

COSMEGRAM

January 2026 • Vol 56 | Issue 1



MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 2026

Revolutionizing U.S. Sun Protection: Market Overview and the Role of Next-Generation UV Filter

Speaker: Luciana Uttembergue D'Elia - Sr. Technical and Marketing Manager, dsm-firmenich

This presentation provides an overview of the U.S. sun care market, highlighting key trends, category dynamics, and evolving consumer needs. It includes an update on the approval status of Parsol Shield (BEMT) and explains why this next-generation UV filter technology represents a major opportunity for innovation in the U.S. sunscreen landscape. We'll examine what is currently available to consumers today, the limitations of existing UV filters, and how BEMT can help shape the future of sun care in the U.S.



Luciana Uttembergue D'Elia, a Brazilian national, holds an Executive MBA from INSPER, a degree in Chemistry and Cosmetics Technology from Oswaldo Cruz University, São Paulo, Brazil, and a degree in Pharmacy and Biochemistry from Universidade Nove de Julho. With 18 years of experience in the cosmetics industry, Luciana has spent 14 years at dsm-firmenich. After five years as a Technical Manager in Brazil, Luciana moved to the US, where she excelled as the Senior Technical Manager overseeing the North American Regional Application Center for Personal Care for five years. In 2022, Luciana assumed the role of Senior Technical & Marketing Manager. Before joining dsm-firmenich, Luciana contributed her skills and knowledge to the R&D Department at International Flavors and Fragrances for five years. Her dynamic background and commitment to excellence have led to her continued success in the cosmetics and personal care industry.



January 20, 2026
5:00 - 8:00 PM



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MESSAGE FROM *The Chair*

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed meaningful time with family and friends over the holidays and are returning rejuvenated as we embark on 2026 together.

I would like to thank our out-going Chair Brittney Strickland for her leadership and vision throughout 2025. Brittney collaborated with our volunteers to host our first ever and wildly successful Future Chemist Workshop at Supplier's Day. She energized our social media presence and dramatically expanded our follower base. Also, Brittney expanded the support of NexGen initiatives like our chapter involvement at the Cosmetic Chemistry Career Fair at UC Santa Barbara. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the advancement of our industry and local chapter!

My key priorities for 2026 include:

- Explore establishing a speaker selection committee to develop a more strategic, long-range approach to our programming – one that anticipates member needs, ensures topic diversity throughout the year creates a collaborative process that can evolve with our organization.
- Maintaining our financial health requires vigilance, especially given the current economic conditions. I'm committed to regular financial oversight, renegotiating partnerships where appropriate, and ensuring we're maximizing the value we deliver to members with every investment we make.
- Supporting NexGen is essential to our organization's sustainability. I'll be working to grow student membership while creating clear pathways and compelling reasons for graduates to remain engaged as full members throughout their careers.

We have an exciting year ahead, and it's an honor to serve as your chair. I look forward to starting strong at our first meeting on January 20th at the Universal Sheraton. See you there!

Matt Driver



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Cosmetic Product Development

Speaker: Krissie Gerrard
Owner of Envy Cosmetic Consulting

 Tuesday, February 18, 2025

 5:00-8:00 PM

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REGULATORY UPDATES

USA

FDA

- H.R. 5371 -signed by the president on Nov. 1, 2025-reauthorizes OMUFA, broadens the type of clinical testing the FDA can rely on, adds requirements for progress reporting on non-clinical testing alternatives, and sets requirements for new sunscreen ingredients evaluation and acceptance.
- The FDA announced they plan to remove the proposed rule for testing talc products for asbestos form fibers.
- The FDA announced on Dec. 11 the intent to add Bemotrizinol as an active to the sunscreen monograph. Stay tuned...
- The FDA Issued draft guidance on mandatory cosmetic recalls. Comments on the draft guidance due by Feb. 17, 2026.
- PFAs - The FDA published a report on Dec. 29, 2025 indicated major gaps in information to determine if most PFAs used in cosmetics are safe.
- Warning Letters - A warning letter for improper GMPs, too high level of impurities and not properly listed OTC drugs was issued to a skincare manufacturer.
- A recall was announced by the FDA for products stored in an unsanitary facility. These products were a variety of types including cosmetics.

NAD

- Released a report on dec. 7, 2025 on top cases in the health product sector. Of particular note were wound healing claims made for hydrocolloid patches. This one was also referred to the FDA and the FTC for review by the NAD. Another was related to the possible unwarranted competitive edge products that make "no harmful ingredients" might have. Refer to the report for more info. on other claims.

Recalls

- Eyeliner - for not meeting cosmetics regulations.
- Makeup Remove Wipes - for possible microbial contamination *Pluralibacter gergoviae*.
- Eyeshadow Palette - for excessive concentrations of arsenic.

REGULATORY UPDATES

USA

California

- SCP
 1. DTSC for Safer Consumer Products held a webinar on microplastics on Dec. 11 to seek consultation on their initial scientific evaluation of microplastics.
 2. The final priority production regulation for nail products containing MMA at greater than 1,000 ppm was published on Dec. 30, 2025. This will come into effect April 1, 2026.
- CARB is doing a technical assessment of personal fragrance products, when the product has less than or equal 10% combined fragrance ingredients. Responsible parties must report by March 31, 2026.
- Prop 65
 1. OEHHA listed N-Methyl-N-Formylhydrazine as a carcinogen to the prop 65 list on Dec. 5, 2026. Compliance is due by Dec. 8, 2026.
 2. Ethoprop might be dropped from the Prop 65 List as a carcinogen. Stay tuned...
 3. OEHHA issued guidance Dec. 23, 2025 on how companies should evaluate Vinyl Acetate in their products.

Oregon

- The National Association of Wholesale-Distributors (NAW) filed an injunction against the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon to try and stop the enforcement of the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (EPR). NAW is alleging it is unconstitutional. Stay tuned..

Connecticut

- PFAs – The language for products containing intentionally added PFAs that must be included on these product labels was finalized. The due date for manufacturing, distributing, or selling these products in Connecticut with this label is July 1, 2026.

International

IFRA

- Announced that they are seeking feedback on the latest proposed IFRA Amendment. Comment period open till June 12, 2026.

REGULATORY UPDATES

International

Canada

- Health Canada updated the Hotlist again with proposed changes. There is a comment period open till Feb. 17, 2026.
- Health Canada held a webinar on Dec. 4, 2025 on updated requirements for Natural Health Products (NHPs).

UK

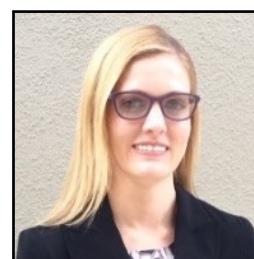
- 'Cosmetic Products (Restrictions of Chemical Substances) Regulations 2026' draft was introduced and includes a proposal to ban substances, including Enzacamene in UV filters and CMRs, and require labelling of ingredients that release formaldehyde. There was a comment period open till Dec. 30, 2025.
- Plastic wet wipe ban enforcement will start in May 2027.

EU

- ECHA seeking consultation on further limiting the use of Octocrylene. Comment period is open until March 24, 2026.
- The SCCS issued it's final opinion on Tea Tree Oil on Nov. 14, 2025 indicating that it is an anti-seborrheic and anti-microbial agent. Ingredient limits were set for 4 product categories. It also released opinions on Cannibidiol (CBD), Thimerosal and phenylmercuric Salts, BHA Hair Dye Basic Brow 16 and 17. And SCCS updated their opinion to Micron-Sized Silver. Refer to the opinions on new limits and bans set.
- ECHA released a draft opinion on mapping of PFAs on Nov. 5, 2025.
- ECHA announced that the micro plastics reporting systems is now open. Reporting dates coming up in May of 2026 and 2026.
- The European Commission issued draft regulation for end-of-easte criteria for plastics on Dec. 26, 2025. This is EPR regulation.

Australia

- AICS - is requiring information for 522 PFA chemicals.



Ariana Farina

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All In The Family

Before you read this article, I need to make a disclaimer that parts are fictional and completely made up, so if you have a sense of humor, please proceed with reading.

Every industry has its own legacy family. JP Morgan is known for the steel industry, The Bush's are known for oil, The Kennedys are known for bootleg booze, etc. Our west coast industry also has a legendary family...The Witwits.

From Humanity's original startup incubator- Baghdad, Iraq, to the beauty industry of the west coast of the US, the 3 Witwit brothers established themselves as a dominant force. Moe, the eldest, is known for his great formulation skills. Ali is also known as a great formulator, however, his knowledge of ingredients and their applications, sets him apart from many vendors. Following in his older brothers' footsteps is the youngest, Ammar, who is quickly becoming a great resource for ingredient function and sales.

I decided to use my Ex Mossad skills to extract information about this amazing family. Able to secure an interview with both Ammar and Ali, we met at a Moroccan restaurant and over the length of a 7-course meal, we talked about the family history.

The first question I asked was how they got their start in the industry:

Ammar: At 17 years old. I had an internship type role when I was in high school going into my senior year at Thibiant; it was during the summer months. I was able to work there as an intern part time that spring semester of 2008 after school because I got out at noon that last semester.

Ali had a longer answer, being in formulation field for a very long time:

Moe Witwit being the oldest brother recruited me almost 3 decades ago. He taught me everything and I excelled at Naturals and organic formulations eventually when I switched to the dark side to do Technical Sales. I believe I was one of the pioneers in technical sales back in 2005. I started at Ross Organic and which Azelis PC US these days. I started out in technical sales, did technical marketing, product development/innovation, reverse engineering and troubleshooting whether formulations, packaging, or micro contamination. I covered 13 Western States at the time for few years then I pulled back because I was burnt out. I love what I do and my customers of course. I have been selling for 20+ years so far and I don't see myself stopping anytime soon. I learn every day which keeps me going. We have an awesome and comprehensive line of products from all over the world. Specialty ingredient selling is rewarding and fun. These days I work closely with Brands, Indie Brands, Incubators, and consultants mainly where I get to have fun with innovation and new product developments.

All In The Family

What is your greatest achievements or accomplishments so far?

Ammar: There has been no greater achievement than becoming a father to my daughter. It has reshaped my priorities, strengthened my sense of responsibility, and pushed me to lead with patience and purpose with long term thinking in mind. The greatest accomplishment is the journey and the people I've met along the way. Working at every level of the industry, from brand to manufacturing to supply chain, has brought my career full circle. I feel incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by so many brilliant minds in this industry. I'm proud of how this industry continues to grow and I'm grateful to be present contributing alongside such inspiring people.

Ali: I like to say that "my network is my net worth". My relationships/friendships in the industry are priceless and very rewarding to me. I like to stay humble and end here.

I definitely agreed with Ali. It is rare to find a salesperson so knowledgeable about the products he sells.

I asked Ali if he was still involved in MMA fighting, in order to distract him from watching the belly dancer.

Ali: LOL. I wish I was. At 54 my body disagrees with this brutal sport. I still hit the heavy bags 2-3x a week, work on my techniques, jump rope, and watch Jiu-jitsu submission videos to stay current. We live in Los Angeles. Never a dull moment., right?

I agreed!! Getting old sucks.

To start the year, it is always interesting to see what predictions are in store for the future. I asked both where they see the beauty industry focusing on in the next year.

Ammar: Lots of K-Beauty influence coming stateside; new types of raw material concepts. I also see a large push with new SPF projects. We are launching Parsol Shield from DSM which is all the buzz right now with our customers. We are really excited to be launching with a new FDA approved sunscreen filter in 2026 for the US.

I laughed at that!! I love that Ammar is forever the salesman!! Yes, Parsol shield is a major win for the sunscreen industry. The FDA has been a challenge in the past couple of years.

All In The Family

Ali: ? Hmm, Interesting but I really see it swinging back to the heydays in 2026 and 2027. The slump after COVID wiped the lipstick off this recession proof industry which we used to call the lipstick effect if I am correct. I say bring Shimmer back again and make personal care and cosmetics more fun like it was in the 90's. Glamour and fun yet efficacious and clean so you can sell at Sephora and others. Bring high level sexy fragrances back again. Smell good, look good, and feel good. I think we forgot that we are not curing AIDS or CANCER but making lotions, shampoos, and make up. Just saying.. LOL!!

Yes!! I agreed. We are just selling false hopes in a bottle (Philosophy said it best- hope in a jar) and making people feel good about themselves and how they look at that moment. We leave the magic to the plastic surgeons. However, I do think the industry have come a long way as far as the battle against aging.

To end the interview, I asked about what other fun things they like to do. Both brothers gave me a boyish grin.

Ammar: Traveling. Golfing. Working out. Eating. Going for drives. Car stuff. Sports. Being a father.

Ali: Mountain Biking. I am obsessed and have been since I was a bench chemist at Thibiant (now KDC) in 1998! Albert Lising at the time got me interested in the dangerous sport then he had a couple of bad crashes, he quit but I continue to ride to this day. I continued to ride with others from the industry like Mark Anton (at Neutraderm now) and Steve LeCavalier (retired from KDC/ONE recently). Despite all the close calls and death defying stunts, I continue to ride until I can't physically. Hopefully when I am in my 80's.

Laughing, I agreed: "I totally admire that".

We finished our delicious meal, 5 pounds heavier than when we started. I thanked them for spending time with me. We are such a small but growing industry. It is great to have long time friends and being able to mentor the next generation.



Erica Herrel

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RNAi Technology In Cosmetic Applications: From Mechanism To Innovation

Author

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RNA Innovation Co.

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Abstract

RNA interference (RNAi) is a post-transcriptional gene-regulation mechanism enabling highly specific and reversible suppression of target gene expression. While RNAi has been extensively studied in biomedical research, its application in cosmetic science remains at an early stage. This article reviews the biological rationale for applying small interfering RNA (siRNA) in cosmetic formulations, outlines key technical challenges and industry trends, and discusses supramolecular siRNA delivery as a representative strategy for pigmentation regulation. Selected experimental findings are highlighted to illustrate feasibility and cosmetic relevance, followed by a brief outlook on the future role of RNAi in molecular-level cosmetic innovation.

Scientific Background

RNAi and Skin Pigmentation RNA interference was first reported in 1998 by Fire and Mello and later recognized with the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine [1]. Small interfering RNA (siRNA), typically 21–23 nucleotides in length, mediates sequence-specific gene silencing by guiding the RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC) to complementary messenger RNA (mRNA), resulting in mRNA cleavage and reduced protein translation [2].

Skin pigmentation is controlled by tightly regulated signaling and transcriptional programs within melanocytes [3]. Multiple melanogenic pathways converge on microphthalmia-associated transcription factor (MITF), which regulates the expression of key melanogenic enzymes, including tyrosinase (TYR) and tyrosinase-related proteins (TRP-1 and TRP-2) [3,4]. As an upstream transcriptional hub, MITF represents a mechanistically attractive target for cosmetic brightening and tone-balancing strategies, distinct from conventional approaches focused solely on downstream enzyme inhibition [3,4].

Industry Context and Emerging Trends

Cosmetic science is increasingly shaped by biotechnology-derived actives, data-supported mechanisms of action, and delivery technologies designed to enhance bioavailability while maintaining safety and consumer acceptability [7]. In parallel, precision-oriented concepts, such as molecular profiling and individualized skincare routines, are gaining attention as part of a broader shift toward evidence-based, mechanism-aligned cosmetic development [7].

RNAi Technology In Cosmetic Applications: From Mechanism To Innovation

Case Study

MITF-Targeted Pigmentation Modulation A supramolecular siRNA system targeting MITF has been evaluated as a representative approach for pigmentation-pathway modulation in the context of melanogenesis control (Fig. 1).

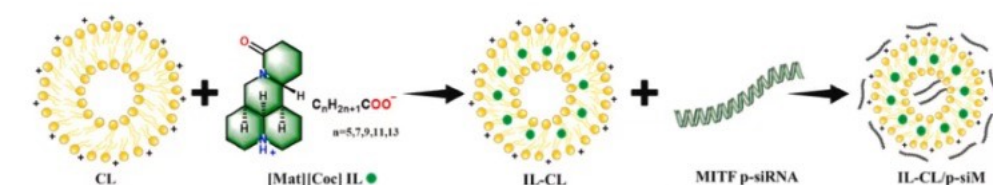


Fig. 1. Schematic preparation of ionic liquid (IL)-cationic liposome (CL) and IL-CL/p-siM complexes[5].

Cell-based studies demonstrated suppression of proteins encoded by key melanogenic genes, including MITF and TYR, along with reduced tyrosinase activity, consistent with upstream downregulation of MITF-centered melanogenic programs [3–5]. Ex vivo skin-penetration experiments using fluorescence-labeled siRNA showed enhanced cumulative delivery compared with non-encapsulated siRNA, with detectable distribution in deeper epidermal regions corresponding to melanocyte localization (Fig. 2).

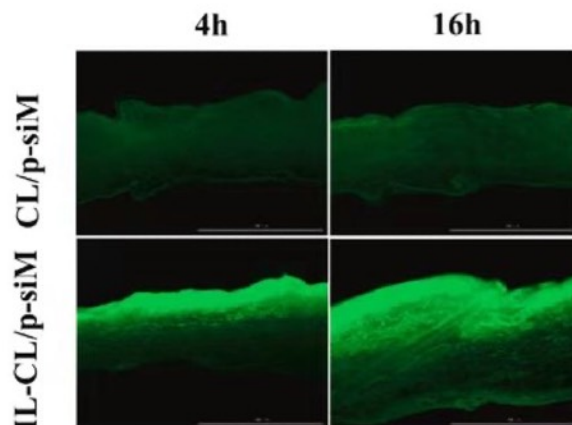


Fig. 2. Cumulative penetration of CL/p-siM and IL-CL/p-siM into porcine skin over 48 h compared with naked p-siM, with corresponding H&E staining [5].

RNAi Technology In Cosmetic Applications: From Mechanism To Innovation

In short-term human use studies, topical formulations containing this siRNA delivery system were associated with measurable improvements in instrumental parameters related to pigmentation and tone uniformity after 14 and 28 days of application (Fig. 3).

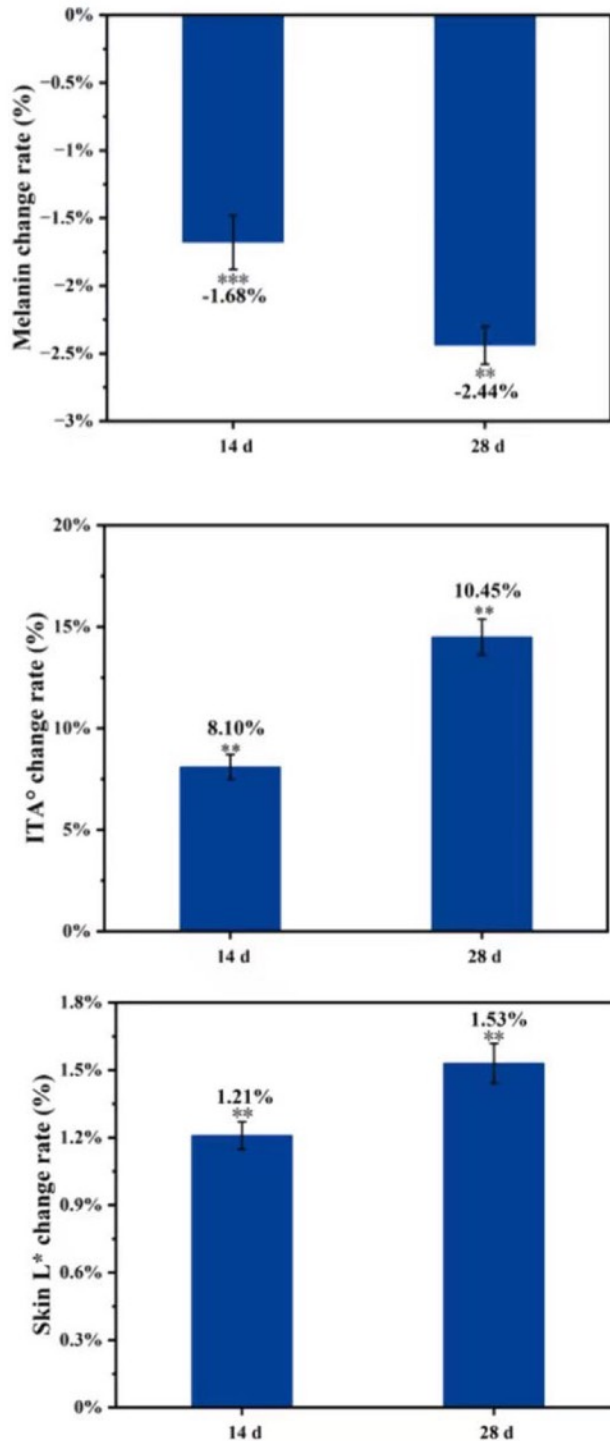


Fig. 3. Changes in melanin index, individual typology angle (ITA↓), and luminance following IL-CL/p-siM application (*P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001) [5].

RNAi Technology In Cosmetic Applications: From Mechanism To Innovation

These findings support the feasibility of RNAi-inspired cosmetic strategies that modulate pigmentation-related biology through transient gene-expression regulation rather than permanent genetic modification [2,5].

Safety and Outlook

From a cosmetic science perspective, the transient and non-integrating nature of RNAi is a key advantage, as siRNA does not alter genomic DNA and its effects diminish as molecules are degraded through normal biological processes. Reported supramolecular and liposomal siRNA systems have shown favorable tolerability within the scope of published studies, although safety assessment must remain formulation- and use-condition-specific.

Looking ahead, RNAi represents a potential bridge between advanced molecular biology and cosmetic innovation, particularly as cosmetic R&D continues to emphasize mechanisms, measurable endpoints, and next-generation delivery systems.

RNAi-related strategies hold promise for enabling cosmetic active ingredients to exert their effects through sequence-specific regulation of defined target genes, rather than relying on traditional skincare approaches such as broadly acting, less precisely defined multi-pathway modulation or single-enzyme activity inhibition.

RNAi Technology In Cosmetic Applications: From Mechanism To Innovation

Resources

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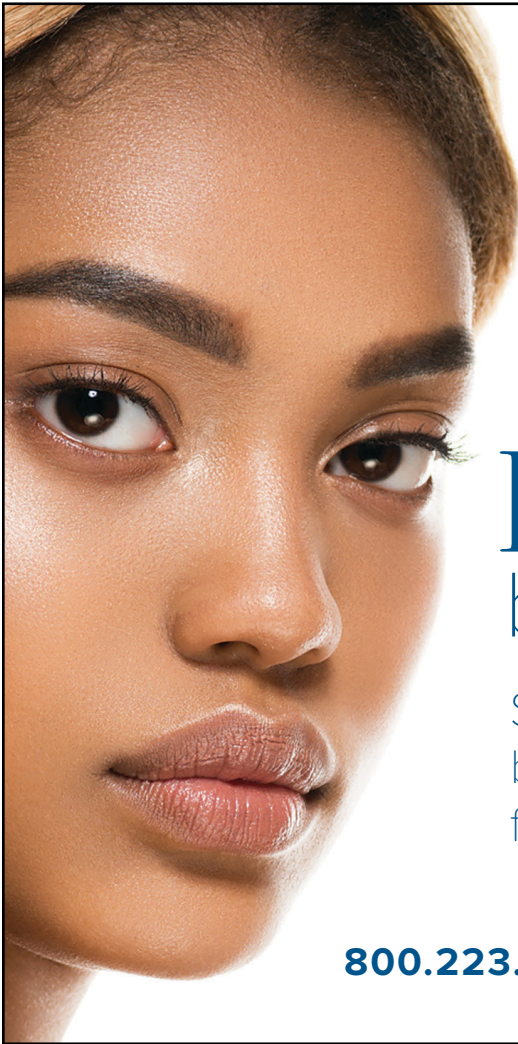
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A Place to Learn, Connect, and Belong

By Margarita Gomez Nadin, 2025 CASCC Suppliers' Day Chair and Business Director, Western US, Sunjin Beauty Science USA

After two years of planning, the California Chapter of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists proudly hosted Suppliers' Day 2025, our biannual industry showcase. The feedback from attendees and exhibitors has been overwhelmingly positive. At the heart of our Chapter are two guiding commitments: continuous education and professional development in cosmetic science. Suppliers' Day reflected both. This year's program included two CEP courses, Future Chemist Workshops, expanded educational programming across three stages, and learning embedded throughout the show floor. In an increasingly virtual world, Suppliers' Day can feel like a reunion. Seeing colleagues in person carries a different weight, as social media says "IRL". People reconnecting, meeting new collaborators, or hoping to cross paths with someone specific. The atmosphere was magical.

Sociologist Ray Oldenburg described "third places" as spaces outside of home and work where community, trust, and belonging are built. Cafés, libraries, and parks are classic examples. Suppliers' Day functions in much the same way. It is neutral, accessible, and welcoming, a place where relationships form beyond transactions. In that sense, it serves as social glue for our industry. There is something about our industry that cannot be fully explained. Building something together creates camaraderie, it creates community, a third place. Many professional connections grow into friendships beyond work. Several of my closest friendships exist because of this industry. My team, the Suppliers' Day Committee, have become lifelong friends.

As virtual engagement becomes the norm, in-person connection grows more valuable. We must be intentional about creating spaces to gather as a community.



SUPPLIERS' DAY 2025

A Place to Learn, Connect, and Belong



In this issue you will see dozens of photos from our 3-day show. Photos capture the energy and connections. Additional images are available on our website, and video content is in development, including highlights from the karaoke performances. The talent in this industry is impressive! We tried to capture all aspects of the show. The Exhibitor Reception the evening of booth set-up was designed to give exhibitors a chance to relax, connect, and enjoy light refreshments before the show opened. We added televisions for viewing the World Series, Go Dodgers, and some stagecoach entertainment including rope tricks. Education expanded significantly this year. You will see highlights from CEP courses, Future Chemist Workshops, educational stages, and the learning that took place across the show floor. Our industry offers constant opportunities to explore new technologies that support safe and effective products.

When I was asked to write this article, I debated whether to share that my brother passed away the just before the show opened. I share this not for sympathy, but as a reminder that many of us carry unseen burdens while showing up with professionalism and grace. Behind smiling faces might be a grieving person, caregiver, health challenges. What we see is their resilience and grace behind a smiling face. That resilience reflects how deeply we care about our work. For moments when things feel especially heavy, we hope organizations like Arielle's Light continue to offer support and resources. Thank you to the colleagues who lead with compassion. Albert Camus wrote, "In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."

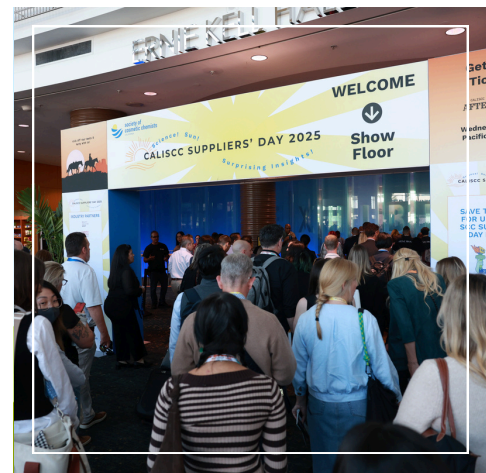
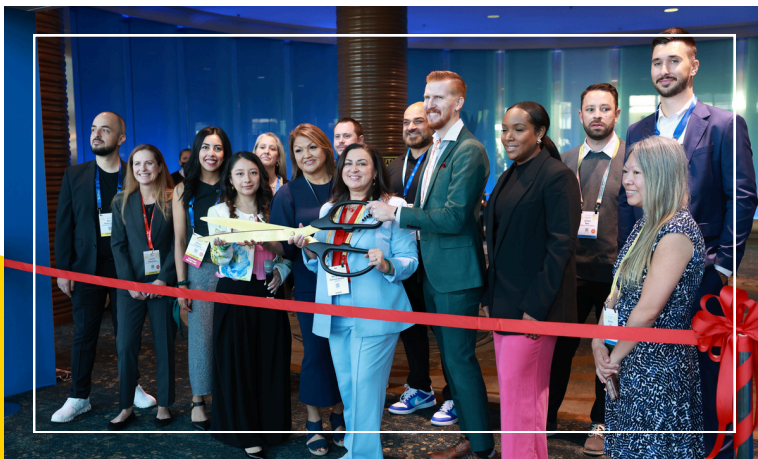
With gratitude, thank you for spending time with our Chapter. Our community is special because of its people. May the Year of the Fire Horse bring bold action, transformation, and progress. There is room for all of us to succeed.

Thank you for trusting me with scissors, giant scissors.

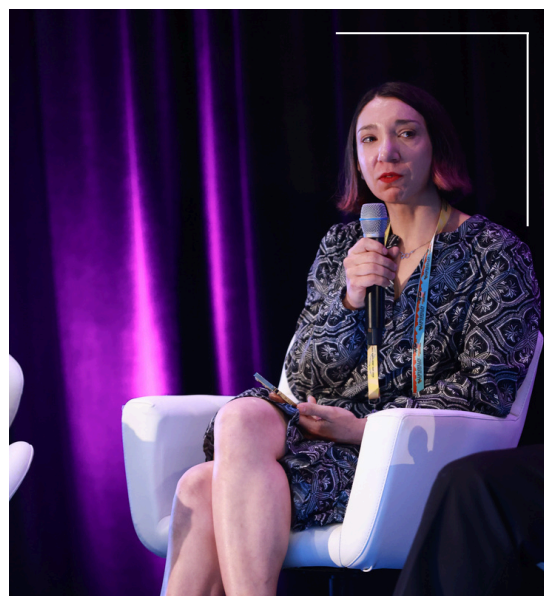
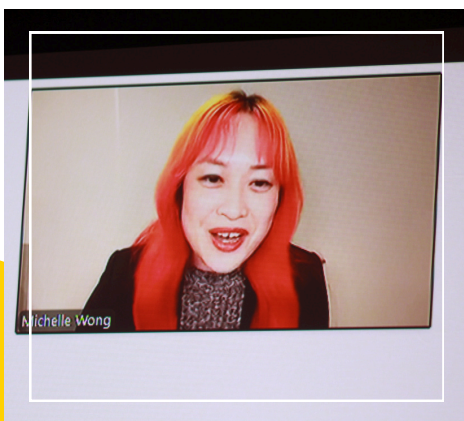
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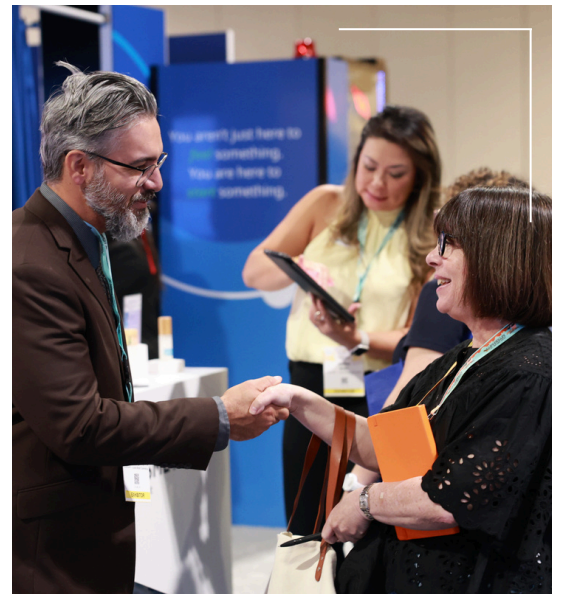


RIBBON CUTTING



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

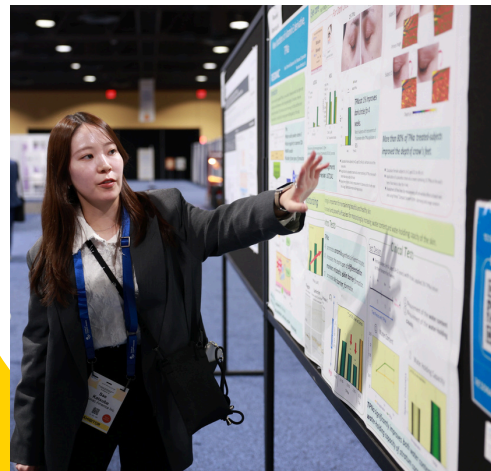




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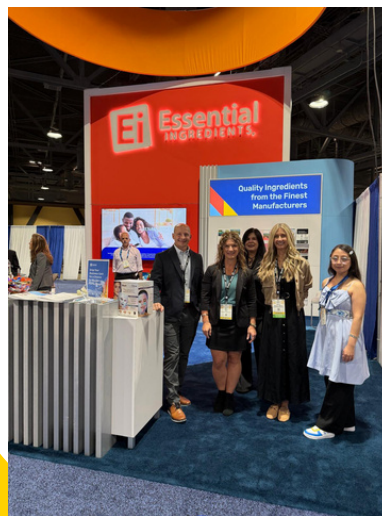
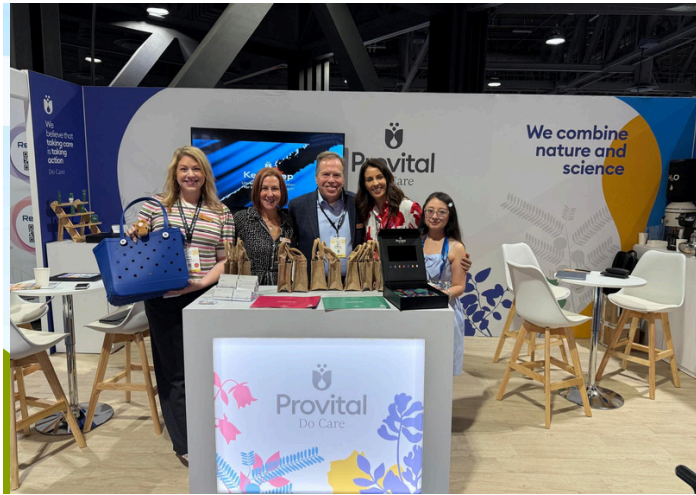
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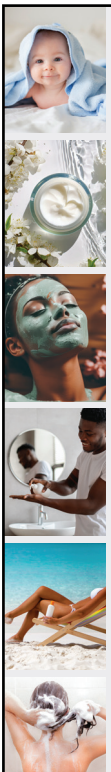
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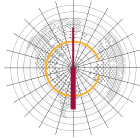


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