

# 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  
slbass@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 and 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

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@cmap.net  
carmenl@calpoly.edu

## Thursday February 26, 2025

### Session IV: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DAIRY EXPORTS EXPANSION

Chair: Steve Galbraith, Saputo

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|----------|--|
| 7:30 am  | <b>Continental Breakfast</b>   |
| 8:30 am  | <b>Growth Markets for Fluid Dairy Products and Butter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lucas Fuess, Rabobank</li></ul>  |
| 9:00 am  | <b>World Demand for Cheese and Dairy Powders</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Mylene Potier, GIRA</li></ul>   |
| 9:30 am  | <b>Panel: Global Customers &amp; Trends</b><br>Moderators: Glen Millar, California Milk Advisory Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marco Albarrán Arozarena, Imalinx, Mexico</li><li>• Rey Santella, Market Merge</li><li>• Invited industry guest</li></ul> |
| 10:10 am | <b>Networking Break &amp; Product Showcase II</b>  |

### Session V: NEW DAIRY RESEARCH INNOVATORS - California Highlights

Chair: Jeremy Travis, Hilmar and Ty Wagoner, CDIC

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|----------|---|
| 10:30 am | <b>Adding Value to Milk with Soluble Fibers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Carmen Licon and Dr. Baheer Zaitoun, CalPoly DPTC</li></ul> |
| 10:50 am | <b>Creamers &amp; RTD Coffee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Anuradha Prakash and Dr. Uyen Phan, Chapman University</li></ul>           |
| 11:10 am | <b>High Value Butter and AMF Co-Products</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Daniela Barile, UC Davis</li></ul>                             |
| 11:30 am | <b>All Natural Extruded Cheese Snacks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Belal Hasan, CalPoly Pomona</li></ul>                             |
| 11:50 am | <b>Stabilizing Colors with Dairy Proteins</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Gabriel Davidov-Pardo, CalPoly Pomona</li></ul>               |
| 12:10 pm | <b>Lunch</b>  |

### Session VI: HOT TOPICS FOR DAIRY PROCESSING

Chair: Jeremy McLeod, Hilmar

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|---------|--|
| 1:00 pm | <b>Innovation in Process Technologies</b><br>Moderator: Gary Germaine, Leprino <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crystal Cristescu, Tetra Pak</li><li>• Andre Giguere, QualTech</li><li>• Daniela Soto Castro, Hiperbaric</li></ul>    |
| 1:45 pm | <b>Non-Thermal Treatment of Milk Products</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bob Comstock, Tamarack Biotics</li></ul>   |
| 2:15 pm | <b>Panel: What is the Next Frontier?</b><br>Moderator: Dr. Phil Tong <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Eric Bastian, Dairy West</li><li>• Dr. Dave Barbano, Cornell University</li><li>• Dr. Shakeel Ur-Rehman, Fairlife</li></ul> |
| 3:00 pm | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br>Dr. Carmen Licon, CalPoly DPTC & Veronique Lagrange, CDIC  |

**Stay for the Celebration!**

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner CALPOLY Dairy Products Technology Center**

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