

COSMEGRAM

March 2025 • Vol 55 | Issue 3



MONTHLY MEETING - MARCH 2025

THE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO FORMULATION STABILITY

Speaker: Jessica Dynda - Business Development Manager at Koster Keunen, Inc.



The Systematic Approach to Formulation Stability explores key strategies to identify, analyze, and resolve stability challenges in cosmetic formulations. The focus is on anhydrous systems, with additional coverage of oil-in-water emulsions. Common stability issues, including crystallization, migration, and syneresis, are examined in detail. A structured methodology for diagnosing root causes is presented, considering factors like raw material interactions, processing, and manufacturing conditions. Practical solutions, including optimizing raw material selection, fine-tuning processing parameters, and employing stability enhancers, are discussed to equip formulators with tools to improve product longevity and performance.

Jessica Dynda has been a member of the Koster Keunen team since 2014. She has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and experience in research and development, technical sales, scale-up engineering, and marketing across various consumer markets. Jessica's expertise in lipid and wax chemistry, particularly within personal care and consumer products, enables her to technically address formulation challenges, providing chemists with tailored solutions and serving as a resource for technical support and innovation. She has been a Society of Cosmetics Chemist member since 2002.

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Register Now



March 18, 2025
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Avenue of the Arts Hotel,
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear CaliSCC Members & Supporters,

The year is off to a fantastic start, and we're excited for a busy yet rewarding remainder of 2025! Our March meeting was a great success, with an excellent turnout, including many first-time attendees and past Chairs. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us to learn more about Product Development from Krissie Gerrard.

💡 Did you know? We upload speaker presentations for our members on our website! Here's how you can access them:

Visit caliscc.org

1. Click on Meetings at the top of the website
2. Select Events
3. On the left-hand side, click Previous Events
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5. The presentation will be listed under Documents (Member login required)

Our various committee Chairs are working very hard, and we have updates on our 2025 events.

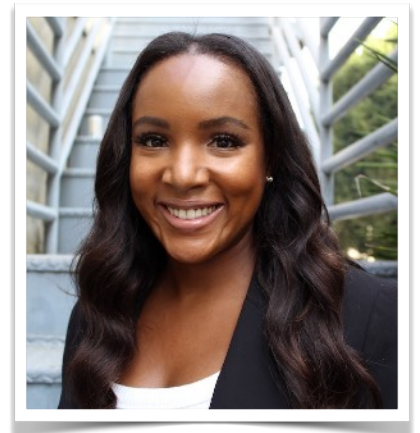
- Dinner Dance: Don't forget to snag your [Dinner Dance](#) tables and Sponsorships.
- CASCC Suppliers' Day: Booth registration and sponsorship is now available. [Click here](#) to reserve yours today.

Be sure to check out our 2025 Calendar of Events within this issue and Save The Date for our Summer Event and Golf outing taking place later this year.

I look forward to seeing everyone on March 18th at the Avenue of the Arts Hotel in Costa Mesa, where we will learn about insights on Innovation and Evaluation of Hair Care Formulas from a Salon Professional's POV.

See you there!

All the best,
Brittney C. Strickland
2025 Chair, Society of Cosmetic Chemists, California Chapter



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- **Skin Conditions** | Gain insights into acne, comedogenicity, rosacea, hyperpigmentation, stressed, sensitive, menopausal skin and more.
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21

UNIVERSAL SHERATON
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FEB
18

WESTDRIFT MANHATTAN BEACH
Manhattan Beach, CA

MAR
18

AVENUE OF THE ARTS
Costa Mesa, CA

APR
29

THE BOX SF
San Francisco, CA

MAY
13

DUKE'S MALIBU
Malibu, CA

MAY
17

DINNER DANCE - MARDI GRAS
Anaheim Marriott

JUL
26

SUMMER EVENT
Newport Beach, CA

SEP
16

DINNER MEETING
Valley, CA

SEP
24

CASCC x SCIFTS GOLF TOURNAMENT
Anaheim Hills Golf Club

OCT
29-30

CASCC SUPPLIERS' DAY + AFTER-PARTY
Long Beach Convention Center

NOV
18

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THE GREEN CHEMISTRY DICHOTOMY: WILL RENEWABLES ALWAYS WIN?

Author: Matt Zoeller - Application Director for Specialty Division of 3V Sigma USA

Has anyone noticed that the word “technology” has eclipsed the word “chemistry” within the sales narratives of both brand marketers and upstream ingredient manufacturers serving the HBA industry? It seems as if most industry makers want to avoid association with that “C word”, whereas “technology” is more aligned with Siri and Alexa and your neighbor’s nifty new Tesla. Technology is cool, adaptable, interesting; while chemistry is complex, demanding, vexing. This vernacular often is applied to materials positioned as derived from natural, renewable, upcycled, or vegan sources. These products’ green credentials appeal to increasing numbers of consumers, aestheticians and HBA brands. This creates a dichotomy or disconnect where the idea that a green ingredient is defined as technology while at the same time, many important chemistry tools of beauty product design and manufacture appear to be outlawed in the court of public opinion due to the activity of bloggers, health purists, retailers and self-proclaimed safe cosmetics watchdogs. Input from scientifically disciplined protagonists seldom gains the public awareness or trust to pare back these parties’ injunctions and claims.

It must be stated however that perhaps the ascension of ingredients deriving from renewable resources, or “green” ingredients, is a well-timed historical movement. The movement toward renewable or upcycled resources driving many manufacturers within the specialty chemical industry is motivated not only by the desire for sustainability, it has a market-driven appeal too. Petrochemicals derived from crude oil are no longer the bargains they once were. Petroleum commodity prices have been rising steadily, the cost of being non-renewable. Therefore you can assign ever larger cost increases to the many useful chemicals derived from crude oil that are ubiquitous on our product labels. Petroleum will eventually run short then totally out. This resource imperative lends new importance to the creation and production scale-up of ingredients derived from renewables. Scaling the manufacturing of these green ingredients is needed to be cost competitive with petro-based resources. Paradoxically, there continues to be formulator interest in many useful products that will not accommodate renewable or upcycled feed stocks.

To this day most useful chemical ingredients are from non-renewable resources, and though that is changing it is not changing as fast as we’d all wish. Current advances in sustainable chemistry idioms have made inroads into feedstock process streams. We now have ethylene oxide (EO) from renewables, free of 1,4-dioxane, though scale up to meet global demand is still elusive. These GreenEO products share the same public relations hurdle as the petro-synthesized EO originals since the green consumer believes PEG is still PEG and may not grant the benefit of a doubt. There are alternative sustainable emulsifiers for many ethoxylated/propoxylated (EO/PO) surfactants such as the polyglyceryl fatty acid esters (PEFA) and alkyl modified saccharides. The PEFA chemistry is undergoing continuous improvement to the benefit of HBA formulators. Polysaccharide hydrophiles, teamed with renewable fatty acid lipophiles, from bio-processing of vegetal sources have entered the surfactant mainstream. Yet there are still not 1:1 direct replacements for most nonionic EO/PO products used in classical cosmetic formulation. So the beat goes on.

TECHNICAL ARTICLE

Polymers are a profound example of disconnect between chemical artistry and sustainable practices. Many Clean Beauty chemists rely on xanthan, guar, tara and other vegetal gum resins; yet none of these will perform like acrylic rheology builders or emulsifiers where 0.15% polymer can elegantly convey 35% oil in a Pickering emulsion. (Key word there is “elegantly.”) Then we have the silicones. Many suppliers claim to have “silicone alternative” materials. This is disingenuous. They are referring to D4/D5 cyclics. There we have several light esters that are close sensorial offsets but there are no viable tactile green alternatives to the higher linear dimethicones; nor are there renewables-based ingredients comparable to the silicone crosspolymer gums and elastomers that make hair frizz control serums, lasting lipcare products and silky face makeup bases so popular and effective. The “clean” alternative to silicone gum blends is to splotch botanical oils, gums and butters into the hair for an inelegant sticky mess. Likewise no emulsifier based on renewables can match the water-in-oil (w/o) or water-in-silicone (w/Si) performance of the alkyl-ether modified dimethicone surfactants. Long live silicones.

There's little need to dwell on hair dyes, conditioners, and styling products but if you want to have a good hair day, you simply must apply that C-word: synthetic organic chemistry. The semi-permanent and permanent dyes based on azide chemistry won't be abandoned by the beauty market anytime soon due to their “ick factor.” Look at the INCI on most acclaimed “natural” hair conditioners, masks, and curl creams and most often the formulation workhorse is an alkyl quaternary emulsifier-conditioner or a polyquaternium compound. As for styling, structuring and fixating hair, the acrylics and urethanes have no match. The starches have renewable content yet all are chemically modified. The only comparable true renewable fixative? Shellac, from insects: so not vegan and so 1940's.

Another segment of our cosmetic chemistry toolbox that has been famously depleted by the Quest for Natural is preservatives. The historically reliable parabens are the hardest hit subgroup, followed by the equally reliable, nominally described formaldehyde donors. It bears noting DMDM hydantoin and imidazolidinyl urea are still allowed in most nations' products despite decades of claims and research trying to prove these induce an unacceptable risk, when used at prescribed levels, to little avail. It also bears noting the popular alternatives are equally synthetic: ethylhexylglycerin does not derive from Fair Trade harvested shrubs in the sub-Saharan. The fear is that microbiological contamination caused by systemic biofilms propagating within cosmetic manufacturing plants, not by adulterants or weak cGMP, will overwhelm this technology as formulators rely on them 100% of the time. There are no new preservation chemistries emerging from research organizations, a critical weakness in future cosmetic product development. Somebody needs to do something – and if it grows in the soil or in the fermentation vessel all the better.

Before this trend took the mainstream, we already used many materials made from renewable sources. Palm oil triacylglyceride C10 – C18 fraction may be the “new crude” but is hardly new at all. The many alkyl and oleic homologs used to make lauryl, stearyl, caprylyl, oleate and ricinoleate products always had origins in palm, coconut, corn and castor oils. Few cosmetic chemists today are aware the very first commercially available nonionic surfactant was PEG-40 Hydrogenated Castor Oil (Cremophor by BASF) in the 1930's. These compounds were joined in our formulator

TECHNICAL ARTICLE

toolbox by the many botanical, mineral and fermentation derivatives scoring points with formulators, brands and consumers without prejudice or preference long before there was Instagram, Credo or the Environmental Working Group.

This dichotomy alludes there will always be space for synthetics in our personal care products and, in so much of applied chemistry, natural is not always better and in some cases not advised. Hyaluronic acid was originally sourced from roosters and sharks, native collagen from animals and overfished oceans, and placenta from umbilical cords of birthing women. We've established more sustainable/less egregious alternatives for most. Ingredients from renewable sources have been used in our work for as long as there has been cosmetic chemistry but this has not always been a good thing. Consider the compound cetyl esters, mainly cetyl palmitate, useful in granting a creamy tactile sensation to products. This material poses a useful paradigm in that true technology resides with the "reactor class" more so than the "gatherer class", discounting the notion of natural is always better. This ester is derived from renewables but undergoes reaction chemistry to produce industrially. This used to be known by the INCI name "synthetic spermaceti", which in turn was once real spermaceti, obtained by the killing of sperm whales and thus supplied to the cosmetic industry as recently as the 1980's. We are well advised to continue using the chemical variant of this ingredient.

About the Author:

Matt Zoeller is a veteran cosmetic chemist and knowledge contributor having over 35 years' experience in the contract development and manufacturing sector of the beauty industry where he was integral to the creation and technology transfer of thousands of HBA products. He has made a career helping others with vision see their personal care concepts become reality. Matt is an emeritus member of the Midwest Chapter of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists and is currently the Director of Applications for the Specialty Division of 3V Sigma USA based in Georgetown, South Carolina. He may be reached at m.zoeller@3vsigmausa.com or at [Matthew Zoeller | LinkedIn](#).



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SHOW DATES & TIMES

Set-up: Tues., Oct. 28, 2025 11am-6pm

Day 1: Wed. Oct. 29, 2025 10am-5pm

Day 2: Thurs. Oct. 30, 2025 10am-3pm

Afterparty: Wed. Oct 29, 2025 7-11:30pm

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Booths are assigned on a first come, first served basis based on payment received.

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Registration Link and FAQ

https://caliscc.org/Suppliers_Day_2025



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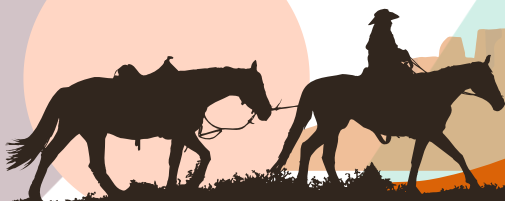
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HISTORY OF IRISH BEAUTY



The month of March is synonymous with the Irish holiday, St. Patrick's Day. Most of us think of beer, Corned beef and Cabbage, four-leaf clover, Leprechauns and potatoes during this time of the year. I decided to delve into the history of Irish beauty instead. (Much healthier for your liver!)

There is not much written about beauty practices of the common Irishmen and women. Most had to do with the ideal mark of aristocracy. The standards for the ideal marks were, an oval face with golden hair, fair skin, white delicate well formed hands and slender tapering fingers. It was considered shameful for men of position to have rough unkempt nails. As for the ladies, crimson, regular, circular nails were all the rage. They also often dyed their eyebrows black with a juice from a berry. Curiously, Irish missionary monks sometimes painted or dyed their eyelids black. For heightened cheek color, a dye from the plant named Ruam (Elder tree) was used, utilizing both sprigs and berries.

The standards for hair grooming were also defined for both men and women. Long hair was common and bathed, combed and curled daily.

The famous Book of Kells, for example, has an entry that the hair must be combed and dressed with outmost care, as if it was done by a skilled professional hairdresser and looked like it had taken a long time to achieve. Facial hair also had ideal standards. Beards were defined as growing from the upper lip, with the lower part of the face shaved. It was called a Crombeol (Stoopmouth). We now call this style a moustache.

Bathing was a ritual practiced by the upper class for the most part. The Irish have a deep connection to nature. The Celtic mythology is full of stories about how to unlock ancient secrets of wisdom. They used these legends in skincare to achieve healthy, radiant skin. The ancient Irish peoples were believed to be descendants of the goddess Danu, who represented the bountiful and nurturing aspects of the Earth.

When we think of Irish skin, the image of smooth perfect alabaster skin comes to mind. Most of the Irish brands sold today, utilize ingredients the surround the countryside and sea. Wildflowers, herbs and seaweed are gathered and formulated into potent elixirs. For example, the delicate petals of Chamomile, known for their soothing properties, are infused into calming tonics. Nettle is used for its astringent properties in skin clarifying products. Seaweed is rich in minerals, vitamins and is used for moisturization and improving suppleness and radiance.

Irish brands of today incorporate the "ritualistic" aspects of traditions. Celtic women did not simply apply lotions and potions to their skin. The tradition of reverence to the natural world could be found in their products. They would often venture to sacred wells and springs, believed to possess healing properties. Some of the rituals were also done under the moonlight and were connected to the cycles of nature and feminine energy. These secrets were passed down through the generations and emphasized not only physical beauty, but also an emotional moment of quiet reflection and gratitude for the abundance of nature.

The Irish brands that still embrace the ancient beauty traditions are Airmhi, Voya, Kinvara, Human+Kind, and Nia.



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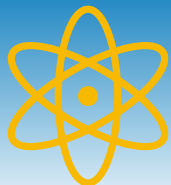
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REGULATORY UPDATES



USA

FDA

- Sunscreen Regulations – clarified to require animal testing for new sunscreen actives to better understand what can be absorbed into the skin.

California

- Safer Consumer Products (SCP) – offering an education webinar on Feb. 26, 2025 for retailers and distributors on their contribution to compliance with the regulations.

Recalls

- A sunscreen was voluntarily recalled due to missing labeling requirements include Drug Facts Labeling and more.
- A baby sunscreen was voluntarily recalled due to unexpected quality results that were ‘not expected’ and not expected to affect safety product.

Washington

- Formaldehyde in Cosmetics Rulemaking – public comment period open till April 11, 2025. This is for intentionally added formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers.

Oregon

- EPR Packaging regulation- Circular Action Committee (CAA) has their Program Plan approved here. This is the first EPR Program approved in the US.

INTERNATIONAL

Canada

- Health Canada made available, “Evidence of safety requirements for tooth whitening products containing peroxide and peroxide-generating compounds”
- Health Canada updated, “Technical Guidance for Professional-use Cosmetic Products Containing Alpha-Hydroxy Acids” to reflect the May 2024 updated hotlist.
- Health Canada made available, “Evidence of safety requirements for tooth whitening products containing peroxide and peroxide-generating compounds”
- Health Canada updated, “Technical Guidance for Professional-use Cosmetic Products Containing Alpha-Hydroxy Acids” to reflect the May 2024 updated hotlist.



REGULATORY UPDATES



INTERNATIONAL

Canada (continued)

- Health Canada issued a statement regarding the new requirement of implementation of fragrance allergens on the label by April 12, 2026. They will employ the following approach:
 - From April 12, 2026 to April 11, 2027, Health Canada will focus on compliance promotion with regulated parties; and
 - From April 12, 2027 onwards, compliance and enforcement will follow a risk-based approach as per standard Departmental and program guidance.

EU

- The SCCS issued a preliminary opinion on Butylparaben and Methyl Salicylate exposure to Children.
- The SCCS issued an opinion on Salicylic Acid safety for use for children ages 3-10.
- The SCCS issued their finalized opinion on HC Red No. 18.
- The EU published regulation on Packaging and Package Waste (PPWR), which will enter into force on Feb. 11, 2025.

UK

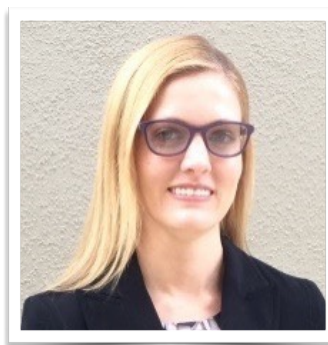
- The UK will be regulating the use of Methyl Salicylate. They asked a document to be drafted on this topic, and there is a comment period open till March 17, 2025.
- 8 new CMRs were listed, 8 INCI names: Benzophenone, Theophylline, Methylene di-t-butylcresol, Methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), Trimethylolpropane triacrylate, Margosa (Azadirachta indica) extract (from the kernels of Azadirachta indica extracted with water and further processed with organic solvents) , Melamine, Dimethyltolylamine.
- Kojic Acid-Added to Annex III of UKCR, so it is not banned but restricted use at max. use 1% in skin brightening products.

Australia

- The TGA opened a public comment period on proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard, which included updates for Cyanocrylate Esters and Acrylates or Methacrylates based on BPA.

China

- Released an updated version of “Ingredient Usage Information of Marketed Products”



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Valerie George: extension.ucr.edu/features/valeriegeorge
Dr. Ryan Kudla: www.youtube.com/watch?v=79xU3fRnBNY
Esther Olu: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXF10zf2GV0&t=4s

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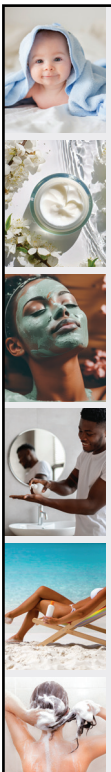
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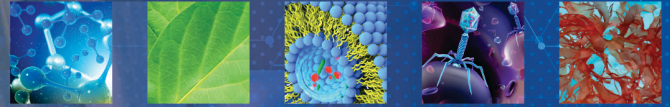
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