



NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

The SCC Ontario Chapter's Newsletter



October 2025

Volume CXX

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IN THIS ISSUE...

- SCC ONTARIO CHAPTER MEETING page 1,2
- ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE..... page 5
- "How to create foaming formulas - essential learning"..... page 8
- BOWLING NIGHT OCTOBER 23RD!!..... page 9
- SEPTEMBER EDUCATION DAY RECAP..... page 11
- SENECA CAPSTONE FINALE 2025..... page 13
- UPCOMING EVENTS..... page 19

SCC ONTARIO CHAPTER LUNCH MEETING

"Confocal Raman Microscopy: Unravelling the
mysteries of Skin Sciences "

- Dr. Ayush Chowdhry

November 6th, 2025

PRE-REGISTER FOR CHAPTER MEETING

Simply click on the button below which will take you to our registration page. You can then either pay at the door or pay with credit card in advance or at the door. Please make your reservation before the Monday prior to the meeting.



**Click Here
To Register**





SCC ONTARIO CHAPTER LUNCH MEETING

“Confocal Raman Microscopy: Unravelling the mysteries of
Skin Sciences ”

-Dr. Ayush Chowdhry

November 6th, 2025



Location	The Venetian Banquet Centre 219 Romina Drive, Vaughan		Category	In-Person Attendance	Virtual Attendance
Time	12:30 p.m. Registration/Networking		SCC Member (Pre-paid)	\$60	\$50
	1:00 p.m. Lunch		Non-Member (Pre-paid)	\$70*	\$60*
	2:00 p.m. Presentation		Student (Pre-paid)	\$30	\$20
			At the Door (All)	\$75	Not Available

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NEW

Abstract:

Confocal Raman microscopy (CRM) is a vibrational spectroscopy-based technique widely used across various scientific fields, including biology, chemistry, forensics and diagnostics. In the context of skin research, this technique has proven to be invaluable due to its chemically selective nature, non-destructive sample analysis and high spatial resolution in 3D. In penetration and delivery sciences, CRM offers an alternative method for tracking the delivery of active ingredients, presenting a less labour-intensive option compared to the traditional HPLC based tape-tripping method. At DECIEM, CRM forms an integral part of understanding the functionality of our ingredients in the skin as well as in formulation. Its versatility is fully utilized in developing the penetration profiles of actives in real world scenarios and in analysing penetration rate between similar formulations. We have made considerable progress in developing novel in-house CRM based methods. For instance, we routinely use an in-house CRM method to elucidate the hydration effects of moisturizing formulations. We are also studying the effect of co-application of two formulations in a regimen using CRM – which provides insights into optimal regimen combinations for enhanced penetration of both actives. We have expanded our Raman expertise to analyze barrier based studies, evaluating the barrier repair effects of certain formulations. These investigations demonstrate the versatility of this technique and highlight the vast potential CRM holds in the field of cosme-to-sciences.

Biography:

Dr. Ayush Chowdhry is the **Acting Principal Scientist, Delivery Sciences, Clinical Research (Global)** at DECIEM, where he plays a key role in advancing delivery technologies to support the company's new product development initiatives. With **over 3 years of experience at DECIEM**, Ayush has demonstrated a remarkable career progression from Scientist II to Senior Scientist and now to Acting Principal Scientist.

As a **Subject Matter Expert (SME) in Delivery Sciences**, Ayush spearheaded the establishment of delivery science capabilities at DECIEM, employing **Confocal Raman Microscopy (CRM)** to deepen the understanding of delivery mechanisms in skin and related tissues. His expertise guides a small team of gifted scientists, mentoring their growth and developing their skills to drive innovation within the department.

Dr. Chowdhry holds a **B.Tech and M.Tech in Biotechnology**, alongside a **PhD in Biotechnology with a specialization in Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering**. His passion for science underpins his achievements, and his leadership reflects a strong blend of technical expertise and a forward-thinking approach. Ayush is committed to strengthening delivery science at DECIEM, helping translate cutting-edge research into impactful, consumer-centric products.



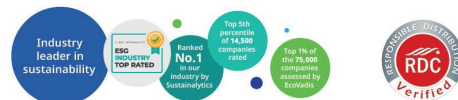


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THE SCC ONTARIO CHAPTER

HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE!

Save the Date

Friday, December 5th 2025

We are returning to
The Venetian Banquet & Hospitality Centre,
 219 Romina Drive, Vaughan.

We start the evening at 6:00 p.m. by enjoying
 the specialties from the antipasto table.
 Dinner will follow at 7:15 p.m. SHARP.
 The dance floor will be open until 1:00 a.m. and you can
 enjoy a sweets table following dinner.

Reserve Early and Save.
 Early bird pricing up to November 1st is \$180.00 per person.
 After the November 1st deadline the price is \$200.00 per person.






TOY DRIVE SickKids

PHOTOS

MENU

Venetian Deluxe Antipasto Station - Butternut Squash Soup
Fresh Chives & Creme Fraiche - Risotto with Asparagus
Entrée Braised Beef Shortrib - Red Wine Reducton - Pescatarian Filet of Salmon
Vegetarian Eggplant Parm & Vegetable Strudel
Vegetables Broccoli & Mashed Potato
Dessert Station - Specialty Coffee Station - Venetian Deluxe Bar

Sponsorship Opportunities Available This Year

Platinum - \$1000  • Featured, in largest print on event signage • Company logo will be displayed on website and all e-blast for Holiday Dinner event in largest print • Table spotlight at the event • Free registration for upcoming chapter meeting for 2 people for February meeting	Gold - \$750  • Company logo will be prominently displayed in event space • Company logo will be displayed on website • Free registration for upcoming chapter meeting for 1 person for February meeting
Silver - \$500  • Company logo will be displayed in signage in event space • Company logo will be displayed on website	Bronze - \$200  • Name will be highlighted on the sponsor cards included on each table and will be acknowledged at prize giveaway

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Contact us: Kashif Mazhar Email : kashif@vivachem.ca Tel: (416) 624-8566
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How to create foaming formulas - essential learning

Belinda Carli, 09/2025

When it comes to cleaning the body, hands, face or hair, you're going to need to know how to combine a few different types of surfactant ingredients to get the best results in terms of cleansing power, pleasing foam and suitable wash off sensation.

We also get asked: why do foaming formulas contain so many ingredients?

Let's take a foundational look at how to create foaming formulas...

ESSENTIAL SURFACTANTS USED IN FOAMING FORMULAS

There are 3 main classes of cleansing surfactants; a foaming formula will generally need at least 2 of these, but for better performance, foam, cleansing and wash off feeling, all 3 should be used. For more premium products and where the budget allows, two materials from the non-ionic subcategories should be included. Watch also:

- ♦ [how surfactants are different;](#)
- ♦ [Choosing surfactants webinar](#)

The 3 main classes of cleansing surfactants are:

- ♦ anionic (negatively charged):
 - anionic surfactants provide the strongest clean out of the foaming surfactants because their charge helps pull dirt and soils away from the hair and skin. Unfortunately, because they carry such a strong charge and cleansing action, their input needs to be limited and complemented by the use of at least one non-ionic surfactant or amphoteric material.
 - common INCI names you may be familiar with include sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium lauroyl sarcosinate, sodium cocoyl isethionate, sodium cocoyl methyl taurate and sodium cocoyl glutamate.
- ♦ amphoteric (positively charged in an acidic environment, negatively charged in an alkaline environment):
 - these materials are fantastic to boost foam and mildness in foaming formulas when paired with an anionic surfactant.
 - common INCI names you may be familiar with include cocamidopropyl betaine or cocoamphoacetate.



Continued on page 12

**Ontario
Society of Cosmetic
Chemists Presents**

BOWLING NIGHT



Bowl. Win. Laugh. Repeat. Great prizes, good times, and new friends await!

Multiple chances to win prizes – don't split, come join us!

OCTOBER
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6:00 PM

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[Register Online](#)

The Society of Cosmetic Chemists Ontario Chapter (SCC Ontario) is dedicated to providing the best possible experience for our members and potential members. We want to hear from you! Your feedback is essential in shaping our events, networking opportunities, and educational programs to better serve our growing community.

💡 Why Your Input Matters:

- ✔ Influence the future of SCC Ontario events and initiatives
- ✔ Ensure we meet the needs of our members and potential members
- ✔ Help create a stronger, more connected community
- ✔ Have a direct impact on the programs and resources we offer

 Your opinion counts! Click the circle to the right to take the survey

 Your responses are completely confidential, and your email address will not be shared.



Your feedback helps us grow and evolve to better serve **you**. Thank you for being a valuable part of the SCC Ontario community!

Looking forward to your insights,
Society of Cosmetic Chemists – Ontario Chapter



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address to receive SCC
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Recap

SCC Ontario Education Day

Attendees Take Deep Dive into the Skin Microbiome



On **September 25th**, the **SCC Ontario Chapter** hosted its annual **Education Day**, featuring the **SCC National One Day Continuing Education Course (CEP)** titled *"Fundamentals of Microbiome for the Cosmetics Industry."* The full-day session brought together **64 attendees** from across the cosmetic and personal care industry for a focused exploration of how microbiome science is shaping the next generation of skincare innovation.

The course opened with an engaging overview of **microbiology fundamentals**, introducing the three domains of life and clarifying the roles of **pathogenic** versus **commensal** microbes. Attendees gained an appreciation for the diversity of microorganisms living on the skin — from bacteria and fungi to viruses and protozoa — and their critical role in maintaining skin health.

From there, the discussion broadened to the **human microbiome** as a whole, highlighting discoveries from the **Human Microbiome Project** and their influence on fields ranging from gut and brain research to cosmetic formulation. Emerging topics such as **antibiotic resistance** and **bacteriophage therapy** underscored how microbiology continues to evolve and intersect with product development.



The heart of the day focused on the **skin microbiome**, with in-depth discussions on key species like *Cutibacterium acnes*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, and *Corynebacterium* spp., alongside insights into fungi and the expanding field of the **skin virome**. Participants also examined modern analytical tools such as **metagenomics** and explored how brands are substantiating "microbiome" and "microbiome-friendly" product claims.



The session concluded with a forward-looking conversation about the **future of microbiome research**, including its potential impact on regulations, product development, and consumer perception. The takeaway was clear — microbiome science is not a passing trend but a fundamental shift in how the industry approaches skin health.

Overall, SCC Ontario's Education Day successfully combined scientific depth with real-world relevance, leaving attendees with a sharper understanding of how the microbiome will continue to shape the cosmetics industry for years to come.

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- ♦ non-ionic (no net charge):
 - non-ionic surfactants are generally to boost functionality of the foaming formula, such as boosting mildness, foam, viscosity or wash off skin feel.
 - non-ionic surfactants can be broken down into sub-categories:
 - ✓ foamers: these boost foam, cleansing and mildness. These materials have INCI names such as coco-glucoside.
 - ✓ solubilisers: these materials help solubilise any oil ingredients present (such as essential oils or fragrance), boost stability, improve after wash off skin feel and mildness. Common INCI names include polysorbate-20 or PEG-40 hydrogenated castor oil.
 - ✓ superfatting: these are the main sub-category to give a beautifully soft wash off feeling to a foaming formula. Common INCI names you will see include PEG-60 almond glycerides, glyceryl oleate, sucrose cocoate or polyglyceryl-3 caprate.

HOW TO COMBINE SURFACTANTS FOR FOAMING FORMULAS

A typical foaming formula will be composed of:

We say 'active' content, because many surfactants come as dilutions. For example, sodium lauryl sulfate may come as a 30% liquid (30% SLS, 70% water), 70% paste (70% SLS, 30% water) or >95% powder (consider it as 100% SLS).

Anionic surfactant	PLUS	Amphoteric surfactant	PLUS	Non-ionic surfactant
Anionic surfactant		Amphoteric surfactant		Non-ionic surfactant
* typically used at 3-7% active content (total) from 1-3 anionic surfactants		* typically used at 3-7% active content (1 amphoteric only)		* typically used at 1.5 – 3% active content (total) from 1-3 non-ionic surfactants
* usually best cleansing and foaming action		* usually boosts foam, mildness and viscosity		* selected to boost overall functionality e.g. conditioning, marketing story, mildness, foam, viscosity. Remember superfatting agents are non-ionic surfactants too!
* the actual type/s used are selected to suit needs of formula e.g. budget vs salon quality vs baby products		* often incorporated in all types of foaming formulas		* selections are made to really boost functionality and performance in formulations or these may be omitted to save costs in budget formulations

So, if we want to include 5% anionic surfactant, we would need 16.67% of a 30% active liquid; 7.14% of a 70% active paste or 5% of a >95% powder. Each scenario still yields 5% active anionic surfactant but the liquid vs. paste vs. powder may be selected to suit processing capabilities or price. This is why [when it comes to writing up formulas, you need to specify either the trade name or surfactant dilution to ensure the right materials are used when it comes to manufacturing your formula in a factory.](#)

Watch also:

- [How to formulate a basic surfactant](#)
- [Easy natural surfactant formulas](#)

Continued on page 14

Important Notice



SENECA CAPSTONE FINALE 2025

On August 14th we celebrated another wonderful Capstone finale. Each of the Teams worked with a supplier this semester as a thank you for the 9 years of support the companies have provided. The Teams used suggested materials from the supplier to highlight their ingredients in creating a product.

Team Andicor created Yerba Mate power boost cream from upcycled yerba mate tea. **Team Dempsey** created AquaMer Daily Moisture Gel Cream infused with bio-based ingredients. **Team Quadra** created a Hair Density serum with a plant based prebiotic for scalp comfort. **Team Essential Ingredients** created an Iced Matcha Jelly Serum stick with actives inspired by Traditional Chinese medicine.

All were amazing products! For the awards we had:

Project Manager sponsored by Andicor -
Veronica Alisha Palma

Packaging Manager sponsored by Quadra - Jovelle Libunoa
and Rachel Finn

Formulation Manager sponsored by Essential Ingredients -
Zoe Janakovic

Marketing Manager sponsored by Provital - Zoe Janakovic and
Jade Cheung

Quality Manager sponsored by Dempsey - Lisa Su

Regulatory Manager sponsored by Andicor -
Chrys Abigail Salazar

Team Award sponsored by SCC Ontario - Essential Ingredients
Team (Zoe Janakovic, Jade Cheung, Jovelle Libunoa and Rachel Finn)



HOW TO ADJUST VISCOSITY OF FOAMING FORMULAS

When using an anionic surfactant with an amphoteric surfactant, this combination will often help a foaming formula thicken on its own. When you want to use all natural/naturally derived surfactants, however, it is much harder to thicken formulas. Ways to thicken foaming formulas include:

- using an anionic and amphoteric surfactant in suitable proportions; or
- using a gum or polymer that is compatible in a foaming surfactant environment; or
- using a high HLB waxy emulsifying agent as a non-ionic superfatting material (where it is compatible with foaming surfactants) or
- adding salt to salt-responsive surfactants.

Thickening foaming formulas is quite an involved topic and will be a feature of a future blog topic. For now, here are some videos that can help get you started:

- [How to thicken foaming formulas easily](#)
- [How to thicken natural surfactants without salt](#)
- [How to thicken surfactants with salt](#)

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As you can see this is just the starting point to learning how to create foaming formulas, but it should help you get underway with making the right combination of surfactant selections and better understanding why foaming formulas contain so many different types of foaming agents.

Happy formulating!

Article compliments of Institute of Personal Care Science

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Dues Renewal

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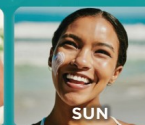
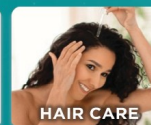
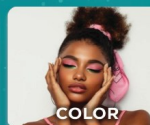
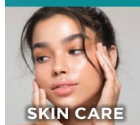
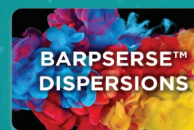


Please note: It is important to keep your membership active. Members who are dropped for non-payment of dues must pay a reinstatement fee plus current year dues in order to be reinstated. Members who resign will only need to pay current dues to be reinstated.

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Interested parties
can submit
a presentation
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biography. Your
talk may be
accepted for
either a Chapter
meeting or
Education Day.

Please send all
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Andy Halasz
(speaker coordinator) at



send an email

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SCC Ontario Chapter
Has a Group Presence on
LinkedIn
and invites you to
join the Group
As a Member of the
SCC Ontario LinkedIn
Information Source.

Take A Look
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NEWSLETTER POSTING DATES FOR 2025

Here are the dates for 2025
that the Northern Highlights
Staff plan to post the 5 newsletters
for the year;

- ♦ January 20th
- ♦ February 6th
- ♦ May 1st
- ♦ August 28th
- ♦ October 9th



(or as close as we can get)

Should posting dates change
throughout the year the most
up to date list can be found at
the below site.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6, 2025 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Chapter—"Confocal Raman Microscopy: Unravelling the mysteries of Skin Sciences " <i>Dr. Ayush Chowdhry</i>
December 5, 2025 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Holiday Dinner Dance
February 5, 2026 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Chapter LUNCH Meeting—TBA
March 5, 2026 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Chapter Meeting—TBA
May 28, 2026 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Chapter Meeting—TBA
September 24, 2026 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Education Day
November 5th, 2026 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Chapter Meeting—TBA
December 4, 2026 The Venetian, Vaughan Ontario	SCC Ontario Holiday Dinner Dance

ONTARIO CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SOCIETY FOR COSMETIC CHEMISTS



The support of Cosmetic Science Education and Research are central to the goals of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SCC). The Ontario Chapter has developed a Scholarship Program available to students planning to complete cosmetic science research in Canada. In the past, the \$1000.00 award has been presented to students from Seneca Polytechnic, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, University of Guelph and McMaster University. The program began in 2003 and over 20 students have received awards.

Interested students are invited to submit a brief one page outline to Dennis Zuccolin, Director of Scholarships at jdzuccolin@gmail.com. The scholarship applications will be reviewed by the SCC Ontario Chapter Board members. Students awarded a scholarship can also apply for additional support (up to \$1000.00) to cover research and development costs, training and conference expenses.

The Ontario Chapter has supported the Seneca Polytechnic Cosmetic Science Program and students by providing annual scholarships. Undergraduate students of the Seneca Polytechnic School of Biological Science and Applied Chemistry have also been supported by an annual award.

Successful scholarship and award candidates are encouraged to attend SCC meetings, volunteer at events, collaborate with members, prepare a poster presentation, write an article for the newsletter and make an oral presentation on their research at a chapter meeting.

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MEMBERSHIP

For those who would like to become members, yearly fees are \$180 US. Applications are available from your Executive Committee or on-line at;



EXPIRED MEMBERSHIP?
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Please return the completed form at your convenience and reap the benefits of the SCC. For renewal memberships, please send payments directly to the SCC National Office. For your convenience, National will accept payment by **VISA, Mastercard or AMEX**. Please contact National for details.

Presentation Library

Peruse our wide selection of presentations from previous meetings

<http://www.ontarioscc.org/presentations.htm>

Membership Programs and Privileges

Journal - Membership includes subscription to the Journal of Cosmetic Science, the Official Journal of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists. The Journal contains technical papers on topics of interest to cosmetic scientists and is distributed six times per year.

Meetings & Seminars - The Society holds its Annual Scientific Meeting each December. The Meetings and Seminars provide a forum for an exchange of current findings and technology on topics of global interest in cosmetic science.

Continuing Education Programs - Our CEP Programs are short courses taught by practicing cosmetic scientists and perfumers, all acknowledged experts in their disciplines.

Chapters - Each member is assigned to one of nineteen Chapters throughout the United States and Canada, according to his or her geographic location. Chapters hold local scientific meetings throughout the year, and many publish their own newsletters.

I.F.S.C.C. - The Society of Cosmetic Chemists is one of 42 member organizations within the International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists.

Emeritus Members - Attend Chapter educational events and evening meetings for free!

