



The Orange County Section of the American Chemical Society

November Dinner Meeting
Thursday, November 15th, 2018

The Doubletree Club Hotel
7 Hutton Centre Drive, Santa Ana
Phone: 714-751-2400

Social: 5:30PM
Dinner: 6:00PM
Presentation: 7:20PM

**Understanding Molecular Recognition Processes
via Small-Molecule Binding DNA Aptamers**

Stevan Pecic

Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Cal State University, Fullerton

Reservations

Please email OCACS@sbcglobal.net ASAP but no later than **12 noon on Tuesday, November 13, 2018**. Indicate if you will be attending the dinner and program or the program only, and list the names of all attendees. Dinner cost is \$30 for members and members' significant others; \$35 for non-members or those without reservations. Pay in cash or by check at the door, or mail a check in advance to OCACS, P.O. Box 211, Placentia CA 90871. **The first five students who register for a meeting will receive a \$10 discount on their dinner.**

There is no charge for attending the program only. However, voluntary donations will be accepted to help defray meeting costs.

Note: OCACS pays the hotel on the basis of the number of dinner reservations made. Your RSVP for dinner is a commitment to pay for dinner. Space may be limited.

Directions

Take the Costa Mesa Freeway (55), exit at MacArthur Blvd. and go west (towards South Coast Plaza). Turn left on to MacArthur Place. The DoubleTree *Club* Hotel is straight ahead on the left. (Do not turn right at MacArthur Place to the DoubleTree Hotel, which is easily mistaken for the DoubleTree Club Hotel.) Park in front of the hotel, or follow the signs. If the parking lot is full, ask the valet staff where to park.

Abstract

The main research interest of our laboratory is to design a variety of DNA-based biosensors that will have application in detecting and measuring the concentrations of small molecules such as steroids and drugs that regulate pain and inflammation. DNA-based biosensors can be readily engineered from a short, single-stranded DNA fragment, also known as *aptamer*. Aptamers are oligonucleotide-based reagents that can be isolated and tailored via a process of evolutionary selection (known as *in vitro* selection and amplification or as SELEX). Aptamers generated via SELEX hold promise for bioimaging, drug development, drug discovery, disease diagnosis, hazard detection, food inspection and many other biomedical applications.

Biography

Stevan Pecic received a Dipl.Pharm. degree from The University of Belgrade in Serbia. He then obtained his doctorate degree in Biochemistry with concentration in Medicinal Chemistry from The Graduate School and University Center of The City University of New York, where he studied natural products aporphines, as serotonin receptor antagonists. For the next 8 years, he continued his career as an Associate Research Scientist at Columbia University Medical Center in the Division of Experimental Therapeutics where he gained experience in the designing nucleic acid-based biosensors. During this period, he has authored many peer-reviewed publications and holds a patent related to the inhibitors of the enzyme soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH). This fall Stevan Pecic joined The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Cal State Fullerton as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.