

COSMEGRAM

May 2026 • Vol 56 | Issue 5



MONTHLY MEETING - MAY 2026

Rheology 101: Why Your Products Flow and Feel Like They Do

Speaker: Todd Squires - Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, UC Santa Barbara

Almost everybody learns that there are three states of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. And yet many cosmetic products defy this simple classification – a lotion sits in a pile on your hand like a solid, but flows like a liquid when spread. Rheology is the study of how and why these materials flow and deform – and lies at the heart of the sensory qualities that are key to product performance and differentiation. I will describe different flow properties and develop mental models of how key ingredients behave microscopically to cause this behavior. My goal is to help you understand your formulations in this way, and therefore to help you optimize product performance, troubleshoot failures at the bench and on the production floor, and design entirely new products.



Todd Squires has served as a Professor of Chemical Engineering at UC Santa Barbara since 2005 and is a proud faculty advisor of UCSB's SCC student chapter. His research group studies the dynamics of soft materials and complex fluids, both experimentally and theoretically. Recent areas of interest include interfacial rheology of surfactant monolayers, in the context of the lung surfactant, emulsion and foam stability, the conceptual design of formulated products, and diffusiphoretic delivery of suspended colloids and droplets.

Honors include the NSF CAREER award, the Beckman Young Investigator, the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar award, the inaugural GSOF Early Career Award in Soft Matter, and a fellowship in the American Physical Society.



May 12, 2026
5:30 – 8:30 PM



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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 21	THE BOX SF San Francisco, CA
MAY 12	DUKE'S Malibu, CA
JUN 6	DINNER DANCE Long Beach, CA
JUN 27	SUMMER EVENT Santa Monica, CA
SEP TBD	AVENUE OF THE ARTS Costa Mesa, CA
SEP TBD	Golf Outting Anaheim, CA
SEP 22	SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR Los Angeles, CA
NOV	TBD
DEC 1-2	SCC 80th ANNUAL MEETING Los Angeles, CA

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Hamed Ravanbakhsh

Was there a defining moment that led you into the industry?

My background in chemistry naturally led me into formulation, but the defining moment was realizing how science directly translates into consumer experience. The ability to take raw materials and transform them into functional, sensory-driven products made the field both technically challenging and creatively rewarding.

What motivates you most in your career today? How has your career evolved since you first started?

What motivates me most is solving complex formulation challenges and bringing innovative concepts to market efficiently. Over time, my role has evolved from hands-on formulation to leading R&D strategy, managing cross-functional teams, and bridging technical development with commercial execution.

Any advice you would like to give to someone entering the cosmetic field today?

Spend as much time as possible in the lab. Real formulation knowledge comes from experimentation, not just theory. Also, understand raw material functionality deeply—this is critical for troubleshooting and innovation.

Do you prefer being a minimalist formulator or a 35 ingredient masterpiece creator?

It depends on the objective. I generally prefer efficient, well-optimized formulations, but I'm open to complex systems when they provide clear functional or sensory benefits.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Hamed Ravanbakhsh

What is your favorite type of product to formulate? Or what are you the best at formulating?

I enjoy developing complex, multi-functional skincare and haircare products that integrate advanced and trend-forward ingredients such as peptides and exosome-inspired technologies. I focus on creating formulations that deliver measurable performance while maintaining stability, compatibility, and a refined sensory profile.

Is there a type of product that you use daily?

I maintain a consistent routine both in the morning and before bed, using products such as eye creams and anti-aging serums, along with treatments focused on scalp and hair health.

What's the most "chemist" thing about you outside of work?

I tend to analyze personal care products whenever I come across them—whether in retail stores or across social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram. I naturally evaluate ingredient choices, formulation structure, and performance claims, often breaking down how the product is designed to function and whether it aligns with its positioning. It's difficult to turn off that mindset.

a little bit more about Hamed:

My professional interests extend beyond formulation into the broader intersection of science, innovation, and product commercialization. Outside of work, I prioritize physical activity to maintain balance—regularly going to the gym and jogging after work as a way to reset and stay focused. I also have a strong interest in automotive innovation, particularly in high-performance cars, and I closely follow emerging technologies and upcoming developments in that space. I also enjoy attending car shows and experiencing new models firsthand.



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Tuesday
September 22nd

10-6pm

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THE SKIN FRONTIER: FUTURE OF SKIN CARE

Time	Agenda
9:00-10:00 AM	Check In and Coffee
10:00-12:00 PM	Panel Discussion: Dermatologies & Chemist Owned Brands
12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch/ Networking
1:30-3:00 PM	Panel Discussion: Innovative Active Ingredient Suppliers
3:15-4:30 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Susan Yara
4:30-6:00PM	Happy Hour: Network & Mingle with Colleagues



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Susan Yara

Founder of the popular beauty YouTube channel Mixed Makeup and the co-founder of NATURIUM.

2026 SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR

THE SKIN FRONTIER: FUTURE OF SKIN CARE

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[Check It Out Here!](#)



BAY AREA
APRIL MEETING

Congratulations



Jenna Dinh
CASCC Student Member

Winner: Jenna Dinh (Far Right) is a soon-to-be graduate of San Jose State University and has been heavily involved in CASCC during her undergraduate studies.

Jenna's also participated in CASCC's Future Chemist Workshop and has received her Cosmetic Chemistry Professional Certificate from the UC Riverside Extension program. Congrats, Jenna!

Our winner received:

A ticket to our Scientific Seminar in September, a \$300 value!

Did you know?

Speaker presentations are uploaded for CASCC members on our website!

Here's how you can access them:

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1. Click on Meetings at the top of the website
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Cosmetic Product Development

Speaker: Krissie Gerrard
Owner of Envy Cosmetic Consulting



 Tuesday, February 18, 2025

 5:00-8:00 PM

 westdrift Manhattan Beach

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Regulatory Updates

USA

FDA

- Expanding it's warning for gel nail removers due to presence of banned Methylene Chloride.
- Warning Letters – issued to the manufacturer of SPF products for cGMP violations.

CIR

- In March, introduced safety assessments for ingredients. 4 determined to be safe (Cocoyl Hydrolyzed Collagens), several with tentative monographs and several with insufficient evidence noted.

California

- SCP:
 - a. Green Ribbon Science Panel held on April 30 and May 1, 2026.
 - b. Made a series of edits to it's chemical list, mostly clerical errors but also the listing of Sulfur Dioxide was updated.
 - c. On April 24, 2026 a 15 day comment period was announced for the proposal to list 1,4 Dioxane in Shampoos and Dish Detergents at conc. Greater than 1 ppm.
 - d. Listed MMA as a conc. Greater than 1000 ppm in nail products a priority category effective April 1, 2026.
- EPR:
 - a. Manufacturers of single-use packaging – Stakeholder reports due May 31, 2026.
 - b. SB 54 – approved on May 1, 2026. Companies have 30 days to sign up with the PRO or sign up independently or apply for a small producer exemption.

New Mexico

- 2025 Per- & Poly-fluorinated Protection Act – Any product containing intentionally added PFAs will need to have a specified symbol on packaging of cosmetics as of Jan. 1, 2027.

Utah

- HB-493 Feminine Hygiene Product Labeling-One part of this is menstrual products must list an ingredient list on the label or technology like a website might be used printed on the label to provide this same info-Compliance date of Dec. 1, 2027.

Regulatory Updates

USA

New York

- NYC No-136-For Menstrual and Intimate Care Products- Bans for sale products that contain intentionally added and unintentionally added of the following will have limits set. Any product that contains the following above these limits will be on a public list on the government website: lead, mercury and related compounds, formaldehyde, triclosan, toluene, talc, dibutyl phthalate, di(2)exylhexyl phthalate, butylphenyl methylpropional, and isobutyl-, isopropylparaben, butylparaben, propylparaben, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and fragrance.

Virginia

- Human and Toxin-Free Cosmetics Act (House Bill 122)- Governor signed cosmetic ingredient ban on April, 13, 2026. The list of ingredients is similar to what we have seen banned in other states, such as California.

Kentucky

- KY SB 73 / KY BR 1323- For tallow based cosmetic products, an update of current regulations providing safety and guidance for homemade tallow cosmetic products.

INTERNATIONAL

Canada

- Health Canada – The cosmetic notification form have been updates so most fragrance allergens don't need to report a quantity present is present at 0.01% or below (leave-one) or 0.001 (rinse off) products., but there are exceptions to this noted on the hotlist.
- Health Canada - Sent out a reminder of the “Canadian Product Safety Pledge” that companies can choose to sign.
- SCCS
 - a. Reviewing the safety of Heliotropin in Fin Fragrances.
 - b. Updated the EU Cosmetic Regulations lists of prohibited ingredients, restricted ingredients, and restricted preservatives.
 - c. Issued final opinions of Micron-sized Silver and CBD..



Ariana Farina

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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.

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