

Our Speakers:



Belinda Elysée-Collen, Vice President Food Canada, Dempsey Food

Belinda is Vice-President of the Food Canada division with Dempsey Corporation, a specialty food ingredients distributor in Toronto. She is a Food Scientist with a passion for helping others achieve their goals. She loves learning about what we eat and how functional ingredients make food better. She has a B.A.Sc. Chemical Engineering from the University of Waterloo, and a M.Sc. Food Science from the University of Guelph. She is licensed as a P.Eng with PEO and is a CFS (Certified Food Scientist). She has over 25 years' experience in the food industry selling ingredients, at small and large companies such as Cargill Inc, and International Sugars.

Belinda was President of CIFST (Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology) from 2013-2014 and was a CIFST volunteer for 18 years. She was on the steering committee for the 2014 IUFOST World Congress of Food Science and Technology, which attracted 2000 attendees to Montreal. She is currently a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Food Innovation Network (CFIN). Belinda also volunteers with the Girl Guides of Canada as a Pathfinder, Ranger and Trex leader, leading adventurous and confidence-building activities for girls from 12-17 years of age.

Tim Gilks, Commodity and Procurement Services, Ojai Group Commodities

Tim Gilks is the President of Ojai Commodity Group, a procurement consulting company specializing in Agricultural commodities like wheat, corn, soy, sugar, oils, coffee etc.

Ojai's goal is to assist food manufacturers and food service chains manage their input costs strategically on the futures markets and to stabilize profitability and avoid price and supply risks.

After attending University of New Brunswick and University of Memphis, he has enjoyed a challenging career in the Canadian Foodservice Industry, in several procurement functions.

After many years at Grandma Lee's Bakery and Eating Places, Country Style Donuts / Buns Master Bakeries / Maple Leaf Foods, MR. Sub and finally at Tim Hortons as Vice President of Purchasing and Commodities, Ojai Group was formed.

Now in our 11th year, we support many well-known manufacturers and foodservice chain in procurement capacities.

You can always find Tim pondering an adventure on a boat.

Rob Kowal, President, Kriscor & Associates

Rob Kowal is president of Kriscor & Associates, a food ingredient agency, representing Sensus Frutafit® and Frutalose® Chicory Root inulin, and Post Consumer Brands Cereal Ingredient business. He is a writer, speaker, and co-author of "Deep Health: Using Artificial Intelligence to Live Longer and Healthier."

Since receiving his Food & Pharmaceutical Science diploma from Durham College in Oshawa, Ontario, in 1981, he has enjoyed a rewarding career in the Canadian Food & Beverage industry with considerable leadership experience and expertise in R&D, Sales, and Sales Management, Operations, and General Management.

Before starting Kriscor & Associates in 2006, Rob worked for many well-known food and food ingredient companies including, Hostess Foods (now Frito-Lay), Firmenich, Kerry Ingredients, The NutraSweet Company, Quadra Chemicals, and WILD Flavors.

Rob has an extensive network, supported by his long-term association with CIFST. He served as Chair of the CIFST Ontario Section from 2009 to 2013, and currently sits as Past President of CIFST National.

He has also served in various volunteer roles outside of the food industry, including Chair of the Mississauga Board of Trade in 2005.

Rob is an avid cyclist and passionate about food, nutrition, and fitness. He resides in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, with his wife Teresa and two daughters, Kristin, and Courtney.

