

2026

Dairy Products, Process & Packaging Innovation Conference

Bringing fresh ideas to dairy innovation



REGISTRATION

Conference

Registration: \$595

Limited On-Site Registration: \$695

<https://dairy.calpoly.edu/short-course-symposia>

40th Anniversary Dinner

Registration: \$120

[See link above](#)

Exhibit space and sponsorships are available! Contact S. Bass
sbass@calpoly.edu

Cliff's Resort, Shell Beach, California

Program subject to change, Feb. 2

Tuesday February 24, 2026

5:00-7:00

Registration & Networking Reception

Wednesday February 25, 2026

Session I: DAIRY INDUSTRY TRENDS, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Chairs: Dr. Phil Tong, Veronique Lagrange, CDIC

7:30 am

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 am

Global Dairy Trends

- Tom Vierhile, Innova

9:00 am

US and California Dairy Industry – Executives Survey

- Ludovic Meilhac and Emmy Moore, McKinsey Group

9:30 am

Dairy Leaders Panel

Moderator: Bob Carroll, California Milk Advisory Board

- John Coletta, Clover Sonoma
- Kelly Torres Chad, Dairy Farmers of America
- Katie Davey, Dairy Institute of California

10:15 am

Networking Break & Product Showcase I

Session II: MARKETPLACE HEALTH & WELLNESS UPDATE

Chairs: Emil Nashed, Dr. Rohit Kapoor, Dairy Management Inc.

10:45 am

Overview - International Innovation

- Prof Seamus O'Mahony, Univ. College Cork, Ireland

11:15 am

Brain Health and Dairy Products: Latest Discoveries

- Dr. Daniela Barile and Dr. Ameer Taha, UC Davis

11:45 am

Capitalizing on Gut Health

- Dr. Maria Marco, UC Davis

12:15 pm

Lunch

Session III: PROTEIN INNOVATION

Chair : Dr. Younas Dadmohammadi, OSU and Nilesh Desai, California Dairies

1:30 pm

Protein Intake: Is 25g per serving still adequate?

- Giancarlo Barbano, Leprino/ Ascent Protein

2:00 pm

Overview of US Dairy's Life Cycle Assessments

- Tim Kurt, Dairy Management Inc.

2:30 pm

Formulating for High Protein

- Dr. Carmen Licon, CalPoly DPTC and Dr. Ty Wagoner, CDIC

3:00 pm

Marketing Dairy Proteins and Claims

- Ben Yee, California Milk Advisory Board

3:30 pm

Conclusion of Day 1

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Music & Margaritas – Networking Reception

SPONSORS



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chair:
Dr. Phil Tong, CalPoly Prof. Emeritus

Dr. Kevin Comerford , CDRF
Nilesh Desai, California Dairies Inc.
Steve Galbraith , Saputo
Gary Germaine, Leprino
Dr. Jeremy McLeod , Hilmar.
Emil Nashed, Dairy Management Inc.
Jeremy Travis, Hilmar
Dr. Younas Dadmohammadi, OSU
Dr. Ty Wagoner, CDIC

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr. Carmen Licon , CalPoly DPTC
Sam Bass , CalPoly DPTC
Veronique Lagrange, CDIC
Nancy Van Buskirk, CDIC

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are available here:
[SHELLBEACH2026](#)

Questions or suggestions?
Contact us!
vlagrange@cmab.net
carmenl@calpoly.edu

Thursday February 26, 2025

Session IV: OPPORTUNITES FOR DAIRY EXPORTS EXPANSION

Chair: Steve Galbraith, Saputo

- 7:30 am **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 am **Growth Markets for Fluid Dairy Products and Butter**
- Lucas Fuess, Rabobank
- 9:00 am **World Demand for Cheese and Dairy Powders**
- Dr. Mylene Potier, GIRA
- 9:30 am **Panel: Global Customers & Trends**
- Moderators: Glen Millar, California Milk Advisory Board
- Marco Albarrán Arozarena, Imalinx, Mexico
 - Rey Santella, Market Merge
 - Invited industry guest
- 10:10 am **Networking Break & Product Showcase II**

Session V: NEW DAIRY RESEARCH INNOVATORS - California Highlights

Chair: Jeremy Travis, Hilmar and Ty Wagoner, CDIC

- 10:30 am **Adding Value to Milk with Soluble Fibers**
- Dr. Carmen Licon and Dr. Baheeja Zaitoun, CalPoly DPTC
- 10:50 am **Creamers & RTD Coffee**
- Dr. Anuradha Prakash and Dr. Uyen Phan, Chapman University
- 11:10 am **High Value Butter and AMF Co-Products**
- Dr. Daniela Barile, UC Davis
- 11:30 am **All Natural Extruded Cheese Snacks**
- Dr. Belal Hasan, CalPoly Pomona
- 11:50 am **Stabilizing Colors with Dairy Proteins**
- Dr. Gabriel Davidov-Pardo, CalPoly Pomona
- 12:10 pm **Lunch**

Session VI: HOT TOPICS FOR DAIRY PROCESSING

Chair: Jeremy McLeod, Hilmar

- 1:00 pm **Innovation in Process Technologies**
- Moderator: Gary Germaine, Leprino
- Crystal Cristescu, Tetra Pak
 - Andre Giguere, QualTech
 - Daniela Soto Castro, Hiperbaric
- 1:45 pm **Non-Thermal Treatment of Milk Products**
- Bob Comstock, Tamarack Biotics
- 2:15 pm **Panel: What is the Next Frontier?**
- Moderator: Dr. Phil Tong
- Dr. Eric Bastian, Dairy West
 - Dr. Dave Barbano, Cornell University
 - Dr. Shakeel Ur-Rehman, Fairlife
- 3:00 pm **Closing Remarks**
- Dr. Carmen Licon, CalPoly DPTC & Veronique Lagrange, CDIC

Stay for the Celebration!

40th Anniversary Dinner CALPOLY Dairy Products Technology Center

Open House, Reception & Dinner. Separate registration required: [HERE](#)