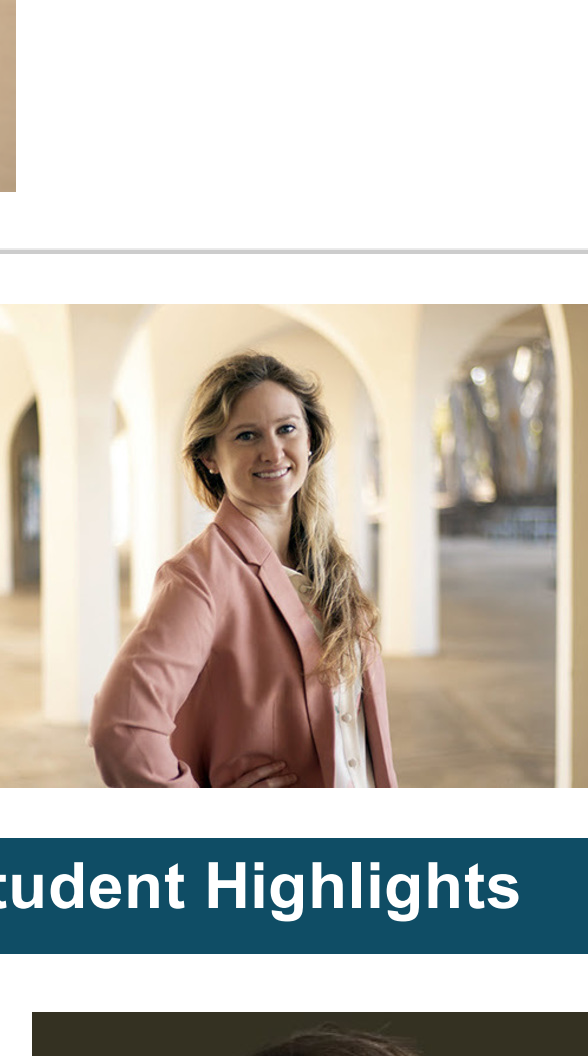
[Vicki Grassian Earns 2023 GEOC Medal Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Geochemistry](#)

Professor Grassian will be awarded the medal in a ceremony at the 260th ACS National Meeting in Indianapolis, IN (March 26-30, 2023). There will also be a symposium in her honor featuring work that honors her contributions in the areas of geochemistry.

[Guy Bertrand Named Hagler Fellow at Texas A&M](#)

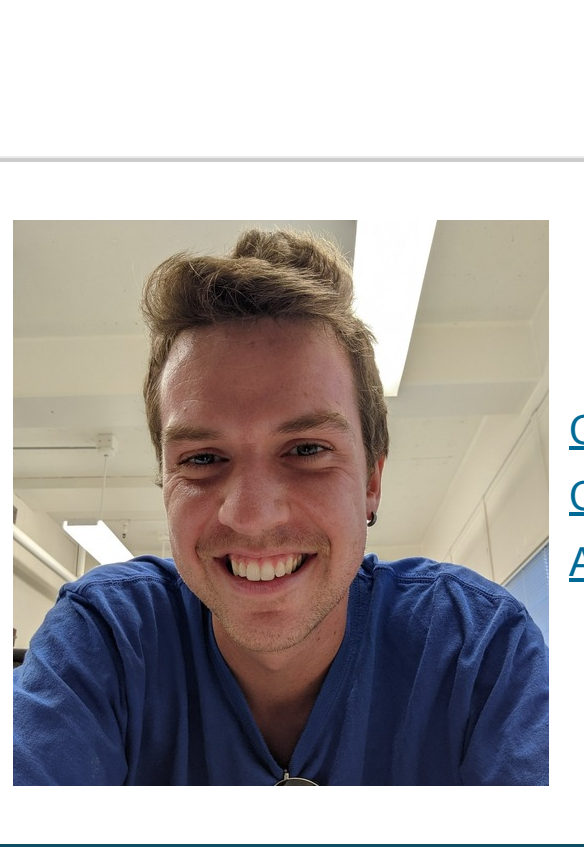
The institute selects its Hagler Fellows from among top scholars who have distinguished themselves through outstanding professional accomplishments and significant recognition.

Professor Bertrand will collaborate with faculty and students in the College of Arts & Sciences.



[Julia Stauber Appointed Yanan Wang Junior Faculty Fellow](#)

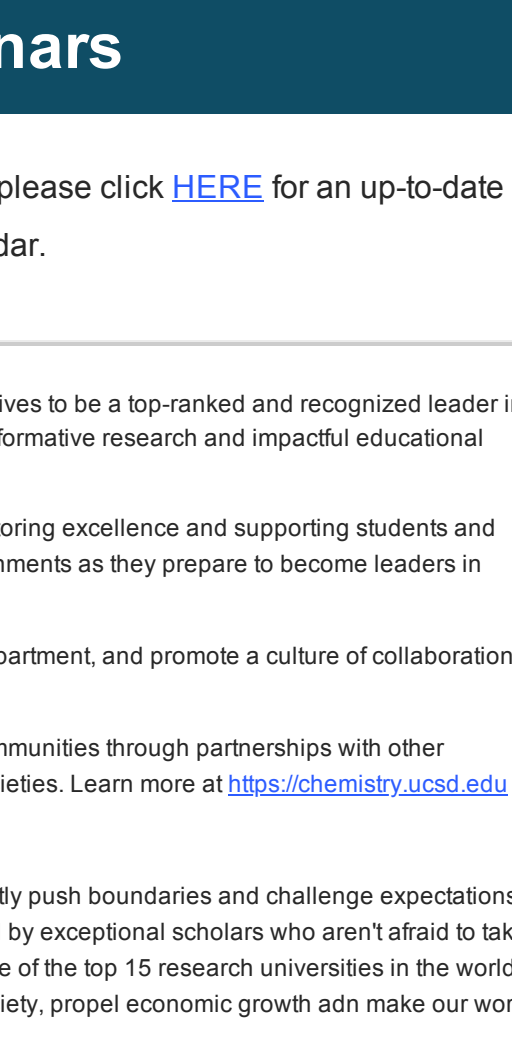
In recognition of enormous contributions and value to the Department, School and University, the Yanan Wang Memorial Chancellor's Endowed Junior Faculty Fellowship was created for newly appointed faculty who show promise in their early careers.



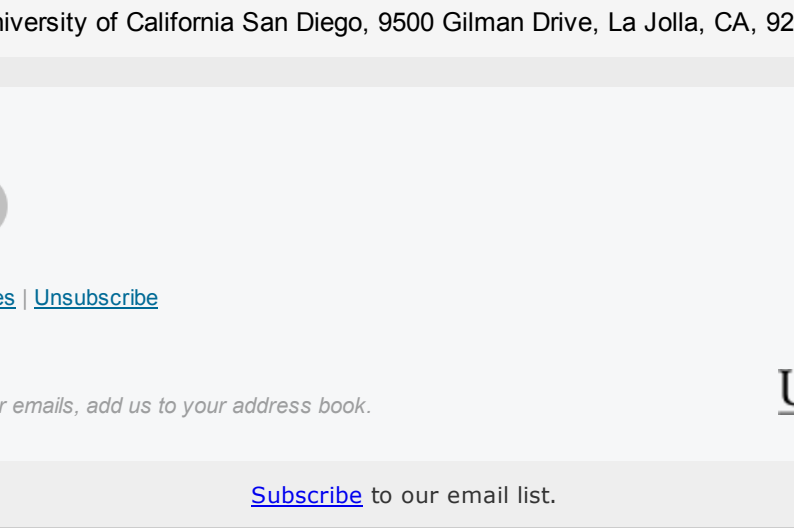
[Itay Budin Receives Walter A. Shaw Young Investigator Award in Lipid Research](#)

The Walter A. Shaw Young Investigator Award in Lipid Research recognizes outstanding research contributions in the area of lipids by a young investigator who is an assistant professor or equivalent.

As part of his award, Professor Budin will present a lecture at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology annual meeting.



[Fleur Ferguson and Johannes Schöneberg Receive 2022 NIH Director's New Innovator Award](#)



The New Innovator Award is part of the High-Risk, High-Reward Research program, these prestigious awards support unconventional approaches to major challenges in biomedical and behavioral research.

[Susan Taylor Selected as one of the '1,000 Best Female Scientists in the World' by Research.com](#)

The Inaugural ranking seeks to celebrate and elevate the long-overlooked contributions of women in academic science.

[Andy McCammon Receives Revelle Medal](#)

The Revelle Medal is a recognition bestowed on select faculty members for sustained, distinguished and extraordinary service to UC San Diego.

Hear more about Professor McCammon's impact and inspiring work [here](#).

[Francesco Paesani Elected to Join the Leadership of the ACS Division of Physical Chemistry](#)

Professor Paesani will serve as the Vice Chair Elect for the next four years.

[NIGMS Q&A with Alexis Komor](#)

Professor Alexis Komor discusses the the importance and beauty of DNA in this Q&A with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Postdoc/Grad Student Highlights

[Postdoc Abby Dommer Makes Chemical & Engineering News 2022 Talented 12](#)

[Christian Seitz Receives Chemical Computing Group Excellence Award for Graduate Students](#)

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>

Quarterly Newsletter Deadline Dates: January 27, April 28, July 28, October 21

Got News? chempr@chemists.ucsd.edu

<https://chemistry.ucsd.edu>

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