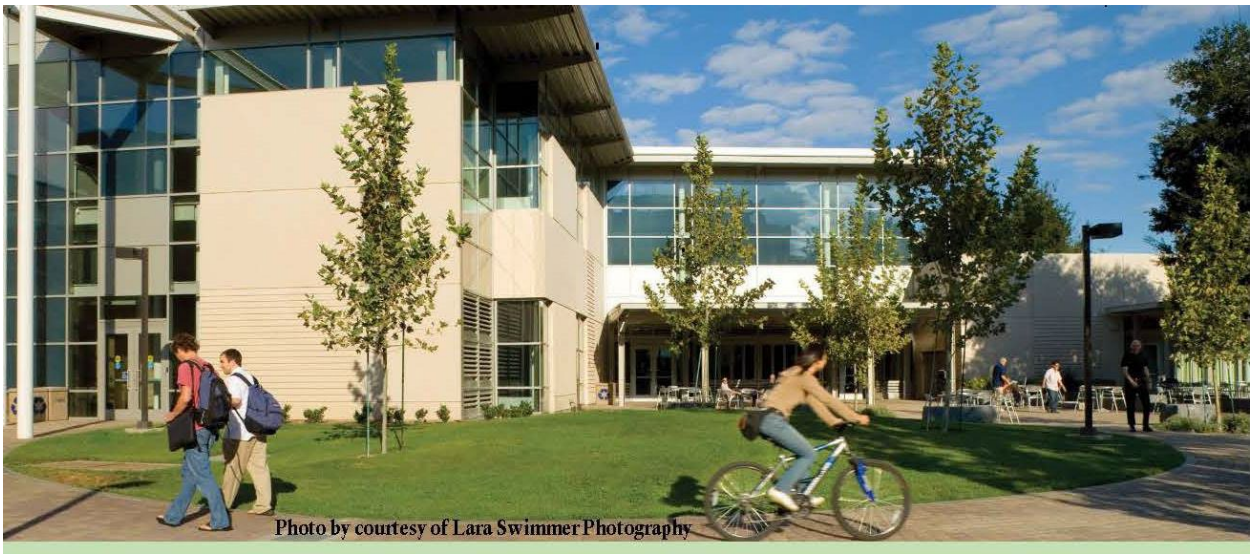
2026 Pacific Section Annual Meeting

What Is in Your Food?
March 23rd – 25th, 2026

University of California Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine
Gladys Valley Hall, 1 Garrod Drive, Davis, CA 95616

Schedule at a Glance

(Subject to change)



Monday March 23rd, 2026

7:30AM – 8:30AM - Breakfast

8:00 AM - Registration Opens

Opening Session

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM - Welcome – Charles Yang, President Pacific Section AOAC International and Dr. Pramod Pandey, President-elect Pacific Section AOAC International

9:00 – 9:40 AM Keynote Speaker – Dr. Mark Stetter, Dean of Veterinary Medicine , University of California, Davis
" TBD "

9:40 – 10:20 AM – Dr. Xunde Li, Research Microbiologist, University of California, Davis
“Antibiotic Resistance of Foodborne Bacteria in Retail Foods”

10:20 – 10:40 AM – Break / Poster Session*

10:40 – 11:20 AM – Dr. Seth Yates, Chemistry Professor, Fresno City College
" Voluntold: Adventures in Chemistry Career and Technical Education in Central California"

11:20 – 12:00 AM – Platinum Sponsor, Stell Alicia, Market Development Manage, CEM
“Fast. Simple. Smart. The Future of Lab Workflows with CEM”

12:00 PM -1:00 PM – Lunch

1:00 – 1:40 PM – Keynote Speaker Dr. Carlito Lebrilla, Distinguished Professor at University of California, Davis
" A Multi-Omics Characterization of Food"

1:40 – 2:20 PM – Bruna Paviani, Post Doc, University of California, Davis
“The differences in prebiotic oligosaccharides and select phenolics found in grape pomace from different varieties grown in California”

2:20 – 3:00 PM – Maria Ofitserova, Senior Research Chemist, Pickering Laboratories, Inc in Mountain View, California
“Analysis of Glyphosate and Other Contaminants in Food using HPLC with Post-Column Derivatization”

3:00 - 3:10 PM – Break

*See page 6 for poster topics

3:10 – 3:40 PM – Xiohong Wei, Project Scientist, University of California, Davis
" Determining the Optimal Number of Presumptive Colonies for Reliable Detection of True-Positive E. coli O157:H7 and Non-O157 STEC in Dairy Manure Using Selective Media"

3:40 – 4:10 PM – Dr. Rewa Rai, Project Scientist, Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of California, Davis
"Bio-based approaches to improve stability, persistence and functionality of probiotics in the gut"

4:10 – 4:20 PM – Ana da Silva Oliveira, Student Presentation, University of California, Davis
"Assessing the risk of contamination of leafy greens and landscape use in California farmland - a participatory modeling approach"

4:20 – 4:30 PM – Dr. Shyam Singh, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Food Science & Technology at the University of California, Davis.
"Deep learning based rapid detection and Classification of Bio-aerosolized Bacteria"

4:30 – 4:40 PM - Student Presentation,

4:35 – 5:00 PM – Great Bear Owner Presentation, "TBD"

6:00 - 9:00 PM – President Reception at the Great Bear Vineyards - Join us for an opportunity to network with colleagues and future colleagues.

Tuesday March 24, 2026

7:30AM – 8:30AM - Breakfast

8:00 AM - Registration Opens

Opening Session

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM - Welcome – Charles Yang, President Pacific Section AOAC International and Dr. Pramod Pandey, President-elect Pacific Section AOAC International

9:00 – 9:40 AM Keynote Speaker - Dr. Greer Harris, Senior Manager of Scientific Partnerships
" AOAC INTERNATIONAL Current and New Scientific Initiatives "

9:40 – 10:20 AM – Dr. Zhengfei Lu, Principal Scientist, Herbalife
"MOSH/MOAH, Botanical Integrity (Identification and Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids), and Rapid Microbial Detection"

10:20 – 10:40 AM – Break / Poster Session*

10:40 – 11:20 AM – Mario Vendrell Calatayud, Post Doc, University of California, Davis,
" Rapid Detection of MOAH Contamination in Food Matrices Using A-TEEM and Machine Learning Models"

11:20 – 12:00 AM – Platinum Sponsor, WATERS Corp

12:00 PM -1:00 PM – Lunch

1:00 – 1:40 PM – Keynote Speaker Dr. Bart Weimer, Chair SVM at University of California, Davis,
" Microbial Genomics and the Future of Food Safety "

1:40 – 2:20 PM – Dr. Maryam Tamizifar, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Center for Analytical Chemistry, CDFA (CAC) in Sacramento, CA
“Multiresidue Determination of Pesticides in Cannabis Flower Using LC-MS/MS and GC-MS/MS”

2:20 – 3:00 PM - Dr. Chandan Shee, Research Scientist Supervisor I, & Dr. Navneet Rai, Research Scientist II, California Department Cannabis Control
“Advancing Microbial Testing in Cannabis: Performance Evaluation of Aspergillus Detection Methods”

3:00 - 3:10 PM – Break

3:10 – 3:50 PM – Dr. Amber Kramer, Research Scientist IV , Department of Cannabis Control
“Challenges in Residual Pesticide Testing in Cannabis Products; from Method Development to Real-World Samples”

3:50 – 4:20 PM – Dr. John Kelly, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Center for Analytical Chemistry, CDFA (CAC) in Sacramento, CA
“Multi-Laboratory Validation of a Robust Analytical Method for Saxitoxins in Aqueous Environmental Matrices”

4:20 – 5:00 PM - Kris Pineda, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Center for Analytical Chemistry, CDFA (CAC) in Sacramento, CA
“Non-Targeted Analysis and Data Processing of Pesticides in Groundwater Samples”

5:00 – 5:40 PM – Dr. Matt, Tom, New Food Technologies
“TBD”

5:40 – 6:20 PM - Dr Vera Petrova Dickerson, Innova-Q
“TBD”

*See page 6 for poster topics

Wednesday March 25th, 2026

7:30AM – 8:30AM - Breakfast

8:00 AM - Registration Opens

Opening Session

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM - Welcome – Charles Yang, President Pacific Section AOAC International and Dr. Pramod Pandey, President-elect Pacific Section AOAC International

9:00 – 9:40 AM Virtual - Keynote Speaker – Dr. Erik J.M. Konings, Food Safety & Analytical Sciences Expert, Independent Consultant and AOAC International Past President
" Importance and impact of AOAC INTERNATIONAL's new Science Program on Vitamins in Food and Dietary Supplements "

9:40 – 10:10 AM – Abdullah Imad M Al Rawi, Student, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Davis,
“An NLP-Based Early Warning System for Detecting Emerging Food Safety Threats”

10:10 – 10:20 AM – Break

10:20 – 11:00 AM – Dr. Qi Zhang, Post Doc, Professor, Dept Environmental Toxicology University of California, Davis
“Advancing Understanding of Atmospheric Aerosols through Online Mass Spectrometry "

11:00-11:40 AM – Dr. Vikrant Singh, Associate Toxicologist & Dr. Qiaoxiang Dong, Staff Toxicologist, Human Health Assessment Branch, Department of Pesticide Regulation, California Environmental Protection Agency, Sacramento, California, USA
“TBD”

11:40 – 12:10 AM - Abraar Karan MD MS MPH DTM&H, Instructor, Medicine - Infectious Diseases, Stanford University
“TBD”

12:10 PM -1:00 PM – Lunch / End of meeting

12:30 PM – 5:00PM – Agilent Sponsor Workshop with UC Davis Food and Innovations @RMI, Lunch provided at RMI for registered attendees only.

Poster Sessions for Monday and Tuesday

Presenter	Poster Title
Ana da Silva Oliveira	Assessing the risk of contamination of leafy greens and landscape use in California farmland - a participatory modeling approach.
Neeraj Chandrasekar	Impacts of different drying methods on drying rates of various peppers and quantification of capsaicinoid levels using HPLC
Behrooz Pakzadeh	Enhancing Pathogen Reduction in Dairy Wastewater: The Synergistic Role of PAC and CPAM Flocculants
Duarte Paola	Development and Validation of a Method to Maximize Volatile Fatty Acid Extraction in Complex Matrices such as Dairy Cow Manure and Digestate
Aditya Pandey	Total Carbon & Nitrogen Analysis in Dairy Manure Utilizing Dumas Method
Abdullah Imad M Al Rawi	An NLP-Based Early Warning System for Detecting Emerging Food Safety Threats
Tianchen Shan	Detection Shiga toxin-producing E. coli from dairy manure and characterization of resistance, virulence, and stress genes
CEM	Efficient Trace Metal Analysis in Complex Food Matrices Using ICP-MS and Microwave Digestion
CEM	CPMG-NMR, a viable rapid replacement of chemical extraction methods for total fat determination in dairy samples
CEM	Automated Extraction of PFAS from Shellfish: Improving Sample Preparation Efficiency and Reproducibility