

ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

VOLUME 9



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Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the ninth edition of Periodic News, the official newsletter for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at California State University Fullerton! I hope this message finds you well. It is a pleasure to connect with you through our department newsletter and to share a few highlights from our community.

Over the past year, our department has continued to evolve in exciting ways. Our faculty are advancing innovative research and scholarship, our students are achieving remarkable successes, our staff continue to provide unwavering support, and our programs are adapting to prepare workforce-ready graduates for the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world. These accomplishments are made stronger by the foundation built by our alumni and by your continued engagement and support. We are especially proud of the ways our alumni contribute to their professions, communities, and society at large.

Your achievements inspire our current students and remind us of the lasting impact of a Chemistry and Biochemistry education. We value staying connected with you and encourage you to share your updates, participate in events, and mentor the next generation of graduates. Thank you for remaining an important part of our department's story. We look forward to strengthening our connections and building an even brighter future together.

Warm regards,

Dr. Niroshika Keppetipola

2025 – 26 Student Updates, News, Stories & Highlights

Student Spotlight: CSUF's NOBCChE Chapter



Q: What inspired the creation of the CSUF chapter of NOBCChE?

A: Our president, Liam Ryals, founded the chapter because he wanted students from underrepresented backgrounds to have a supportive place to grow, connect, and find real opportunities in chemistry.

Q: How was the NOBCChE conference in Atlanta?

A: It was incredibly motivating. Being surrounded by successful scientists who shared similar experiences made me feel like I belonged in those spaces.

Q: What did the recognition you received mean for the chapter?

A: It meant a lot to all of us. It showed that even though we are a new chapter, people see our dedication and the potential we have moving forward.

Q: What events or workshops do you plan to organize?

A: We want to host research skills workshops, invite industry speakers, help with graduate school preparation, and expand outreach to local schools.

Q: How can chemistry and chemical engineering students benefit from joining?

A: Students can gain mentorship, networking, access to conferences, and a community that genuinely supports their growth as scientists.

Q: Any standout sessions from the conference?

A: The medicinal chemistry sessions and the career development panels stood out to me. They gave us ideas for student workshops that we would like to bring back to campus.
– Bijan S

Q: What mentorship or professional development does NOBCChE offer?

A: Students can get guidance from peers, faculty, and national mentors, along with help for resumes, interviews, research posters, and networking.

Q: How can students from other majors get involved?

A: Anyone can participate. Many of our events are open to all majors, and students can help with outreach, planning, or sharing their own skills.

Q: What advice do you have for students who want to get involved or take on leadership?

A: Show up, stay open to new experiences, and do not be afraid to volunteer. Leadership grows naturally when you are consistent and willing to learn.

Spotlight on Rising Chemists:

Innovations and
Achievements
in our
Department



Geovanny Gallardo,
Analytical Chemist



Rumeysa Gurler,
Chemistry Graduate



Geovanny Gallardo, Analytical Chemist

Geovanny's Responses to a Newspaper Article:

The experience I received at CSUF, particularly at the Chemistry program, has shaped me in ways that I didn't think were possible. The chemistry program at CSUF trains you to critical think, how to communicate science to non-science and science individuals, to take joy in the unexpected things that life can throw at you, and that it is okay to ask for help when you need it. These experiences have led me to an unexpected career pathway. From modeling chemical reactions on a computer to working as an Analytical Chemist and now as an Environmental Compliance officer. The most valuable aspect that I took away from the Graduate studies was to never give up and to keep moving forward. This is the type of attitude that keeps you going , especially when the workload is non-stop.

The main challenges I faced during my time at CSUF was a lack of guidance on what industry/fields one can get with a Chemistry degree and how to become marketable to get a job. The chemistry and biochemistry department, in my opinion, focuses too much on getting students into a PhD programs and not preparing them to get industrial jobs. My advice to graduate students is to always keep looking for new opportunities in life and to take advantage when life gives you the chance even if it's something you don't want to do.

Two classes that helped me a lot when I entered the workforce as an Analytical Chemist is Chem 315 (Analytical chemistry with Dr. FP) and advanced instrumentation (chem 5..) [forgot the course number]. Understanding the basics of Analytical Chemist helps you understand a lot of the EPA test methods used in a wide range of fields and with advantage instrumentation helps you understand the instrument at a deeper level to troubleshoot and improve instrument.



Rumeysa Gurler, Chemistry Graduate

Q: How did your time at CSUF and within the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department shape your academic and career path?

A: The Chemistry and Biochemistry department helped me discover what I wanted to do with my degree in Biochemistry through their constant support and guidance. My first three years were the most ambiguous; I was bouncing between multiple career paths and wasn't sure which route I wanted to take. I spoke with professors about potential paths, including computational chemistry, energy systems engineering, and veterinary medicine. The professors were more than willing to answer any questions I had about the career, and each one genuinely seemed to want me to succeed.

Their encouragement led me to pursue and ultimately secure multiple opportunities, including a position in the International REU program in Uzbekistan and a fellowship with the Department of Energy (DOE). These experiences expanded my perspective on global science and showed me that research was where I truly thrived. Without their guidance, I wouldn't have been able to explore these opportunities or make the decision to pursue a PhD with confidence.

Q: What were some of the biggest challenges you faced during your undergraduate studies, and how did you overcome them?

A: One of my biggest challenges was knowing what classes to take and when. Often, I overloaded myself during a single semester, so I had to devise strict study plans to make the most of my week. Groups and supplemental instruction (SI) were key parts of my success in making the Dean's list each semester. Learning to choose electives that weren't required but would develop my scientific understanding was also a crucial part of my studies. To do this, I created a spreadsheet and reviewed it with a faculty mentor to assess which ones would benefit me the most. Applying for summer research opportunities presented its own challenges. I often felt alone

throughout the process and wasn't sure how to navigate it. I reached out to faculty mentors for help and utilized the career center to identify programs to which I could apply. The key was to continue applying and remain persistent even if one program didn't work out.

Q: Looking back, is there a specific class, professor, or experience at CSUF that had a particularly strong impact on your personal and professional growth? Why?

A: I've taken so many lovely classes during my time at CSUF, but I would say that analytical chemistry (CHEM 315) with Dr. Haan was the most impactful on both my personal and professional growth. The class was challenging, but Dr. Haan was an exceptional instructor and supported his students. I learned a lot and got invited to join his lab as a 395 student. I spent a total of five semesters in his lab and worked on my undergraduate honors thesis with him. He has always given me honest feedback and inspired me to apply to anything. Whenever I needed anything, he was one letter of rec away. Other than that, I want to mention that all CSUF Chemistry and Biochemistry faculty members were exceptional. I had a great time taking various classes, including biochemistry with Dr. Rasche and

Dr. Keppetipola, computational and physical chemistry with Dr. Petit and Dr. Groves, and one of my favorites: inorganic chemistry with Dr. Cooley.

Q: Can you share your experience as the first student to receive an ACS - certified degree from our department? What motivated you to pursue this certification?

A: Wow, I didn't know I was the first and feel honored! As I mentioned earlier, I conducted thorough research on courses because there were many that piqued my interest. I stumbled across the certification on the CSUF Chemistry and Biochemistry website and saw that we only needed an additional 6 units of courses to obtain the certificate, so I went for it. After college, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as a long term career, but I knew I wanted to work in the industry for a while before returning to graduate school for a PhD, so this certificate helped me get there more quickly.

Welcome Our Newest Staff Member:
Angel Pena
Technical Support Specialist

Q: Why Cal State Fullerton?

A: As a CSU Long Beach Engineering alumnus, I've been fascinated by computers ever since I got my hands on a Commodore 64 back in elementary school. That spark turned into a 40-year career that has taken me through companies like Hughes Aircraft Company, EDS, and HP. Now, I'm excited to bring that experience to the team here at CSU Fullerton.



I'm truly looking forward to working with all of you! Outside of work, I stay busy mentoring High School students on FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4079.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

ACS Analytical Chemistry Undergraduate Award

Alexander Hobrath

ACS Inorganic Chemistry Undergraduate Award

Tanner Megna

ACS Organic Chemistry Undergraduate

Patrick Walthall

ACS Physical Chemistry Undergraduate Award

Leo Zhang

Advancing in STEM Scholarship

Celine Diep

American Chemical Society Award

Christopher Badolian

American Institute of Chemists Award

Ugo Umekwe-Odudu

Brad van Mourik Interface of Computers with Chemistry Scholarship

Chaya Belland

Coppel Graduate Science Award

Linh Kim

Dr. Andrew and Kay Montana Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry - Grad

John Baker



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

**Dr. Andrew and Kay Montana
Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry
- Undergrad**

Dominic Milla

Excellence in Biochemistry

Kanishka Kumar

**Glenn and Takeshi Nakaya
Scholarship**

Aline Vu

Glenn Nagel Scholarship

Patrick Walthall

Glorya Welch Scholarship

Saray Angulo

James Sternberg Scholarship

Laura Ulloa

Lyle Wallace Service Award

Amanda Tsang

**Maria Linder Nielson Endowed
Graduate Fellowship**

Amanda Reyes

**Mark Lackey Award for Graduate
Teaching**

Leah Duong

Noorani Family Scholarship

Paulina Dole & Rumeysa Gurler

**Outstanding General Chemistry
Award**

Adriana Rodriguez & Meg Sauzedde

**Phil Berriman Research Excellence
with Instrumentation Scholarship**

Patrick Carnie

**Robert C. Belloli Future Chemistry
Teacher Scholarship**

Alexander Hobrath

**Titan of Chemistry and
Biochemistry Award**

Krish Kumar, Alyana Carrell, & Chloe Schufreider

Wegner Family Scholarship

Alexander Hobrath & Adriana Rodriguez

ALUMNI NIGHT



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Alumni Night Crowdfunding

Our 2025 Alumni Night was a resounding success, bringing together over 70 members of the CSUF Chemistry and Biochemistry community for a memorable evening of networking and celebration.

The event, held on Friday, October 17th, was hosted at the Bootlegger's Brewery in downtown Fullerton. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and nostalgia as 2 Emeriti, 10 faculty members, 2 staff members, 15 guests, and over 45 alumni came together to share stories, reconnect, and celebrate the ongoing achievements of our department.

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Department continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to mentoring and equipping students with the skills and knowledge to excel in the world of science. Events like Alumni Night showcase the lasting impact of these efforts and the strong community bonds that unite us.

As we look forward to Alumni Night 2026, we're excited to build on this momentum and create an even bigger and better experience for our alumni. We are currently exploring new and exciting locations for next year's event, so stay tuned for updates. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year—we'll see you next year!

Alumni Updates

Anthony Truong 2018 B.S. Biochemistry

Optometrist at Kaiser Permanente, Santa Rosa. Graduated in 2024 with a Doctorate of Optometry from SCCO.



Pejman Naraghi-Arani 1992 B.S. Biochemistry, M.S. Chemistry

I am a senior advisor and subject matter expert for the Biomedical Advanced Research

and Development Authority (BARDA). I advise them on novel diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics and devices.

Kamron Lotfi 2018 B.S. Biochemistry

I am currently working at Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine as a regional site manager for two phase 3 prostate cancer studies. I am leading clinical research sites, hospitals, and private practices to help find patients, train hospital staff, and lead the team to start up clinical trials. I previously worked for a clinical research organization called Fortrea (previously Labcorp Drug Development) as a travel oncology clinical research associate (CRA) assigned to Astrazeneca phase 1-3 clinical trials for breast and uterus cancer.



Cheyenne Rose 2023 B.S. Biochemistry

Currently, I am in a Clinical Lab Scientist program through Cal State LA. I am training at their affiliate site, Quest Diagnostics, in all areas of the laboratory. I have completed my microbiology and hematology rotation, and up next is chemistry and blood bank. I love using my degree to work in healthcare while also staying in the lab! I graduate August 2024 and then will sit for the ASCP Board Exam to earn my license and work as a licensed CLS in California.

Kathreen Longtin 2014 B.S. Chemistry

I am currently head of a medical research laboratory.



Emily Uyen Nguyen 2023 B.S. Biochemistry



I am currently a first-year student doctor at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry "After graduating from CSUF, I took a gap year to gain more experience working at an optometry private practice and

expanded my knowledge of the optometry field. Then I took the OAT and applied to both WesternU and SCCO. In October, I was excited to receive an interview invitation, and three days later, I was offered admission. I am incredibly grateful and excited to embark on this new chapter of my life, as I begin my journey toward becoming an optometrist. It's an honor to pursue a profession that allows me to make a meaningful impact by helping patients improve their vision.

Alumni Updates



Larry Sepulveda
2009 B.A. Chemistry

Teaching high school chemistry for thirteen years. Serving as department chair. Still play jazz guitar and piano, from my days in the CSUF jazz program.



Sophya Alamudun
2020 B.S. Chemistry

I am a chemistry teacher in the school district of Philadelphia. I went on to earn a M.S. in chemistry from University of Wisconsin-Madison, then an M.Ed in secondary education from West Chester University. I am currently both a Knowles Teaching Fellow and a Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellow.

Kathy (Monroe) Unland
1986 B.A. Chemistry

Assistant Teaching Professor of Landscape Architecture at Ball State University.



Faculty Spotlight: **Dr. Julia Chan**



Please state your name, title, and year you joined the department of chemistry and biochemistry at CSUF:

My name is Julia Chan, Associate Professor of Chemistry Education. I joined CSUF's Dept of Chemistry and Biochemistry in 2019.

What are the primary research areas or projects you are currently working on, and how do they contribute to advancements in your field of chemistry?

My research interest has focused on the development and implementation of growth mindset (GM) and effective learning strategies (ELS) interventions and studying their effects on student learning. These intervention modules have been widely incorporated in multiple courses (introductory, first- and second-semester general chemistry classes and first-semester organic chemistry classes) across two different institutions. The purpose of the intervention modules is to teach students how to respond to challenges in specific contexts of chemistry course and adopt effective learning strategies necessary for improving learning skills and academic performance early in their academic journey. Very few research studies have coupled GM and ELS interventions and study its synergistic effect on student learning. Our research is expected to advance knowledge on designing and implementing discipline-based GM and ELS interventions in STEM curricula. Specifically, our work provides in-depth understanding of how coupling these interventions might support students' learning in STEM courses.

What is your approach to teaching chemistry and how do you make complex concepts accessible and engaging for students?

In my chemistry classes, I incorporate and intersperse a mixture of activities to engage student learning and interest. These include mini lectures, group work and think-pair-share activities, videos, demonstrations, PhET simulations, competitive games, and real-life examples. I've found that creating these interactive activities not only makes the material more approachable, but also aligns with what we know about how students learn best. Student-centered group learning pedagogies have consistently been shown to increase academic achievement, foster the development of metacognitive skills, and strengthen conceptual understanding.

What advice would you give to students pursuing a career in chemistry, especially those interested in research or industry roles?

Don't get discouraged if your research projects are not going the way you want. Reach out to your PI, friends, colleagues, and return to the literature to keep searching for answers. Build a strong support system (i.e. your family, friends, or even your gym buddies) and remember that it's completely okay to step back and take a break when you need it. After you've had time to rest and reflect, come back to your work with fresh eyes and keep trying! Eventually, with persistence, you'll get there!

**How does chemistry intersect with other fields, and are there opportunities for interdisciplinary research within your department?**

Chemistry connects with many other fields, from biology and environmental science to engineering and data science. In our department, we have multiple faculty members collaborating across various disciplines on research projects. Students can easily get involved in interdisciplinary research, if they are interested.

What emerging trends or technologies in chemistry do you find most exciting, and how do you see them shaping the future of the discipline?

I am excited about the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and how it is advancing the teaching and learning of chemistry. For instructors, AI can simplify assessment and help create a range of teaching materials. AI is also reshaping chemistry education by offering instant feedback, personalized support, and adaptive practice to help students learn more effectively. Additionally, AI makes abstract concepts more accessible through interactive visualizations and virtual labs. When AI is used thoughtfully and appropriately, I believe it has great potential to make the work of both students and instructors more efficient.

Outside of teaching and research, do you have any hobbies or interests that you'd like to share that might surprise our readers?

After a long day of work, I like to go for long walks around my neighborhood and listen to some nice podcasts or music. For fun and to alleviate stress, I like to work out with YouTube videos (they are free!), practice hot yoga, go swimming, do cardio kick-boxing and Pilates from time to time. I also enjoy playing the piano during my free time.

Read more about Dr. Chan's research and mentorship [here](#).

Faculty Spotlight: **Dr. Andrew Petit**

For theoretical chemist Andrew Petit, his dedication as a teacher-scholar is evident in his work of mentoring 75 student researchers over the past decade at Cal State Fullerton. His students have presented award-winning work at over 80 scientific conferences, co-authored 15 peer-reviewed publications, and many have gone on to prestigious graduate programs.

"I'm excited to provide my students with the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge, computational research in collaboration with experimentalists," said Petit, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry. "This allows students to experience firsthand the interplay between theory and experiment that drives modern science."

For his work as a mentor and researcher, Petit has received the 2025 Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. He is one of eight Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholars selected this year from universities across the country.

Petit is the third CSUF faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry recognized with the prestigious national award, which supports early-career faculty in the chemical sciences at primarily undergraduate institutions.

Michael Groves, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, received the award in 2024. In 2000, Fu-Ming Tao,



Andrew Petit, selected as a 2025 Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar, describes to his students how the electron distribution is changed by the absorption of light.

professor of chemistry and biochemistry, was given the accolade.

"I'm honored to receive an award that recognizes my student-centered efforts in both teaching and research. It gives enormous credibility to the excellent work of my research team," said Petit, who began teaching at CSUF in 2015.

Niroshika Keppetipola, chair and professor of chemistry and biochemistry, said Petit fosters scientific discovery and the professional growth of the next generation of chemists. "Dr. Petit has established a highly productive and impactful research program that exemplifies the integration of innovative scholarship with exceptional student mentorship," Keppetipola said. "Through his leadership, he has created a vibrant and inclusive research environment, where undergraduate and graduate



students receive rigorous training in advanced computational chemistry and high-performance computing.”

Petit’s research focuses on using computational tools to answer fundamental questions about what happens after molecules absorb light and become excited.

“My research involves photochemistry. The idea is that when a molecule absorbs the right color of light, it becomes excited, which causes dramatic changes in its chemical properties,” Petit explained.

Petit, who earned his doctorate in chemical physics from Ohio State University, said that photochemistry has a range of applications, spanning from solar energy, medical imaging to green chemistry.

His work aligns with green chemistry by using light to modify the pathways chemical reactions follow, making them more efficient and environmentally friendly. Petit’s research has the potential to impact the production of pharmaceutical drugs, plastics and dyes, as well as lead to the discovery of new molecules with essential properties.

As part of his award, Petit is receiving a \$75,000 grant to support his research. His work also includes serving as associate director of the Titan Supercomputing Center.

With the funding, he plans to purchase additional compute nodes, which perform computational tasks, for the center’s Turing supercomputer. The award will also support student travel to research conferences.

Outside of research, Petit’s goals include teaching students how to ethically and effectively use artificial intelligence and data science tools, preparing them for advanced degrees and the workforce.

“I’m interested in helping our students develop literacy in AI and data science,” he said. “I believe that these tools will continue to be an important component of modern science in both academia and industry.”



Andrew Petit, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry

Faculty Spotlight: **Dr. Joya Cooley**

It was a high school chemistry class that sparked Joya Cooley's interest in becoming a chemist. "Chemistry is the first class that clicked for me," Cooley said. "I had a wonderful teacher who brought in guests to demonstrate how chemistry worked in the real world."

As a Cal State Fullerton assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, Cooley uses those teaching methods with her students, including how chemistry can improve everyday products.



Chemistry graduate student Garrett Mahler, left, works in the lab with faculty research adviser Joya Cooley.

"Using knowledge you've studied from textbooks to learn about the world is empowering," said Cooley, a 2023 Young Observer scholar.

"I try to expose my students to experiential learning opportunities, such as traveling to national labs for experiments or presenting at international conferences, to broaden their view

of science and what a career in chemistry can look like, including outside the lab."

Cooley said students earning a chemistry degree can do more than work in research labs. Chemists are needed in education, government, policy-making, and the legal field as patent lawyers and expert witnesses. As an undergraduate, Cooley was a chemistry major and studied vocal performance. She earned a doctorate in chemistry from UC Davis before joining the university in 2020.

Cooley's chemistry research seeks to understand how to control temperature changes in materials. Chemistry is critical in developing new materials, such as building materials, aerospace parts and even dental fillings. For example, incorporating negative thermal expansion materials into a composite tooth filling material allows control over how much it expands.

"We study materials that exhibit negative thermal expansion — meaning they shrink when you heat them up — so you can use these materials to counteract the detrimental effects of positive thermal expansion," she explained.

Cooley and her students synthesize different compositions of materials. They use various elements to understand how changing the elements gives some control over their negative thermal expansion.

“We want to understand how, at the atomic level, we can manipulate materials so that they will yield desirable properties to make everyday products robust and reliable,” Cooley said. “Controlling thermal expansion is key to helping materials last longer, especially if they will be subject to large temperature differences or extreme environments.”

Cooley has garnered over \$1 million in grant awards and has 18 publications, including three articles since joining CSUF. Her students co-authored two of the papers, including a new publication in the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry*.

In the latest publication, the researchers describe using zinc pyrovanadate, which experiences negative thermal expansion when magnesium is substituted for zinc.

“The temperature range at which the negative thermal expansion occurs did not change. However, the rate at which volume change occurred did,” said Garrett Mahler, a chemistry graduate student.

Mahler '24 (B.S. chemistry), the first author on the publication, began his research experience in Cooley's lab as an undergraduate. “This was my first publication,” he said. “From the



Chemistry graduate student Garrett Mahler works in the lab

beginning, Dr. Cooley has provided me with opportunities and the tools to perform my research independently.”

Mahler, who plans to teach at a community college, has presented his research at regional and national conferences. He has also conducted research at Argonne National Laboratory and Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource. “Once I started my undergraduate research, I discovered I had a passion for learning,” he said. “All these opportunities at CSUF have helped me to advance my research and future career.”



Joya Cooley, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry

RESEARCH UPDATES - FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Coleman, J. S.; Costa de Almeida, L.; Hanold, L. E.; Ferracane, M. J.; Luesch, H.; Aldrich, J. V., **Synthesis of simplified dihydro-cortistatin A derivatives as anti-proliferative agents.** Medicinal Chemistry Research, 2025, 34, 2292–2298

Jordan Kennedy, Christopher Dunn, Jawna Albakri, Reuben Dsouza, Charlotte Dillon, Rumeysa Gurler, John L. Haan, **High-performance split pH and alkaline direct xylitol fuel cells using anion exchange membranes or cation exchange membranes,** Fuel, 2026, 418, 138574.

Michael E. Sullivan, Jacob A. Edberg, Christopher I. Nunez, Herbert L. Axelrod, Niroshika M. Keppetipola, **Polypyrimidine tract binding proteins PTBP1 and PTBP2 associate with distinct proteins and have distinct post-translational modifications in neuronal nuclear extract** PLOS ONE, 2025, 0325143.

Gonzalez, M; West, R; Tsang, A; Ocampo, O; Hudson, PK; Pecic, S., **Identification of quinolinyl-containing dual soluble epoxide hydrolase/fatty acid amide hydrolase inhibitors with moderate potency towards acetylcholinesterase.** Results in Chemistry (2026) 103159.

Tsang, A., C. Yuan, M. Berumen, L. Duong, K. Gomez, S. Seely, A. Salgado, A. Rai, J. Vistosa, E. M. Munoz, M. E. Ortega, C. Morisseau, B. D. Hammock, J. E. Zuckerman, J. Yount, D. G. Piercey, R. Kandasamy and S. Pecic (2026). **"Polynitrogen-containing compounds as multi-target sEH/FAAH inhibitors: Structure-activity relationship and pharmacological studies."** Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry 133: 118495.

Naeimi Torshizi, S. R.; Yousefi Seyf, J.; Najafi, R.; Ventura, D.; Mahdavinezhad, A.; Afshar, S.; Azizi Jalilian, F.; Shojaeian, A.; Amini, R.; Pecic, S. **Magnetic targeting enhances nanostructured covalent organic framework-doxorubicin cellular uptake in triple-negative breast cancer: A model for receptor-deficient cancers.** International Journal of Biological Macromolecules 2025, 323, 147169.

Gallardo, Geovanny M., Ryals, Liam, Millan, Allyson, Ventura, Damian J., Petit, Andrew S., **Further Mechanistic Investigations into the Blue Light-Driven O–H Functionalization of Alcohols by Aryldiazoacetates.** J. Org. Chem. 2025, 90, 8202-8213

RESEARCH UPDATES - GRANTS

Awardee	Grant Name	Award Awarded to CSUF
Dr. Joya Cooley	Understanding the role of chemical pressure on thermal expansion tunability in earth-abundant materials	\$742,852* *\$592,852 awarded to CSUF
Dr. Niroshika M. Keppetipola (PI)	Role of lysine acetylation in alternative splicing regulation	\$568,000
Dr. Stevan Pecic (PI)	Designed Multiple Ligands as Non-opioid Analgesics for Treating Chronic Pain	\$586,838
Dr. Andrew Petit (PI)	From Photobase Catalysis to Electronic Quenching: New Directions in Computational Photochemistry	\$75,000