



ScienceQuest

CONNECTING MINDS, SHAPING TOMORROW

Tentative Program



Global Summit on **Food Innovation** and **Nutritional Science**

Date:
March 16-18, 2026

Venue:
Barcelona, Spain

<https://www.nutritionalscience.thesciencequest.org/>



Day 1 (March 16, 2026)

MainHall

08:30-09:30 Registrations

09:30-09:35 Introduction

09:35-10:00 Opening Ceremony

Plenary session

10:00-10:45 **Title: Recovery of Microorganisms from Various Locations in Apartments Occupied by College Students**

Paul Dawson, *Clemson University, United States*

10:45-11:30 **Title: Characterizing Microbial and Antimicrobial Resistance in Drinking Water: Phase 2 of the Maryland Safe Drinking WATER Study**

Michele E. Morgado, *University of Maryland, United States*

11:30-11:50

Refreshments Break @ Foyer

Keynote session

11:50-12:25 **Speaker Slot Available.....**

12:25-12:55 **Title: Towards resilient food systems: Interactions with Indigenous knowledge**

Mary Ann Augustin, *Monash University, Australia*

12:55-13:55

Group Photo & Lunch Break

13:55-14:30 **Title: Unveiling Added sugars and non-nutritive sweeteners in processed food products**

Goburdhun Daya, *University of Mauritius, Mauritius*

14:30-15:05 **Title: Nutrition and Food Science & Technology: vital symbiosis for sustainable health**

Gert W. Meijer, *University of Ulster, United Kingdom*

Featured Talks

15:05-15:25 Speaker Slot Available.....

15:25-15:35

Refreshments Break@ Foyer

15:35-16:00

Title: Optimal anthropometric discharge criteria from treatment of wasting: meta-analysis of individual patient data from 34 studies

Sheila Isanaka, *Harvard University, United States*

16:00-16:25

Title: A systematic review of the factors affecting textural perception by older adults and their association with food choice and intake

Stella Lignou, *University of Reading, United Kingdom*

Speaker Slots Available

Day 2 (March 17, 2026)

MainHall

08:30-09:30 Registrations

09:30-09:35 Introduction

09:35-10:00 Opening Ceremony

Plenary session

10:00-10:45 Speaker Slot Available.....

10:45-11:30

Title: Mechanism and Regulation of Tea Saponin Extraction from *C. oleifera* Seed Meal in Subcritical Water

Chengming Wang, *Huazhong Agricultural University, China*

11:30-11:50

Refreshments Break@ Foyer

Keynote session

11:50-12:25	Title: Bioenergetic signatures of circulating blood cells as biosensors of metabolic health in food-producing animals
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	Gerald Rimbach , <i>Kiel University, Germany</i>
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12:25-12:55	Speaker Slot Available.....
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12:55-13:55	Group Photo & Lunch Break
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13:55-14:30	Title: Is my model fit for purpose? Validating a population model for predicting freshwater fish responses to flow management
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	Michael McCarthy , <i>University of Melbourne, Australia</i>
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14:30-15:05	Speaker Slot Available.....
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Featured Talks

15:05-15:25	Title: Effect of ultrasonication on extraction yield, and the rheological and physicochemical characteristics of Mucuna sloanei gum
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	Atefeh Amiri Rigi , <i>University of Reading, United Kingdom</i>
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15:25-15:35	Refreshments Break@ Foyer
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15:35-16:00	Speaker Slot Available.....
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16:00-16:25	Title: Co-spray drying whey protein isolate with polysaccharides provides additional lubrication impacting the sensory profile of model beverages
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	Stephanie Bull , <i>University of Reading, United Kingdom</i>
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Speaker Slots Available

Day 3 (March 18, 2026)

MainHall

08:30-09:30 Registrations

09:30-09:35 Introduction

09:35-10:00 Opening Ceremony

Plenary session

10:00-10:45 **Title: Historical Milestones of AFRE International Involvement in Teaching, Research, Outreach and Capacity/Institution-Building Activities: 1933-2023**

Michael T. Weber, *Michigan State University, United States*

10:45-11:30 **Speaker Slot Available.....**

11:30-11:50

Refreshments Break@ Foyer

Keynote session

11:50-12:25 **Title: Subsurface fertilization geometry synergies enhanced grain yield, nitrogen use efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions: A global meta-analysis**

Fusuo Zhang, *China Agricultural University, China*

12:25-12:55 **Speaker Slot Available.....**

12:55-13:55

Group Photo & Lunch Break

13:55-14:30 **Title: Host miRNAs regulate Escherichia coli O157 mucosal colonization through host-mucosa-attached microbiota interactions in calves**

Tim A. McAllister, *University of Calgary, Canada*

14:30-15:05 **Speaker Slot Available.....**

Featured Talks

15:05-15:25 **Speaker Slot Available.....**

15:25-15:35

Refreshments Break@ Foyer

15:35-16:00

Title: Detection of *Cryptosporidium molnari* oocysts from fish by fluorescent-antibody staining assays for *Cryptosporidium* spp. affecting humans

Rona Barugahare, *University of Queensland, Australia*

16:00-16:25

Title: A nutrigenetic approach to examine the relationship between vitamin B12 status and cardio-metabolic traits in multiple ethnic groups: Findings from the GeNulne Collaboration

Vimal Karani, *University of Reading, United Kingdom*

Speaker Slots Available

Sponsors/Exhibitors

