

Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry Newsletter

[UC Berkeley Continues to Support Green Chemistry Education by Joining the Green Chemistry Commitment](#)

The UC Berkeley College of Chemistry and Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry joined twelve other colleges and universities that are initial signers of the [Green Chemistry Commitment](#), making us part of the first national effort to transform university chemistry education. The Green Chemistry Commitment (GCC) is a consortium of universities and industry partners designed to create systemic and lasting change in university-level chemistry education, and to increase the number of green chemists and scientists in the U.S. and the opportunities available to them in the field. A [2011 report from Pike Research](#) forecasts that the worldwide green chemistry industry will soar to more than \$100 billion by 2020 from less than \$3 billion in 2011, with more than \$20 billion of that growth in the U.S. The use of green chemistry will save the chemical industry more than \$65.5 billion by 2020.

[Associate Director Mike Wilson contributes to Governor's Task Force on Refinery Safety](#)

[The report](#), commissioned by the Task Force, presents findings from a series of meetings that Mike and colleagues convened with labor unions, community-based organizations, fire agencies, and environmental health groups. It was requested as part of the Governor's efforts to improve refinery safety in the wake of the [August 6, 2012 explosion at the Richmond, Chevron refinery](#), which sent some 15,000 residents to area hospitals with symptoms related to exposure to smoke and fire gases. The latest version of the report, released June 4, 2013, includes the views of the California Building and Construction Trades, as well as new information on the interim findings of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazardous Investigation Board (CSB) and updated information provided by labor unions, community groups, and fire agency officials that originally appeared in the first edition of the report.

[BCGC joins other International Green Chemistry Centers at the International Workshop on Green Initiatives in Energy, Environment & Health](#)

[This international workshop](#) is being organized by green chemistry centers representing the diverse research and education interest in India, Europe, Latin America, North America and Asia. Chemistry, sustainability, and innovation are three key components for the future of our society. The chemical sciences are the key to solving the challenges that society faces over the coming years. This two-day workshop will take place this December 1-3 in Dehli India. During the day international workshop, four of the major challenges will be presented by leading green chemistry centers from around the world: Energy (India), Bio-based products and waste valorization (Brazil), Green Pharmaceuticals and Health (York/Berkeley), Elemental Sustainability (Korea). For the official conference flyer, [please click here](#). For more information and to register, please contact [Katy Holiday](#).

[BCGC collaborator Eric Kansa Honored at the White House](#)

NEH grantees Eric Kansa and William Noel were among 13 scholars and scientists being honored at the [White House Open Science Champions of Change event on June 20](#). While at the UC Berkeley School of Information, Eric helped us launch our [Public Library of Materials](#) initiative, which created a searchable database with regulatory information about known chemical of concern. Eric is now the Technology Director at the [Alexandria Archive Institute](#) which seeks to enhance scholarship through use of the Open Web.

[Green Chemistry and BioBased Chemicals are being highlighted at the Western Regional ACS Meeting in Santa Clara](#)

This year's [ACS Western Regional meeting](#) will take place on October 3rd through 6th in Santa Clara, California. BCGC Executive Director Marty Mulvihill is organizing a session titled, "Value-added Commodity Chemicals from Biofuel Platforms." The session will take place on Thursday October 3rd. The session will represent both academic and industry perspectives examining the range of challenges from basic research in synthetic biology, to the commercialization of value-added biobased chemicals. The diverse perspectives shared during this session will help spark conversations that stimulate new thinking in this rapidly-growing field. [Please consider joining the conversation by submitting an abstract by August 16th.](#)

[Health Building Network Hiring a Chemical Hazard Researcher](#)

The [Health Building Network \(HBN\)](#) seeks a part-time researcher to assist with managing hazard information in the [Pharos Project Chemical & Material Library](#). The Library catalogs almost 25,000 chemicals, polymers, wood species and other materials. These are cross-indexed against 57 national and international health hazard lists, such as California's Prop 65 and IARC's Cancer Monographs. This information drives health assessments of building materials to help designers and building owners select healthier products. [Click here to learn more about the position.](#)

[Student Travel Award for the Fall ACS meeting due August 7th](#)

The Division of Chemical Toxicology (TOXI) will make available Travel Assistance Awards to undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. The awards of approximately \$750 will reimburse travel and hotel costs for the ACS meeting in Indianapolis this September (receipts will be required). Applications will be awarded on the basis of financial need, scientific merit, and diversity factors. Preference will be given to first-time attendees. The application should consist of: 1. A nomination letter from the faculty advisor or laboratory director. The letter should explain why Travel Assistance Award funds are needed. 2. A curriculum vitae for the applicant. 3. The abstract for the work to be presented by the nominee at the meeting. Applications should be submitted by August 7, 2013 by email to Griff Humphreys (william.humphreys@bms.com).

[Upcoming Events and Conferences](#)

1. [Fall National ACS Meeting](#) in Indianapolis, IN on September 8-12, 2013.

2. [The Sustainable Nanotechnology Organization \(SNO\)](#) will hold its 2nd Annual Conference in Santa Barbara, CA, on November 3-5, 2013.
3. [Western Regional ACS Meeting](#), in Santa Clara on October 3-6, 2013
4. [International Workshop on Green Initiatives in Energy, Environment & Health](#) in Delhi India on December 1-3, 2013.