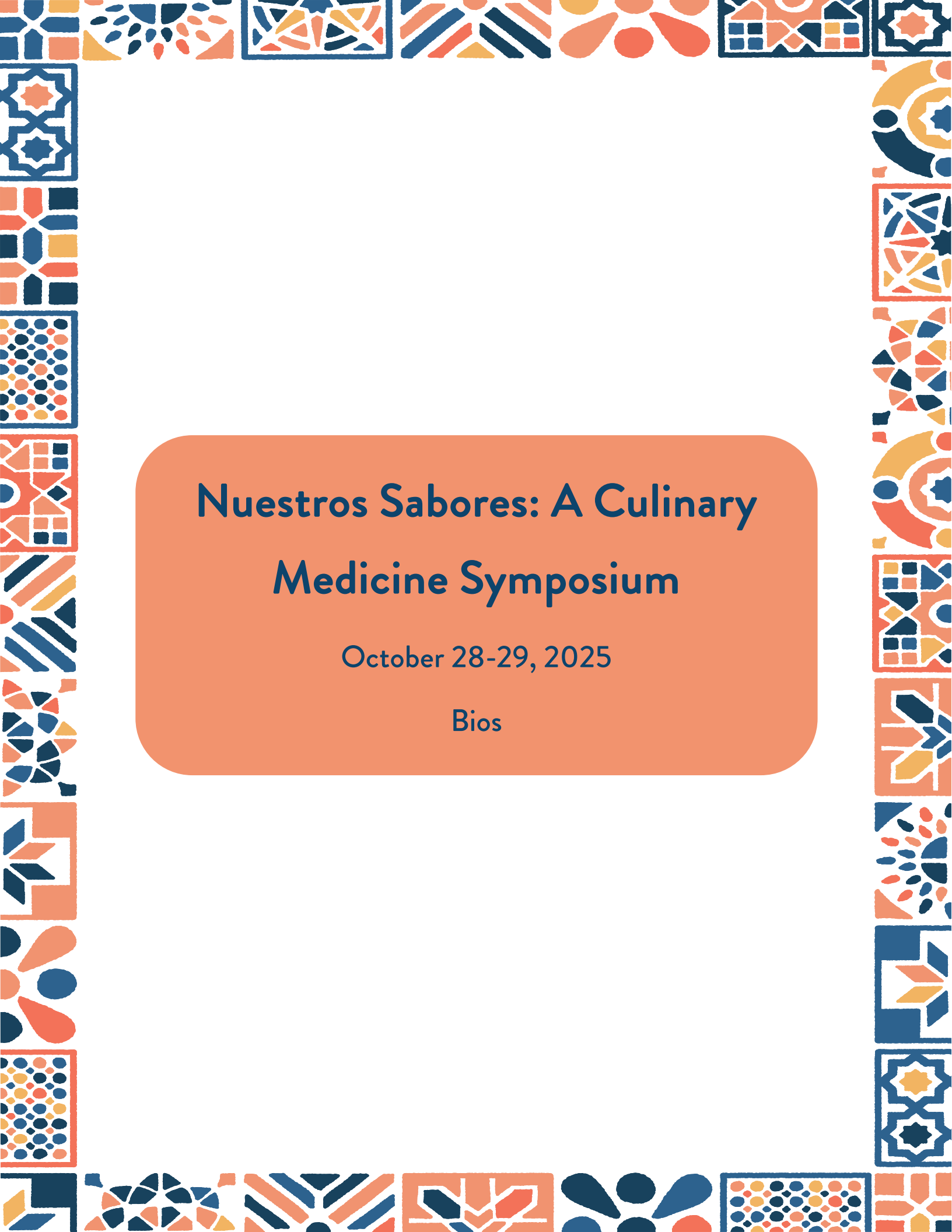




Nuestros Sabores: A Culinary Medicine Symposium

October 28-29, 2025

Bios

Speaker Bios



Kimberly Avila Edwards, MD, MSHCT, FAAP

Dr. Kimberly Avila Edwards is an Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Advocacy for the Department of Pediatrics at Dell Medical School. A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College, she completed her medical education at Harvard and her pediatric training at Texas Children's/Baylor College of Medicine. In 2024, she earned her Master of Science in Health Care Transformation from U.T. Austin's McCombs School of Business.

Dr. Avila Edwards has practiced general pediatrics in a private multispecialty group, an academic clinic and a mobile clinic for uninsured children. In 2010, she co-founded the Texas Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity.

With two decades of involvement in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Dr. Avila Edwards has served in various state and national roles. She chaired the Obesity and Legislative Committees of the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS), the state chapter of the AAP, and served as the youngest and only Hispanic President of TPS to date. National leadership positions in the AAP she has held include Texas Alternate Chapter Chair, Texas Chapter Chair and Chapter Forum Management Committee member. She currently serves on the AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs and on the Texas Medical Association Council on Legislation.



Daniela Barile, PhD

Dr. Daniela Barile is a Professor and Chemist in the Department of Food Science and Technology at UC Davis. Her research centers on the characterization, separation and functional evaluation of small bioactive molecules in foods and agricultural by-products. Her work integrates advanced analytical chemistry with food science to unlock the potential of complex molecular systems—particularly glycans and peptides—in natural and processed food matrices.

Dr. Barile leads a high-throughput analytical platform equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation. Her lab applies this platform to the sequential molecular deconstruction of food and agricultural streams (such as grape pomace, pomegranate pomace, spent coffee grounds, whey permeate and more) generating valuable bioinformatic libraries of bioactive compounds and the physicochemical conditions that promote their formation or preservation.

She routinely collaborates with investigators at UC Davis and internationally, and serves as Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on USDA funded projects. In addition to her analytical equipment, Dr.

Barile has access to pilot-scale filtration equipment at the UC Davis Milk Processing Lab, allowing her to produce novel bioactive fractions for in vitro and in vivo functional studies. These efforts support the development of selective prebiotics and other functional ingredients.

Her research also encompasses the structural characterization of glycosylated bioactives in industrial side-streams, with the goal of enhancing the value of commodity agriculture, improving food processing, and enabling the creation of new classes of functional foods.



Marina Chaparro, RDN, CDCES, MPH

Marina Chaparro is a nationally recognized bilingual registered dietitian, certified diabetes care and education specialist, author and media spokesperson. She is the founder of Nutrichicos, a bilingual nutrition practice specializing in children and family nutrition.

As a pediatric dietitian and mom of two girls, she understands the challenge of feeding young children. Marina's philosophy is to "strive for balance, not perfection." Her goal at Nutrichicos is to help mothers and parents raise healthy eaters with a positive relationship with food, without diets or tricks. She believes healthy eating is not an all-or-nothing approach. Marina aims to transform kids' nutrition by teaching parents how to enjoy their favorite cultural foods without guilt and create positive and balanced meals for the entire family.

Marina is the author of *Diabetes & Pregnancy: A real guide for Women with Type 1, Type 2, and Gestational Diabetes* by the American Diabetes Association. She lives with type 1 diabetes herself and loves teaching kids and families how to thrive with type 1 diabetes.

Her advice is frequently featured in major media outlets, such as Parent's Magazine, Huffington Post, The New York Times, Univision and more. She has extensive experience providing science-based commentary and translating science into practical advice for everyday people.

She is a frequent speaker at national and local conferences on topics, such as infant nutrition, media and nutrition communications, Latino health issues and diabetes. Marina is a graduate of Boston University and earned a master's degree from Florida International University.



Kevin Comerford, PhD

Dr. Kevin Comerford is the Chief Science Officer at the California Dairy Research Foundation. He is also a nutrition consultant for FoodMinds LLC., and a former lecturer in human nutrition and metabolism at the University of California, Davis. He has been with the California Dairy Research Foundation since 2013 and currently manages a portfolio of projects focused on human health, environmental management, social responsibility, industry outreach, and innovation and technology. Dr. Comerford sits on several scientific advising committees and has authored peer-reviewed publications on dairy foods and chronic disease, maternal health, complementary feeding, child health, nutrigenetics, metabolomics, the food matrix, food system sustainability and health equity.



Andie Lee Gonzalez, PhD, MPH, RDN, LD, FAND

Dr. Andie Lee Gonzalez is a native to South Texas. Currently, she is a Senior Pediatric Medical Science Liaison for Abbott Nutrition. As a first-generation Latina college student, she was accepted to Michigan State University through the College Assistant Migrant Program where she received her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics. She then completed her Dietetic Internship rotation program and her Master's in Public Health from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She then completed her Doctorate in Organizational Leadership Studies from Our Lady of the Lake University in 2018, and in 2019, completed a certificate in Business Analytics from Michigan State University. Through her experiences, Andie has developed a strong purpose and passion for public health, community and nutrition. In addition, she is a PRN Registered Dietitian at Complete Nutrition Solutions and teaches at South Texas College Department of Medical and Health Services Management.

In her spare time, her joy is spending time with her husband Ricardo, daughter Aolani, son Arturo and extended family. She is a highly motivated Latina who values family, hard work and serving others.



Iliana Guerra Martinez, MS, RDN, LDN, CDCES

Iliana is a first-generation Mexican American, who calls the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, her hometown. She earned a BS in Dietetics and MS in Health Care Administration, both from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. In her current role as Senior Diabetes Educator for Novo Nordisk, she leads multiple cross-collaborative Population Health Initiatives within various health systems and physician groups in South Texas. Prior to joining NNI, Iliana was a Clinical/NICU/Critical Care Dietitian, with Nutrition Support and Pediatric Nutrition specialty certifications. She also led the Clinical Nutrition Team, where she pioneered various clinical CQI initiatives including Malnutrition Screening, Critical Care Nutrition Support Protocols, Diabetes Management Protocols and helped to establish outpatient DM Center. But what she is most proud of is her volunteer work within her community and professional organizations. Apart from serving on the Board of Directors for the Rio Grande Valley Diabetes Association, Iliana is also the Director of Camp ENERGY, a summer camp for kids with Type 1 DM. She holds leadership positions with the Texas Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics and Latinos & Hispanics in Dietetics and Nutrition (LAHIDAN). Apart from her advocacy work for LAHIDAN, she also serves on the ADCES Advocacy Committee.



Amina Harris

Amina Harris is the founding Director of the Honey and Pollination Center at the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, UC Davis. In addition, Amina and her children Shoshana and Josh, own Z Specialty Food, LLC. Moon Shine Trading Company, a division of Z Specialty, has been offering unique American varietal honeys for over forty years winning national awards from the Specialty Food Association and the National Honey Board. Amina has presented at beekeeping programs throughout the United States and Canada, introducing participants to the world of pure, unadulterated varietal honeys. A graduate of the University of Michigan, she holds a MSED in special education from Buffalo State College.



Marianella Herrera Cuenca, PhD, MD, RD

Dr. Marianella Herrera Cuenca graduated from Medical School at Central University of Venezuela and holds a Master and a Doctorate in Human Nutrition both from Simon Bolivar University in Caracas. She currently is a Visiting Professor at Framingham State University and Simmons University, both in Massachusetts, and continues her research in Venezuela, Latin America and the United States of America through diverse projects. She has served the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics through different roles, including Past President of the International

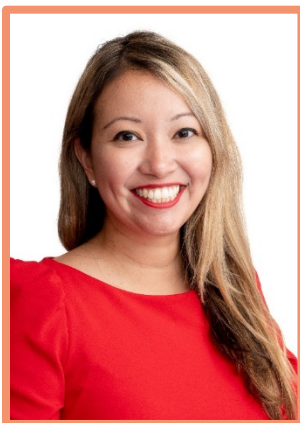
Affiliate, Past Chair of the Council on Research, Past President of the International Affiliate and is the current Chair of LAHIDAN.



Conor McCabe, MS

Conor McCabe is a PhD Candidate at UC Davis working under Dr. Frank Mitloehner. Originally from Oregon, Conor grew up on his family's small swine, beef, pumpkin and Christmas tree farm. His research focuses on feed additives for methane reduction as well as the impact of mitigating

methane emissions on climate. Post graduation, Conor is interested in working with a retailer or agribusiness to continue to help United States livestock producers continue to reduce the footprint of livestock production.



Adrianna Nava, PhD, MPA, RN, FAAN

Dr. Adrianna Nava is an Applied Research Scientist at the National Committee for Quality Assurance where she serves as the scientific lead for the development of HEDIS measures addressing the social drivers of health. She integrates these measures into population health standards, concepts and policy recommendations. She is also the Immediate Past President (2021-2024) of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, where she advocated for the advancement of nurses in leadership, research and policy to advance Latino health. Previously, she served as the Chief Nurse of Quality and Systems Improvement at the Edward Hines

Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois. In this role, she led a team of quality and infection control experts to drive meaningful clinical improvement activities to improve Veteran outcomes.

She is a mentor to future health care professionals through her positions as graduate faculty in the Department of Health Administration and Policy at the George Mason University College of Public

Health, Adjunct Instructor at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Nursing and Capstone Faculty for the Safety, Quality, Informatics and Leadership Program at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Nava was recently named one of the Top 25 Emerging Healthcare Leaders of 2023 by Modern Healthcare; and was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in 2024.



Crystal Orozco, RDN, CDCES, CPT

Crystal Orozco is a bilingual Latina Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Certified Diabetes Care & Education Specialist and founder of Vida Nutrition Consulting. A proud first-generation college graduate and daughter of Mexican immigrants, she combines her heritage and passion for empowering the Latino community into her work in culturally relevant nutrition. Inspired by overcoming her own health challenges, Crystal specializes in media communications, brand partnerships and bilingual content that blends evidence-based nutrition with Latin sazón (flavor!).

Her work includes TV segments, cooking demos, recipe development, social media videos, health articles and speaking engagements, all designed to make healthy living both accessible and flavorful. In her spare time, you can find her salsa dancing.



Trina Robertson, MS, RDN

Trina Robertson is a registered dietitian nutritionist, bringing over 25 years of experience in nutrition to her role as Director of Health Sector and Program Evaluation at Dairy Council of California. She leads strategic partnerships to educate health professionals on the role of dairy in a balanced diet and oversees program evaluation to measure effectiveness.

Trina has co-developed widely used nutrition resources, including the California Department of Public Health approved *Every Sip Counts* tip sheet with Orange County Health Care Agency. She co-led a National Institutes of Health grant with UC Irvine to assess nutritional needs in the first 1,000 days of life with a Champion Provider fellow graduate. She also served as adjunct faculty in nutrition at Saddleback College for the last ten years.



Ashley Rosales, RDN

Ashley Rosales is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Nutrition and Industry Affairs Officer for Dairy Council of California, where she oversees strategies to improve nutrition security for children, families and communities. Ashley specializes in nutrition across the lifespan, and building healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems. Her expertise includes nutrition science, policy and regulatory affairs, thought leadership and developing multi-sector partnerships and collaborations. Ashley serves as a member of the International Dairy Federation's

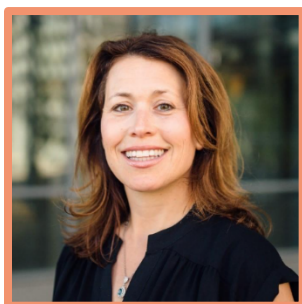
Standing Committee on Nutrition and Health, is an active member of the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Les Dames d'Escoffier International-Sacramento Chapter, and the California Society of Association Executives. She received her degree in Clinical Nutrition from UC Davis, completed the dietetic internship program at Napa State Hospital and holds certifications in conducting ethical research and executive association leadership. She is currently enrolled in the Master's degree program in Nutrition Science at the University of the Pacific.



Vanessa Silva

Vanessa Silva is Founder, CEO and Chef Instructor at Culinary Artistas. Her involvement with food started in her grandmother's kitchen in Brazil, making aioli and shaping gnocchi by hand. From this early inspiration, she began a journey of food education and travel.

Vanessa went on to receive a degree in Food Engineering from the University of Campinas, a Masters in Holistic Nutrition from Hawthorn University, and work in the food industry in the Czech Republic and Greece until settling in San Francisco where she gained experience in many steps of food production, ranging from food gardening to teaching world culinary skills. From these experiences, she developed the core beliefs that food bridges us as individuals to community and environment, that it is a gift and medicine, and that it can be a rooting element to our health. These beliefs and the pure joy she experiences cooking are her motivation to share her work with students, friends and family.



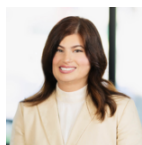
Jennifer T. Smilowitz, PhD

Dr. Jennifer Smilowitz is an Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension in the Department of Nutrition at UC Davis. She completed her PhD in Nutritional Biology at UC Davis and her postdoctoral research in the Department of Food Science & Technology at UC Davis. Dr. Smilowitz has a well-established research career investigating the role of diet on the gut microbiome across the lifespan. She has published more than 70

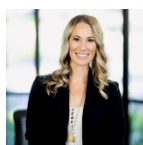
scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals on lactation, milk science and the intestinal microbiome across all life stages. Her research in clinical nutrition and lactation targets health in the first 1,000 days from pregnancy through early childhood. As a lactation education counselor, Dr. Smilowitz built a multi-collaborative outreach program focused on infant feeding that educates families on lactation and breastfeeding. Her research and outreach programs focus on critical issues that identify and address gaps in health equity, support community health and reduce chronic disease risk.

Dr. Smilowitz leads the Outreach & Research Implementing Advancements in Nutrition Extension Lab, which uses multi-disciplinary and multi-prong approaches to improve community health by 1) implementing and testing evidence-based diet interventions, 2) creating educational programs on nutrition and health using multimedia to empower families and 3) delivering professional development training on nutrition-related topics to healthcare providers, community professionals, educators and health advocates.

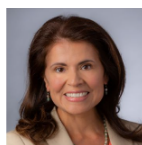
Dairy Federation



Amy DeLisio, MPH, RDN
Chief Executive Officer,
Dairy Council of California



Ashley Rosales, RDN
Nutrition and Industry Affairs
Officer, Dairy Council of California



Lana Frantzen, PhD
Vice President of Nutrition Affairs,
National Dairy Council



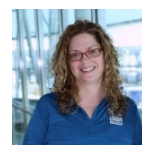
Monica Salafia, MS, RDN, CSSD
Manager, Partnership Marketing-
Sports, Health and Wellness,
Dairy MAX



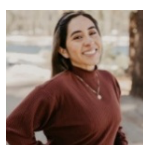
Jennifer Giambroni
Vice President of Communications,
California Milk Advisory Board



Diahann Smith, MBA
Senior Director of Integrated
Marketing, Florida Dairy Farmers;
Senior Advisor, Hispanic and Culinary
Strategies, Dairy Management Inc.



Hanna Kelley, RD, LD
Director of Health and Wellness,
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Sandra Torres, MPH
Impact and Learning Development
Program Manager,
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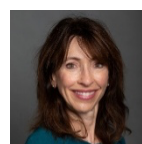
Meghan Parker
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Bessie O'Connor, RDN
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Arlene VanderEyck
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