

COSMEGRAM

February 2026 • Vol 56 | Issue 2



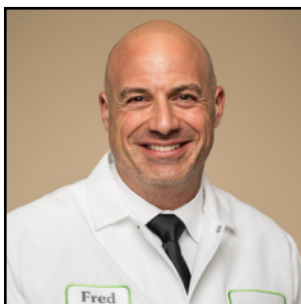
MONTHLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 2026

From Concept to Creation:

Technology Shapes the Formula & Ingredients Are Just Part of the Story

Speaker: Fred Khoury - CSO, Above Rinaldi Labs. Inc.

This talk examines the early-stage product development process and the critical gap between how brands typically communicate product ideas and what formulation labs actually need to develop effective, defensible formulas. Fred will break down common limitations of creative briefs, ingredient wish lists, trend-driven claims, and benchmark comparisons and contrast them with the scientific, technical, and use-case inputs required to guide meaningful formulation strategy. Attendees will gain insight into how technology, delivery systems, and product architecture are defined long before ingredients are selected, and why better upfront information leads to stronger development outcomes.



Fred Khoury is a leader in technology-driven beauty innovation, known for translating complex scientific concepts into scalable, manufacturable skincare systems. With more than a dozen patents spanning stem cell conditioned media, dermal delivery platforms, and novel formulation architectures, his work focuses on how process, technology, and execution shape real-world product performance, often more than the ingredient list itself. Fred brings a formulation- and manufacturing-first perspective to product development, examining how tools, equipment, regulatory pathways, and production realities influence what ultimately reaches the

consumer. His expertise spans concept development through pilot batching and commercial scale, with a particular focus on designing formulas that can withstand real manufacturing environments while delivering consistent efficacy. Based in Los Angeles, Fred leads a lab and manufacturing facility that develops and produces products for many of the world's most recognized beauty brands. His formulas have earned hundreds of industry awards, but his deeper focus remains on what happens behind the scenes, where technology, process, and discipline turn ideas into viable, repeatable products.



February 17, 2026

5:00 - 8:00 PM



Westdrift Manhattan Beach

1400 Park View Ave

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



[Register Now](#)

MESSAGE FROM *The Chair*

January is officially in the books, and we're all settling back into the rhythm of the year. I want to start by extending my heartfelt thanks to all our members and guests who joined us for our first educational meeting of 2025 at the Universal City Sheraton. With over 100 attendees, the energy in the room was absolutely palpable!

I was particularly energized by the number of first-time attendees and their genuine excitement—whether they're just entering the industry or have recently relocated to Greater Los Angeles to pursue their cosmetic chemistry dreams. For old grizzled vets like myself, there's something genuinely special about witnessing the mix of nerves and enthusiasm as newcomers introduce themselves to the group. That spark never gets old.

The evening also allowed us to recognize some well-deserved excellence within our chapter. Nasrat Hamid received the Debbie Pierce Chapter Merit Award for outstanding service to our organization, and Krissie Gerrard earned our Best Speaker Award for 2024. Both recipients exemplify the dedication and expertise that make our chapter thrive. (You'll find more details about these awards elsewhere in this issue.)

We also shared exciting updates about upcoming events—including the Cosmegram, our annual Dinner Dance, and NexGen programming—all of which underscore our continued momentum and commitment to delivering value to our members. I'm personally counting down the days until the Dinner Dance aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. I'm a big fan of everything Long Beach has to offer, and the Queen Mary is one of those iconic venues I've never experienced. Stay tuned for details!

Our featured speaker, Luciana Uttembergue D'Elia, delivered an excellent and comprehensive presentation on Bemotrizinol—the first UV filter approved by the FDA in over two decades! Whether you're excited about its exceptional stability, broad-spectrum protection, or enhanced cosmetic elegance, this innovation is poised to make serious waves in the sunscreen industry.

As always, I want to remind everyone that the California Society of Cosmetic Chemists is a volunteer-driven organization. If you've enjoyed something we've created, organized, or shared, I encourage you to thank a volunteer when you see them. And we always welcome your feedback—it helps us continue improving and serving our community.

We'll see you at the February 17th meeting in Manhattan Beach!

Warm Regards,

Matt Driver
Chair, California Society of Cosmetic Chemists



2026 CASCC EXECUTIVE

Board Members

Advisor



Brittney Strickland
Head of Sales, Western Region
Croda Inc.

Chair



Matt Driver
Account Executive
Stepan Company

Chair Elect



Stephanie Facuri
Sr. Sales Manager
Solabia

Treasurer



Serina Dai
VP of R&D
PakLab

Treasurer Elect



Elle Kim
Account Manager
Barentz

Secretary



Kenton Hipsher
Sr. Sales Manager
Lucas Meyer Cosmetics

Innovation that delivers performance

Ingredients developed with cutting-edge technology, aligned with global trends, with proven safety and efficacy.

Create solutions aligned with the future of the market

chemyunion.com



B BRENNTAG

Beauty & Personal Care

Innovative and sustainable solutions

We're dedicated to helping you achieve exceptional product performance while ensuring sustainability and affordability. Our team of experts is prepared to deliver customized solutions and a wide range of specialty ingredients tailored to meet your business needs.

- Active delivery systems
- Biofunctionals
- Cosmetic powders
- Film formers
- Hydrogels
- Natural clays and mineral thickeners
- Naturally derived emollients
- Rheology modifiers
- Silicones
- Styling polymers
- Surfactants
- Waxes

Let's innovate your business together.
Email us today at
personalcare@brenntag.com.



2026
Events

UPCOMING

**JAN
20**

UNIVERSAL SHERATON
Universal City, CA

**FEB
17**

WEST DRIFT
Manhattan Beach, CA

**MAR
17**

AVENUE OF THE ARTS
Costa Mesa, CA

APR

SPEED DATING
San Francisco, CA

**MAY
12**

DUKE'S
Malibu, CA

**JUN
6**

DINNER DANCE

JUL/AUG

**SUMMER EVENT/
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SEP

AVENUE OF THE ARTS
Costa Mesa, CA

OCT

SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR
Los Angeles, CA

NOV

TBD

DEC

SCC 80th ANNUAL MEETING
Los Angeles, CA

Personal Care Ingredients **ENVISIONING BEAUTY**



CLARIANT

At Clariant, we are dedicated to co-creating solutions with our customers. With our wide array of ingredients and inspirational concepts, we strive to deliver differentiating sensorial and functional benefits to enable the next generation of formulations.

Our vast personal care portfolio includes emollients, emulsifiers, mild-surfactants, polymers, preservatives, active ingredients, and more.

VISIT US AT

clariant.com/personalcare

CONNECT WITH US AT

pcnoram@clariant.com

what is precious to you?

 Industries

50TH

ANNIVERSARY

**Premium Ingredients.
Limitless Beauty.**

We specialize in **premium specialty ingredients**, and **clean beauty**, delivering **solutions** that enhance **efficacy**, **sustainability**, and **sensorial experiences**. Let us help you elevate your products.



 **Essential**
INGREDIENTS.

Distributing Ingredients from the Finest Manufacturers

770.831.9010

essentialingredients.com



2025 CASCC Best Speaker Award

Krissie Gerrard

Product Development Essentials

Westdrift Manhattan Beach 2/18/2025



Owner of Envy Cosmetic Consulting



2025 CASCC Chapter Merit Award

Nasrat Hamid

SCC's Chapter Merit Award is presented by a Chapter for exceptional service and dedication to the Chapter by a Chapter member.



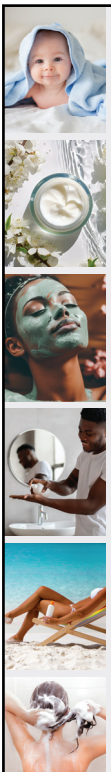
Senior Chemist, John Paul Mitchell Systems

Nasrat has elevated the NexGen outreach program to remarkable new heights. She not only hosts regular job fairs at local colleges, but also spearheaded the first-ever career fair at UCSB—an extraordinary milestone that required exceptional initiative, perseverance, and dedication.

Her passion for attracting new members and energizing both board and chapter participants shines through in every event she leads. She has contributed to countless initiatives, each leaving a meaningful and lasting impact. Most importantly, Nasrat has played a transformative role in inspiring and guiding students as they transition into future chemists and leaders of our industry.

A World of Possibilities

CoastSouthwestTM
1.800.621.0500 | coastsouthwest.com



**NATURE FORMULATES
OUR PRODUCTS FOR YOUR
NATURAL FORMULATION
NEEDS.**

VEEGUM®
Magnesium Aluminum Silicate

VANATURAL®
Bentonite Clay

Highly purified, natural
rheology modifiers

Fine-tuned viscosity
and flow properties

Silky, tack-free feel in
topical products

Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC

33 Winfield Street, P.O. Box 5150
Norwalk, CT 06856-5150
(203) 295-2140 • F: (203) 855-1220
mineralsales@vanderbiltminerals.com
www.vanderbiltminerals.com

VANATURAL and VEEGUM are registered trademarks of
Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC.



**The American
Chemical Company®**

- Emulsifiers • Emollients
- Thickeners • Solubilizers
- Surfactants • Dispersants
- 100% Naturally
Derived Products

Personalizing High Performing Materials For Your Needs



Ethox.com

Barentz.

Responsible *Beauty*

Always a better solution.

Barentz is an environmentally conscious
Personal Care ingredients & specialty
chemical supplier with sustainability
in mind.

Visit us at www.barentz-na.com



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Raymond Sullivan-Bojorquez

What is your current role, and how did you first get involved with CA SCC?

I'm currently the Co-Communications chair at the CA SCC. I handle closely the LinkedIn and Instagram pages. My hope is to exalt all the hard work our California chapter does on a weekly basis, so the rest of the industry can see how much effort we put into our community!

How long have you been working in the cosmetic and personal care industry?

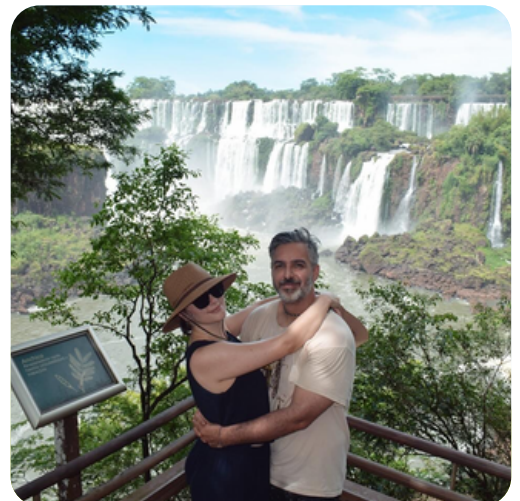
I've been a part of the personal care industry for over 3000 days (that's over 8 years, for anyone who doesn't like math). Now I work for the Lucas Meyer Cosmetics team, by Clariant for a little under a year and I am so excited for a long career ahead!

What originally drew you to cosmetic science?

One of my favorite children's books growing up was *The Ugly Duckling*, the story of a gray duck who never quite fits in among yellow ducks, only to later realize it was a swan all along. Growing up in five different countries, I often felt like that gray duck, out of place and searching for where I belonged. Those experiences shaped me and sparked a lifelong desire to help others feel seen, supported, and confident enough to grow into who they are meant to be. Then one day, I attended my first CA SCC event, and I met a community of welcoming, kind individuals who helped me find my footing in this industry.

What does being on the CA SCC Board mean to you?

It's an honor, a responsibility, and the most rewarding experience. Right now, it feels like leaning into our community is more important than ever.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Raymond Sullivan-Bojorquez

What is one skill you think entry-level cosmetic chemists should focus on developing now?

Passion is essential. Technical skills come with time. If you already love discussing skincare with friends, testing make-up on family members, or finding yourself drawn to the latest hair care trends, there is likely a place for you in this industry.

Looking back, what experience helped shape my career the most?

Being genuinely interested in the composition of products I used... as a consumer! Before doom-scrolling we used to just read the back of product labels for fun (or was that just me?).

What is the one thing only cosmetic chemists truly understand

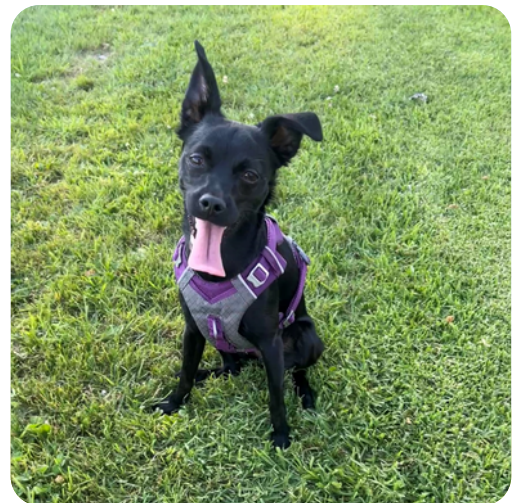
Consumer perception is the hardest raw material to source! And claims are formulated before the composition

What's the messiest formulation mistake you ever made?

A: I've witnessed my fair share of lab snafus, but I will never forget the smell of certain chemical spills like a thiol spill (skunk-like) or butyric acid spill (rancid dairy). Suffice to say, I'm fairly happy smelling lotion fragrances nowadays.

What do you do on your free time?

A: My free time is spent formulating how to have fun with my beautiful family 😊 My wife Jheyve and our two little doggos, Rumi and Eevee. We love attending EDM events, cooking traditional Mexican and Paraguayan dishes at home, and going on long off-leash walks along unique California trails.



PersonalCareUS@omya.com | omyapersonalcare.us



Partner with Omya

Create the perfect personal care formulation using high-quality, natural, and globally sourced ingredients.

Now proudly representing



Advanced Ingredients

ELEVATE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH CLINICALLY-PROVEN PERFORMANCE



ELEVATE TODAY!

Nourishing the Body, Inside and Out !



WE PROUDLY REPRESENT

TCR's Fine Ingredients Division specializes in the sales and distribution of a broad range of raw materials that cater to the personal care, HI&I, pharmaceutical, nutritional, industrial, and food and beverage industries. Our portfolio of Principals include an eclectic mix of relevant and cutting edge ingredients for use in a variety of applications that help our customers achieve best-in-class products.

- ACTYLIS
- ADVANCED BIOCATALYTICS
- AMERICAN GLITTERS
- BETTECH
- BLP CORP
- CALOY OILS
- CHURCH & DWIGHT
- CHT USA
- CR MINERALS
- CURIE CO
- EARTH SUPPLIED PRODUCTS
- EMD ELECTRONICS
- IOI OLEOCHEMICAL
- J. RETTENMAIER
- RFH BIOTEK
- SOLVAY
- SONNEBORN
- WORLEE
- ZSCHIMMER & SCHWARTZ



Explore Our Website For More Products



26 CENTERPOINT DRIVE, #120
LA PALMA, CA 90623

ORDERS@TCRINDUSTRIES.COM
(714) 521-5222

CASCC Scholarship Opportunities

Are you ready to take your beauty-industry career to the next level? The California Society of Cosmetic Chemists (CASCC) offers several scholarship and grant opportunities to help students and professionals deepen their expertise, attend key industry events, and accelerate their professional growth. Whether you're eyeing attendance at the National Convention, upskilling through educational programs, or joining our signature Suppliers' Day and Future Chemist Workshop, we've got you covered. Check out the full list of awards and apply today! Your next big step in cosmetic science could be just one submission away!

[Check It Out Here!](#)



Did you know?

Speaker presentations are uploaded for CASCC 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
4. Click View Details
5. The presentation will be listed under Documents (Member login required)

DOWNLOAD TODAY: MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE ACCESS!



Cosmetic Product Development

Speaker: Krissie Gerrard
Owner of Envy Cosmetic Consulting

 Tuesday, February 18, 2025

 5:00-8:00 PM

 westdrift Manhattan Beach

Event Sponsor

 **Caribbean Natural Products, Inc.**
Unique and Exotic Materials for Hair, Skin, Body & Soul

 society of
cosmetic chemists
CALIFORNIA

Regulatory Updates

FDA

- The FDA issued draft guidance for records access authorized for cosmetics products.
- The FDA tested a series of nail polish removers for Methylene Chloride, which is banned, and found high presence of it. Apparently all are from the same batch of product made.

NAD

- Facial Peel Claims – regarding claims about clinical level results, visibly brighter, smaller looking pores, and results in as little as 5 minutes were confirmed by the company to NAD as discontinued.

Recalls

- Kid's oral use products – several products recalled by the FDA due to cGMP violation concerns.

California

- CalRecycle (SB 54) – withdrew the current draft for implementation to make updates. There is a 15 day comment period open till Feb. 13, 2026.
- SCP-New proposed priority product regulation – includes shampoos containing 1,4 Dioxane at concentrations greater than 1 ppm. Comment period open till March 2, 2026.

New York

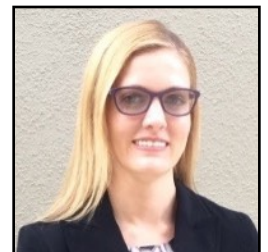
- Bill 8420A – New law enacted which requires advertisers to disclose use of AI for creation of synthetic performers and digitally created media that appear to be real people.

New Jersey

- Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act (Bill S1042) – Signed into law on Jan. 12, 2026 ban PFAs intentionally added in cosmetics (not soap). Comes into effect in January 2028.

EU

- The EU Cosmetics Regulation has been updated to ban 15 new ingredients to be in line with the new CMR listings.. There were also two revisions and two deletions made to current listings.



Ariana Farina

CALISCC IN WONDERLAND

QUEEN MARY

1126 Queens Hwy, Long Beach, CA 90802

SATURDAY JUNE 6,

2026

PRE-SALE RATES THRU MAY
9, 2026

\$ 225

SINGLE TICKET

\$ 2,250

PER TABLE
(10 SEATS)

AFTER MAY 9, 2026

\$ 275

SINGLE TICKET

VISIT CALISCC.ORG/DINNERDANCE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Sponsorship, Registration, Wine & Drink Tickets, Hotel Room Block

DINNERDANCE@CALISCC.ORG



society of
cosmetic chemists
CALIFORNIA

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

DIAMOND



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE





MICHEL MERCIER PRODUCTS

Skin Régime

MMP's **Skin Care** line helps reveal the natural beauty for smooth, radiant, healthy-looking skin.



Exclusive distributor in USA & Canada for:



Skin Care Masks

www.mmpinc.com

sales.us@mmpinc.com



Raw Materials for
Personal Care Cosmetics

- Active Ingredients
- Bamboo Charcoal/Volcanic Ash
- Bead & Emulsion Pearls
- Cationic Hair Conditioning Agents
- Emulsifiers/Emollients
- Facial Masks
- Hair Conditioning Agents
- Hair Fixative Polymers
- Peptides
- Powder Facial Cleanser
- Preservatives
- Rheology Modified
- Silicones
- Surfactants
- Vitamins

Tel: (626) 460 - 8898

Fax: (626) 639 - 3554

www.accessingredients.com

Italian Beauty

The month of February in the year 2026, celebrates the Olympic games in Cortina, Italy. I thought it would be fun to explore the history of Italian beauty.

When one thinks of Italian beauty, the image of Sophia Loren and Rudolph Valentino comes to mind. This nation has a very long history of being in the forefront of innovation going back to Roman days.

The Roman empire was known for its conquests, impressive plumbing and gladiator sweat! Yes, you read that correctly. Elite women in Roman society would pay handsome amounts of ancient coin for a small vial of gladiator sweat. They would use it as a “cream”, believing that a man that survives a bout with a lion, would have an essence that would impart a youthful glow.

The look of perfectly pale skin was also a status symbol. The romans used to apply powdered Lead to their bodies to lighten their appearance, until their teeth started falling out and they died of Lead poisoning!

The Unibrow look was also all the rage. If one did not have the right amount of facial hair, a tuft of goat hair would be glued between the brows using tree resin.

The romans were also known for their famous baths and the use of essential oils. Olive oil is still being used today for skin hydration.

Nothing much happened during the dark ages and the subsequent world wars.

The 1950’s brought about La bella figura – where a bombshell like Sophia Loren was able to ride a Vespa, wearing a very tight pencil skirt. This was known as the era of glamour. The “cat eye” black eyeliner became a must have during that time. Olive oil also made a come back as the cure-all for anything dry, such as hair and skin.

Today, Italian beauty is known as “Sprezzatura”. It is the art of making very difficult makeup application, look like it was effortless. We know it in the US as the no makeup-makeup. Italian women are known to spend a couple of hours in front of the mirror, just to go out shopping at a local grocery store. They are also known to use copious amounts of perfume to attract local wildlife.

With Milan being the fashion capital of the world, we can expect many trends to follow out of Italy. The cosmetic industry still uses the color forecasts that come out of that country to set future trends.

Bellissimo!



Erica Herrel

PRODUCTS & SERVICES
RW **ROSSOW**
 USA

RESOURCES
 TO FORMULATE
 YOUR FUTURE

+1 (855) 776-7769 - contact@rossow-usa.com
www.rossow-usa.com

KOBO
The Powder & Dispersion Specialist

Sunscreen Technologies • Surface Treatments
 Special Effect Pigments • Pigmentary Grade Dispersions
 Microspheres • **Natural Origin Products** • Fibers
 Fillers • Film Formers • Specialties • Delivery Systems
 Custom Development • Global Manufacturing

Kayla Stencel - kstencil@koboproductsinc.com

Innovation
 Technology
 Service

www.koboproducts.com



symrise




HBS
 Health & Beauty Solutions
 An MTTI Company

Health & Beauty Solutions is your source for:

- Retinoids in sustained-release **Natural** delivery systems
- Liquid Retinoid ingredients
- Clay-based rheology ingredients

Retinoids:

- MICROSPONGE® N 720TRA: Retinaldehyde (Retinal) in a **Natural** sustained-release delivery system
- MICROSPONGE® N 718TRE: Retinol stabilized with tocopherol in a polysorbate-free **Natural** sustained-release delivery system
- MICROSPONGE® N 720TRE - Retinol stabilized with tocopherol in a **Natural** sustained-release delivery system
- Retinol C50: 50% liquid Retinol in a BHA-free formulation

Rheology Ingredients:

- Magnabrite® Ultra: Water-washed, low pH Magnesium Aluminum Silicate
- Polargel® NF: USP purified Bentonite

Learn more by contacting HBS at hpcinfo@mineralstech.com or at +1.337.354.1044 | healthbeautysolutions.com

Find us on ULProspector.com



EMPLOYMENT

CAREER CENTER

Connecting Talent with Opportunity

View Jobs and Ads

CAREERS.SCCONLINE.ORG

CALISCC.ORG/CLASSIFIEDS



Stress-Responsive Skincare: How Adaptogens Support the Skin-Mind Axis

In today's culture, consumers are expected to always "be on", from work happy hours, the third run club they've committed to, mandatory family functions, or even the double date their significant other swears they mentioned. This constant state of engagement has become a biological backdrop, shaping how the body, brain, and skin function.^{1,2} As awareness grows around how chronic stress influences energy levels, mood, sleepy quality, and the visible signs of aging, consumer behavior is shifting. Instead of reaching for short-lived stimulants like coffee and specialty lattes, consumers are turning to mushroom teas and functional blends that promise sustained mental clarity without the crash.

This shift reflects a broader understanding of adaptogens, or bioactive botanicals and fungi that help program the body to respond to stress more intelligently by supporting balance rather than overstimulation.³ As wellness philosophies expand from dietary and physical routines into topical skincare, adaptogens are emerging as powerful tools to help skin adapt not only to environmental stressors, but to emotional and physiological pressures as well. By reinforcing resilience at the surface through deeper skin-mind communication pathways, adaptogenic skincare offers meaningful differentiation for brands and tangible benefits for modern consumers.

Adaptogens were first defined in dietary and ingestible applications for their ability to enhance the body's non-specific tolerance to stress while maintaining physiological balance. Rather than acting as either of the extremes (stimulant or suppressant), adaptogens modulate key stress-response systems such as the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, immune regulation, and neuroendocrine signaling.⁴ By influencing these systems, adaptogens allow the body to efficiently adapt to environmental, physical, and emotional stressors, quickly returning to a state of balance rather than sitting in an extended period of activation.

It is important to note this critical distinction between adaptogens and stimulants. While caffeine-influenced stimulation increases short-term alertness by activating the sympathetic nervous system, adaptogens act upstream by improving how stress signals are first interpreted and resolved at the cellular level.¹ This underscores why consumers are increasingly switching toward mushroom teas and functional blends, which support sustained cognitive activity and mood stability without triggering the metabolic and neurological "crash" associated with overstimulation.

Mushrooms and fungi are known to be a great source of adaptogenic bioactives, including β -glucans, triterpenoids, ergothioneine, polysaccharides, and phenolic compounds. Research has shown that these compounds can influence cortisol regulation, mitochondrial efficiency, oxidative stress defense, and inflammatory signaling cascades such as NF- κ B and MAPK pathways.^{5,6} Instead of increasing energy output, these bioactives improve stress tolerance by enhancing cellular adaptability, allowing systems to rebalance more efficiently following stress exposure.

Beyond mushrooms, a wide range of botanical adaptogens have been extensively studied. Botanicals such as *Withania somnifera* (ashwagandha), *Rhodiola rosea*, *Panax ginseng*, *Ocimum sanctum* (holy basil), and *Schisandra chinensis* contain bioactives including withanolides, rosavins, ginsenosides, and lignans that regulate stress-associated pathways, inflammatory responses, and oxidative balance.^{3,4} In topical applications, adaptogens naturally rich in polyphenols and terpenoids have proven anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and barrier-supportive activity, reinforcing their value for stress-compromised skin.^{7,8}

As many other sectors of the wellness category have shifted to personal care, the integration of adaptogens into topical skincare is growing due to the supported understanding of skin as an active neuroendocrine and immunological organ. Cutaneous tissue holds many of the same stress mediators found in the central nervous system, such as corticotropin-releasing hormones (CRH), neuropeptides, cytokines, cortisol, and transient receptor potential (TRP) channels.⁹ When exposed to environmental or psychological stress, these pathways become activated and dysregulated, leading to increased neurogenic inflammation, reduced microcirculation, impaired barrier function, and accelerated skin aging.

When these stress exposures become chronic, increased transepidermal water loss (TEWL), delayed barrier recovery, heightened skin sensitivity, and exacerbation of inflammation become the baseline.¹⁰ Skin under constant stress often shifts into a reactive state, prioritizing defense over repair. This “fight-or-flight” reaction from the skin ultimately compromises long-term skin quality.

Importantly, these stress-induced skin changes are closely linked to mood and emotional perception. The activation of cutaneous sensory receptors and neuropeptides not only influences inflammation and sensitivity but also relay feedback signals that influence how stress is perceived at the central level.¹¹ This bidirectional loop contributes to mood disturbances that are often linked with issues in skin condition, reinforcing the visible connection between emotional stress and skin health.

When topically applied, adaptogens interact with keratinocytes, immune cells, fibroblasts, and sensory nerve endings—all stress-responsive skin cells. Adaptogenic bioactives help modulate neurogenic inflammation by downregulating pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6 and TNF- α while supporting antioxidant defense systems that protect against the accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS).¹² Certain mushroom-derived compounds have also been proven to increase cellular metabolism and enhance mitochondria function, directly fueling high-energy processes such as regeneration, extracellular matrix maintenance, and barrier repair.

By stabilizing stress-signaling communication within the skin, topical adaptogens may also influence mood indirectly through peripheral mechanisms. While topical ingredients do not act directly on the brain, reducing inflammation, discomfort, and sensitivity can dampen peripheral stress signals that contribute to emotional stability.¹³ Emerging neurocosmetic research suggests that refining skin comfort and integrity are commonly associated with enhancing feelings of relaxation, calmness, and well-being.¹⁴ These outcomes align with modern consumer interest in mood-supportive skincare.

Beyond molecular mechanisms, adaptogens also shape the sensory profile of skincare, which plays a critical role in emotional response. The skin is highly concentrated in mechanoreceptors and sensory nerve endings that respond to changes in hydration, temperature, and texture during topical product applications. Improvements in texture, hydration, and barrier integrity activate these cutaneous receptors, cascading signals to the central nervous system that favor parasympathetic activation linked to relaxation and calmness.¹⁵ By minimizing TEWL and inflammatory signaling, adaptogenic systems further decrease stress-associated neural input from the skin. As skincare routines increasingly serve as daily wellness rituals rather than corrective treatments, adaptogens support both emotional experience and biological vitality through repeated, positive interactions with the skin-brain axis.¹⁶

These neurosensory effects are now increasingly quantifiable within cosmetic research. EEG-based methodologies are being used to monitor shifts in distinct brainwave activity during product application, correlating sensorial attributes and application rituals with neural markers associated with attention and relaxation.¹⁷ Alongside these analytical tools, validated mood scales and detailed sensory questionnaires are used to assess how consistent skincare routines influence both emotional perception and skin comfort over time, strengthening the scientific basis for mood-supportive and stress-relieving claims.

Furthermore, adaptogens have the potential to influence microcirculatory function and lymphatic flow, both processes that improve waste removal in stressed skin environments and nutrient delivery.¹⁸ By starting the stabilization of stress signaling at the cutaneous level, adaptogens assist in shifting the skin from a reactive state to a more adaptive, resilient one. This shift promotes a better tolerance of ongoing environmental, emotional, and physiological challenges.

Unlike single-target actives designed to only correct isolated symptoms, adaptogens function as regulators, reinforcing the skin’s capability to maintain homeostasis across multiple biological pathways simultaneously. This makes adaptogenic-skincare particularly relevant for modern personal care by addressing stress-accelerated aging, sensitivity,

dehydration, inflammation, and dullness. By supporting neuroimmune balance, cellular resilience, and oxidative stress, topical adaptogens bridge internal wellness and visible skin performance, establishing adaptogenic skincare as the next evolution in stress-responsive beauty.

References:

1. McEwen, B. S. (2007). *Physiology and neurobiology of stress and adaptation: Central role of the brain*. *Physiological Reviews*, 87(3), 873–904. <https://doi.org/10.1152/physrev.00041.2006>
2. Lupien, S. J., McEwen, B. S., Gunnar, M. R., & Heim, C. (2009). *Effects of stress throughout the lifespan on the brain, behaviour and cognition*. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 10, 434–445. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn2639>
3. Panossian, A., & Wikman, G. (2009). *Evidence-based efficacy of adaptogens in fatigue, and molecular mechanisms related to their stress-protective activity*. *Current Clinical Pharmacology*, 4(3), 198–219. <https://doi.org/10.2174/157488409789375311>
4. Panossian, A., Hamm, R., Wikman, G., & Efferth, T. (2010). *Mechanism of action of adaptogens: Modulation of molecular networks associated with the stress response*. *Phytomedicine*, 17(7), 481–493. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.phymed.2010.01.018>
5. Bishop, K. S., Kao, C. H. J., Xu, Y., Glucina, M. P., Paterson, R. R. M., & Ferguson, L. R. (2015). *From 2000 years of Ganoderma lucidum to recent developments in nutraceuticals*. *Phytochemistry*, 114, 56–65. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.phytochem.2015.02.015>
6. Sohretoglu, D., & Huang, S. (2018). *Ganoderma lucidum polysaccharides as an anti-cancer agent*. *Anticancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry*, 18(5), 667–678. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1871520617666171121123801>
7. Sharifi-Rad, M., Sureda, A., Tenore, G. C., Daglia, M., Sharifi-Rad, J., Valussi, M., & Iriti, M. (2018). *Biological activities of medicinal plants and phytochemicals*. *Molecules*, 23(1), 70. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules23010070>
8. Batiha, G. E.-S., Alqahtani, A., Ojo, O. A., Shaheen, H. M., Wasef, L., Elzeiny, M., ... Hetta, H. F. (2020). *Biological properties, bioactive constituents, and pharmacological effects of Withania somnifera (Ashwagandha)*. *Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity*, 2020, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/4754826>
9. Slominski, A. T., Zmijewski, M. A., Skobowiat, C., Zbytek, B., Slominski, R. M., & Steketeer, J. D. (2013). *Sensing the environment: Regulation of local and global homeostasis by the skin's neuroendocrine system*. *Advances in Anatomy, Embryology and Cell Biology*, 212, 1–115. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-19683-6>
10. Dhabhar, F. S. (2014). *Effects of stress on immune function: The good, the bad, and the beautiful*. *Immunologic Research*, 58, 193–210. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12026-014-8517-0>
11. Peters, E. M. J., Arck, P. C., & Paus, R. (2017). *Hair growth inhibition by psychoemotional stress: A mouse model for neural mechanisms*. *Experimental Dermatology*, 25(8), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1111/exd.13303>
12. Kim, J. Y., Lee, S. Y., Kim, D. H., Kim, J. H., & Kim, J. S. (2019). *Anti-inflammatory effects of mushroom-derived polysaccharides through regulation of NF-κB signaling pathways*. *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*, 137, 828–838. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2019.07.030>
13. Misery, L., Ständer, S., Szepietowski, J. C., Reich, A., Wallengren, J., Evers, A. W. M., ... Schut, C. (2016). *Definition, classification and treatment of sensitive skin*. *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology*, 31, 2–8. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jdv.13884>
14. Rizzi, Vito, et al. "Neurocosmetics in skincare—the fascinating world of skin–brain connection: a review to explore ingredients, commercial products for skin aging, and cosmetic regulation." *Cosmetics* 8.3 (2021): 66.
15. Bennett-Kennett, Ross, et al. "Sensory neuron activation from topical treatments modulates the sensorial perception of human skin." *PNAS nexus* 2.9 (2023): pgad292.
16. Field, T. (2010). *Touch for socioemotional and physical well-being: A review*. *Developmental Review*, 30(4), 367–383. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dr.2011.01.001>
17. Lin, Meng-Hsien, et al. "Applying EEG in consumer neuroscience." *European Journal of Marketing* 52.1/2 (2018): 66-91.
18. Liu, R., Zhang, T., Yang, H., Lan, X., Ying, J., & Du, G. (2018). *Effects of ginseng-derived compounds on microcirculation and oxidative stress*. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 215, 65–73. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2017.12.038>



SOCIETY OF
COSMETIC
CHEMISTS

NEXT GEN >



FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR STUDENTS

Join the Society of Cosmetic Chemists for **free**! Pre-register through the attached QR Code form to enjoy exclusive benefits, networking opportunities, and resources designed for future leaders in the cosmetic chemistry field. Don't miss out!

Become a member of our community today!



North American Representative for Scientific Research and Testing Instruments

AquaFlux Condenser Chamber TEWL system evaluates in vivo integrity of skin barrier function and assesses in vitro and ex vivo characteristics of skin and membranes. May be integrated with Franz cells using custom designed adapters.

Epsilon A novel contact imaging system using a specially calibrated fingerprint sensor to measure and map near surface permittivity and water volume of any soft tissue, in vivo and in vitro.

TiVi700 Spectroscopy System measures microvascular effects of systemic and topically administered vasoactive materials. It is particularly useful for evaluating skin damage, wound healing, and performance of topicals and sunscreens.

TiVi8000 An economical USB powered camera probe version of the TiVi700.

DUB SkinScanner High frequency Dermatologic Ultrasound for precise measurement of skin thickness and density. It is particularly useful for delivering high resolution images of nevae and subsurface dermal structures.

C-Cube A newly introduced stereophotometry system for capturing 3D high resolution images of the skin with detailed color calibrated texture. Assesses skin and hair color, wrinkles, pores, pigmentation, lesions, and other microstructural components with unrivaled detail and accuracy. Hand held probe, USB powered. Includes in vitro accessories.

Neurometer CPT/C A neurosensory threshold testing system for objective assessment of skin sensitivity, skin irritation, and itch propensity. Ideal for documenting subtle changes for claims support.

STE, Inc. * 8209 Rider Ave * Towson, MD 21204 * 410-821-8441
Contact: George Kramer gkramer@SkinTestEquip.com

BioX AquaFlux

BioX Epsilon

WheelsBridge

tpm
taberna pro medicum

PIXIENCE
HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



Neurotron, Incorporated

MORSE

proudly representing

Rheolab, Inc.

Concentrated Aloe Corporation

Morse Chemical, Inc., 736 West Santa Anita St., San Gabriel, CA 91776

Tel: 626.457.1196

Fax: 626.282.2425

KOSTER  KEUNEN

No matter who the product is for, you can trust Koster Keunen's quality for all of your formulation needs.

We've got a wax for that™



UNITED STATES | NETHERLANDS | TOGO | EARTH | www.kosterkeunen.com

BARNET

Your Partner in Driving Beauty Innovation



Barnet Products is your trusted partner in next-generation beauty solutions. Backed by 38+ years of expertise, we deliver tested ingredients, advanced formulations, and tailored support for brands across every retail channel.

Contact us today for more information on our product offerings and our exclusive Suite of Services

sales@barnetproducts.com | www.barnetproducts.com

NEXTGEN

Upcoming NextGen Events

February 5th : UC Berkeley - Aurum Cosmetics

NextGen will be holding an event with UC Berkeley's Aurum Cosmetics, a community that gathers and creates meaningful relationships between potential beauty enthusiasts, and beauty businesses.

March 6th: CSU Dominguez Hills - Girls Empowerment Summit

NextGen will be partnering with Evonik for our 2nd year in participating in the Girls Empowerment Summit put on by Gracious Oasis! Here, we will be exposing the industry with presentations and formula demonstrations to students from middle school to high school.

March 27th: Los Angeles County Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference

NextGen will have a booth at this conference where we'll be able to expose the industry to women educators across Los Angeles County. These connections lead us to be able to partner with schools they are employed at to bring Cali SCC to their campus! **Volunteers needed - Universal Sheraton**



The NextGen initiative was launched in 2015 by the Society of Cosmetic Chemists to address the needs of early careerists, young professionals and undergraduate/post-graduate students in the cosmetics and personal care industry. The initiative consists of special education, networking and other events specifically designed to assist the "next generation" of formulators, innovators, and ground-breakers in the industry.



ACME
HARDESTY

BEAUTY begins here.

Safe, sustainable,
bio-based ingredients
for personal care.

800.223.7054 • acme-hardesty.com



PersonalCareUS@omya.com | omyapersonalcare.us



Partner with Omya

Create the perfect personal care formulation using
high-quality, natural, and globally sourced ingredients.

Now proudly representing



Nouryon

AAK

everCARE

ALCHEMY
Ingredients

KAHL
Beauty Care Products

Quimivita
Lively Innovation



Shaping tomorrow's beauty through innovation and formulation expertise

Explore what's next with IMCD experts
and access:

- High-quality ingredient portfolio
- On-trend product concepts and demos
- Formulation expertise
- Market insights

IMCD, collaborating with you to shape
tomorrow's beauty.

W www.imcdus.com T +1 800 729 8900 E info@imcdus.com





PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN COSMETIC CHEMISTRY

Join the California Society of Cosmetic Chemists
endorsed program!

As the hub of creativity and innovation in the industry, the
West Coast scientist requires training specific to their needs.

Including over 48 hours of hands-on formulating experience
to be a leader in the lab & for your team.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT for California SCC !

\$4550 MEMBERS
\$5265 NON-MEMBERS



CHECK US OUT!

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL DR. KERRY HANSON
KERRYH@UCR.EDU

Meet Some of Our Instructors

Valerie George: extension.ucr.edu/features/valeriegeorge
Dr. Ryan Kudla: www.youtube.com/watch?v=79xU3fRnBNY
Esther Olu: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXFIOzf2GVO&t=4s

QUARTER	COURSES
1	Introduction to Cosmetic Science
2	Skin & Hair Biology
3	Emulsion & Surfactant Technology + Lab
4	Product Development w/ Independent Project + Lab

ONLINE LECTURES HANDS-ON LABS

- Move from theory to practice with 48 hours of hands-on lab training
- Labs conveniently held on weekends in August & November
- Cohort 4 begins Jan 2027

JANUARY MEETING



GREENDIOL™

(2,3-Butanediol (and) Water)

100% BIO BASED
SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE
TO BUTYLENE GLYCOL

derived from fermented
sugarcane biomass

moisturizing
benefits

preservative
boosting properties



info@presperse.com | www.presperse.com



DORSETT & JACKSON, INC.

Since 1955, The Specialty Ingredient
Source For Your Next Great Innovation

ALLURE GLOW

Fluorescent Pigments,
Glow in the Dark Pigments

BOMAR SPECIALTIES

Specialty UV Oligomers

CALOY NATURAL OILS

Natural Nut Oils

ELKEM SILICONES

Cosmetic Grade Silicones
Vinyl Silicone Polymers

HOCKMEYER

Immersion Mills, High Viscosity Mixers,
Dispersers and Agitators, Discharge
Presses, CMX-200 Tank Washer

KRONOS

Titanium Dioxide

NATURE COATINGS

Bio-Based Carbon Black Pigments

REAXIS

Hydrogen Peroxide Stabilizers

RESOLUTE OIL

Petrolatum USP
White Mineral Oil Kosher
& Halal

SAPI VALIDA

Natural Cellulose

SHAMROCK

Specialty Waxes

SPECIALTY MINERALS

Calcium Carbonate, Talc

STRAHL & PITTSCH

Cosmetic Grade Waxes

US POLYMERS-ACCUREZ

Polyurethane Resin,
Nitro-Cellulosic Resins

323-268-1815

www.dorsettandjackson.com

Serving the industry
since 1982

SURFACTANTS
PRESERVATIVES
QUATERNARIES
ESTERS
EMULSION BASES
SUNSCREENS

VITAMIN E ACETATE
OILS & BUTTERS
WAXES
SILICONES
COLORS
CBD OILS

REPRESENTING:

ALZO International Inc.

RENEE

CB MINERALS LLC

Classic Fine Ingredients

Classic SURFACTANTS

LINCOLN MFG. USA, Multi-Function Chemistry by Nature

OnScent

PILOT

Scargo Labs

SCT

ambien chemical & labors



www.classicdistrib.com | orders@classicdistrib.com | 818-367-4475



Contract Manufacturing
Custom Private Label

- Natural Product Manufacturing for Global Markets
- Complete R&D Formulation & Expedited Samples
- Bath Salt & Bath Crystals & Dry Blending Specialists
- Anti-Aging Skincare & Bath & Body & Spa & Baby Care
- Low Pricing & 1,000 - 500,000 Piece Runs

714.854.1601 | info@botanx.com
Anoheim, CA 92806

www.botanx.com



ACTIVES

INTERNATIONAL, L.L.C.

Born in Nature ~ Nurtured with Science

ViaPure® • ViaFerm®

High purity extracts & ferments
Natural & sustainable

201-236-2828
www.activesinternational.com

West Coast Agent:
Global Ingredient Solutions
714-884-3872
www.ingsolutions.com

JANUARY MEETING





Supplying a wide selection of high-quality personal care ingredients

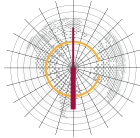


www.ritacorp.com

Regulatory Without Borders™

Expert International Regulatory Consulting

- **US FDA** Registrations
- **GMPs** (FDA, ISO 22716)
- California **Prop 65, CFFIRKA**
- **EU/UK** Compliance
- **Canada** Registrations



International Cosmetics

info@intlcosmetics.com | intlcosmetics.com | +1-310-545-3223



actively caring



CSR program
Naturally committed to a sustainable world

www.silab.fr

zero

GRANULAR POWDER OR FLAKE

A SOLID CHOICE FOR YOUR NEXT SHAMPOO BAR

southern-chemical.com/zero



CollPerfect™ P6
Bio-optimized collagen peptide for ageless beauty




Mibelle AG Biochemistry | Switzerland | mibellebiochemistry.com

NETZSCH

Homogenizers
Mixers
Emulsifiers
Bead Mills

Call now to schedule a test!
(800)676-6455



Andisil®

Silicone Raw Materials for Custom Solutions



WWW.ANDISIL-PERSONAL-CARE.COM
WAUKEGAN, IL | 908 376-1360

SCY

southern chemical & textiles
"The Art of Innovation"
www.southern-chemical.com

- Betaines
- Sultaines
- Sulfates
- Amine Oxides
- Amphoteric
- Amides
- Specialty Anionics
- Concentrates




653 Pilek Rd., Dalton, GA 30721 • 706-277-3983

GAR LABORATORIES

Formulate Package
CUSTOM MANUFACTURING HAIR CARE & SKIN CARE PRODUCTS

Low cost industrial quantities from 5,000 to 5 million pieces
GAR Laboratories Does It!

info@GARLabs.com

CALL: 951-788-0700 | WWW.GARLABS.COM



Introducing our **NEW** 100% BIO-BASED **ECO RANGE** of Surfactants



LEARN MORE

CRODA

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Renewal Reminder



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW TODAY! LATE FEES APPLY SOON!

The California Chapter of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists is the 2nd largest chapter in North America thanks to you. Please renew your membership today so that you can continue to be part of our scientific community. In the next Issue we will let you know our progress towards increasing our membership. Remember there are so many benefits of being a member, here are a few!

The Quickest and Easiest Way to Renew is Online!

To pay online go to www.scconline.org/sign-in and login using the username and password you set up. If you have not set up your username and password on our new database please go to www.scconline.org/join and create your own.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- You can attend the California Chapter meetings & all other chapter's meeting at the member rate.
- Attend almost all events at a discounted rate!
- Receive the Journal of Cosmetic Science complimentary
- Exclusive Membership Directory
- Complimentary membership in the International Federation of the Societies of Cosmetic Chemist (IFSCC)
- Check out more perks at www.scconline.org/Membership



VIVION

Ingredient Solutions for all of
YOUR
 Personal Care & Cosmetic Needs

Contact Us: (650) 595-3600 or
 Sales: scsales@vivioninc.com

LBB Specialties

Technical
 Solutions Provider
 in Personal Care



Our Subsidiaries

aic

@CENTERCHEM

Charkit Chemical Company

CustomChemicals



Dien

sales@lbbspecialties.com

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

CHAIR

Matt Driver
mdriver@stepan.com

SECRETARY

Kenton Hipsher
kenton.hipsher@lucasmeyercosmetics.com

TREASURER-ELECT

Elle Kim
elle.kim@barentz.com

2026 ADVISOR, 2025 CHAIR

Brittney Strickland
brittney.strickland@croda.com

CHAIR ELECT

Stephanie Facuri
stephani.facuri@solabia.com

TREASURER

Serina Dai
sdai@paklab.com

AREA III DIRECTOR I

Michelle Hines
mdh2478@yahoo.com

AREA III DIRECTOR II

Michelle Carrillo
mcarrillo@acteraingredients.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AWARDS CHAIR

Mayra Delgado
mrdelgado@ingsolutions.com

EDUCATIONAL HOUR

Ryan Kudla
rkudla@barnetproducts.com

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

Nondie Breashears
breshearsn@ajiusa.com

SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR 2026

Jennifer Curtis
jennifer.curtis@lubrizol.com

BY-LAWS

James Neil
james@suitupbrands.com

ELECTIONS

Stephanie Facuri
stephanie.facuri@solabia.com

NEXTGEN DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Nasrat Hamid
nasrat.hamid@jpms.com

COMMUNICATION CHAIR

Catherine Hoang
choang@cattech.com

COSMEGRAM CHAIR

Josie Wauford
josie.wauford@lubrizol.com

EMPLOYMENT

Mike Bekerejian
mike@aboverinaldilabs.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Evan Werkema
elwerkema@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION CO-CHAIR

Raymond Sullivan
raymond.sullivan@lucasmeyercosmetics.com

COSMEGRAM BUSINESS MANAGER

Brian Kolevar
bkolevar@coastsouthwest.com

HISTORIAN

Erica Herrel
ericaherrel@yahoo.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Gabby Zaccagino
gzaccagino@paklab.com

SPONSORSHIP

Diane Horne
dhorne@lipotrue.com

DINNER DANCE

Elle Kim
elle.kim@barentz.com

HOSPITALITY

Amanda Lam
amanda.lam@azelis.com

REGISTRATION CHAIR

Joel St. John
joel@leftcoastprocess.com

SUMMER EVENT

Stephanie Facuri
stephanie.facuri@solabia.com

SPORTS CO-CHAIRS

Catherine Hoang
choang@cattech.com

HOUSE

Stephen Baseman
stephenb@tcrindustries.com

REGISTRATION CO-CHAIR

Sara Benoit
newladyjoy30@yahoo.com

SUPPLIERS' DAY 2027

Erin Breve
ebreve@barnetproducts.com

SPORTS CO-CHAIRS

Chris Lesko
clesko@cattech.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Joey Bilotta
jbilotta.scc@gmail.com

REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Ariana Farina
afarina20@hotmail.com

SUPPLIERS' DAY 2027 AFTER PARTY

Velvet Arriola
varriola@norfoxchem.com

The Cosmegram is the official newsletter of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists - California Chapter. This newsletter is published as a service to our members. The subscription is included as part of membership dues. All rights reserved.

Josie Wauford - Editor
josie.wauford@lubrizol.com

Advertising inquiries to:
Brian Kolevar - Business Manager
(p) (714) 904-6047
(f) (714) 524-8362
(e) bkolevar@coastsouthwest.com

Address changes & subscription inquiries to:
Nondie Breashears - Membership
breshearsn@ajiusa.com