



## Industry Partnership Program

### Annual Research Symposium/All-Member Meeting: AI Applications to Advance Food Innovation and Safety

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 | 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm EST (US & Canada)  
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 9 am to 4:00 pm EST (US & Canada)

*All sessions will be held in person in  
Stocking Hall, Cornell University, 411 Tower Road, Ithaca, NY 14853*

## AGENDA

### Tuesday, October 21, 2025, commencing at 3:00 pm EST

- 3:00 pm            **Registration Desk open**  
*Stocking Gallery*
- 3:35 pm            **Welcome and Opening Remarks: An Overview of Current Challenges in  
Developing and Implementing the Use of AI Tools that Advance Food Innovation  
& Safety**  
*Rajni Aneja & Gavin Sacks (Cornell)*  
*PepsiCo Auditorium (Room 146)*
- 3:40 pm            **Accelerating F&B Product Development using AI: Dairy, Confectionery, and  
Other Applications**  
*Vinay Indraganti (innov8NXT)*  
*PepsiCo Auditorium (Room 146)*
- 5:00 pm            **Graduate Student Poster Session; Networking Reception**  
*Stocking Hall Conference Center (Room 148) & Gallery*
- 6:30 pm            **Close of Day 1**

### Wednesday, October 22, 2025

#### Stocking Hall, The Conference Center (Room 148)

- 9:00 am            **Day 2 Welcome; Day 1 Recap**  
*Rajni Aneja (Cornell)*
- 9:15 am            **Morning Sessions:**  
**AI-powered Dashboards and Chatbots for Food, Nutrition, and Health**  
*Saurabh Mehta (Cornell)*
- Harnessing AI in Lipid Nutrition***  
*Rinat Ran-Ressler (Nestle Health Science)*

- 10:15 am            **Bio-Break**
- 10:30 am            **Investment Trends: AI and Other Technologies that Improve Food and Nutrition**  
*Stu Strumwasser, Green Circle Capital Partners*
- AI Application to Food Safety: from the Lab to the Real World**  
*Martin Wiedmann (Cornell)*
- Food Safety Data Sharing and Analytics: Insights from Food Industry Leaders**  
*Renata Ivanek (Cornell)*
- Noon                 **Session Ends/Lunch**
- Discussion: Updates on Cornell Food Science; Key Program Dates for 2026**  
*Gavin Sacks, Rajni Aneja (Cornell)*
- 1:30 pm             **Afternoon Sessions:**  
**HyperBrix: An AI-Enhanced Hyperspectral Imaging Approach for Non-Destructive Brix Prediction in Grapes.**  
*Jinhong Yu (Chen Lab, Cornell)*
- Systems Engineering, Sensors, and AI for Improvement of Specialty Crops Yield and Disease Management**  
*Katie Gold and Yu Jiang (Cornell)*
- 3:30 pm approx.   **Closing Remarks**  
*Gavin Sacks (Cornell)*

### **Speaker Biographies**

**Rajni Aneja** is Managing Director, CIFS-IPP, the corporate affiliate program of the Cornell Institute for Food Systems. where she is responsible for developing and implementing impactful university-industry relationships between CIFS Faculty Fellows and their counterparts in the food systems industry. [Cornell Profile](#).

**Kaitlin (Katie) Gold** is Assistant Professor and Susan Eckert Lynch Faculty Fellow, School of Integrative Plant Science, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Section, Cornell AgriTech. Her research work focuses on understanding the fundamental and applied science of plant disease and plant-microbe interaction sensing to improve integrated grape disease management. [Faculty Profile](#).

Vinay Indraganti is Founder and CEO, Innov8 NXT to accelerate formulations of food ingredients and products through innov8 R&D, a groundbreaking AI-powered Design of Experiments (DOE) and ELN platform shattering traditional R&D product development timelines. He has previously held roles at Ingredion (as Global Vice President, Digital Transformation and Strategy) and Coveris Group (as Global Head for Enterprise Analytics and Big Data). He is also the co-author of the book "The AI for Food Movement" and the co-founder of the AI for Food Global Initiative. [LinkedIn Profile](#)

**Renata Ivanek** is Associate Professor, Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The overarching goal of her research is to advance One Health -- the interconnected health of people, animals, plants and their shared environment. Her computer lab develops new and sustainable data- and model-driven approaches for improving food safety, controlling infectious diseases, and optimizing food production systems. [Faculty Profile](#).

**Yu Jiang** is Assistant Professor, School of Integrative Plant Science, Horticulture Section, Cornell AgriTech. His research focuses on systems engineering and data analytics for specialty crops and involves interdisciplinary innovation among engineering, computer science, and plant science. Current work involves the use of AI for image processing for high throughput phenotyping. [Faculty Profile](#).

**Saurabh Mehta** is the Janet and Gordon Lankton Professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University. He is the Founding Director of the Cornell Center for Precision Nutrition and Health as well as the program director of the NIH-supported training program on artificial intelligence and precision nutrition. His research interests include the use of generative AI to help power health dashboards and chatbots that use clinical information and data only from high-quality, evidence-based sources to help inform consumer food and nutrition choices. [Faculty Profile](#).

**Rinat Ran Ressler** is a registered dietitian with clinical experience and holds a Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from Cornell University. Rinat serves as an R&D expert in Lipid Science and is a Senior Principal Nutritionist within the Science and Technology team at the Nestlé Health Science Product Technology Center, part of Nestlé Health Science (NHSc), a subsidiary of Nestlé specializing in medical foods and dietary supplements. Dr. Ran-Ressler leads the Lipids Network at Nestlé and currently holds the position of Chair for the Health & Nutrition Division of the American Oil Chemists Society (AOCS). [LinkedIn Profile](#).

**Gavin Sacks** is Chair and Professor, in the Department of Food Science at Cornell University. His research interests include developing and applying new tools for analysis of flavor compounds, especially in wine and other alcoholic beverages. [Faculty Profile](#).

**Stu Strumwasser** is Founder and Managing Director of Green Circle Capital, providing investment banking and advisory services for exceptional growth-stage and lower middle market health & wellness companies. He is also Partner and Founder at Green Circle Foodtech Ventures, a venture fund that invests in companies that disrupt the production/distribution of food and beverages as well as technology platforms that improve food and nutrition. [LinkedIn Profile](#)

**Martin Wiedmann** is the Gellert Family Professor in Food Safety in the Department of Food Science at Cornell University. His research interests focus on farm-to-table microbial food quality and food safety and the application of molecular and modelling tools to study the biology and transmission of foodborne pathogens and spoilage organisms. Dr. Wiedmann also serves as co-director of the New York State Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence. [Faculty Profile](#).

**Jinhong Yu** is a Ph.D. student in the Chen Group at Cornell University, where he focuses on advancing sensing technologies in the postharvest domain. His current research centers on leveraging spectral imaging systems and artificial intelligence methods to assess food quality after harvest.