

INNOVATION EXPO 2026

CREATING SPACE FOR INNOVATION



This programme may be subject to change & substitution

Updated 23/09/2026

8:30am	Registration & Networking MCC Label Coffee Cart
9:30am	Welcome Nadine Higgins: MC Kerry Warn: General Manager, Natural Health Products NZ
9:45am	IMCD NZ Muy Leng: Principal Manager <i>Gutgard® : Clinically studied flavanoid rich, bioactive for daily digestive health and gastrointestinal comfort</i>
10:05am	Sensient Technologies NZ Tejaswi Vaddiparthi: Research and Development Scientist, Nutraceuticals <i>United States: The Shift from Artificial to Natural Colours in Nutraceuticals</i>
10:20am	Alchemy Agencies Andrew Gallagher: Global Head of Science - Phynova <i>Reducose® Comes to New Zealand: Award-Winning Science and New Clinical Evidence for Metabolic Health</i>
10:35am	The 6AM Agency Gillian Fish: Founder/CEO <i>When Everyone Claims Science, Truth Becomes a Strategy: Brand Trust in the Age of AI, Outrage and Infinite Noise</i>
10:50am-11:50am	Hawkins Watts Morning Tea & Networking MCC Label Coffee Cart
11:50am	Bioeconomy Science Institute Dr Dominic Lomiwes: Team Lead – Immune Health and Physical Performance <i>Greenshell Mussel Powder: Clinical Evidence for Natural Muscle Recovery</i>
12:05pm	New Zealand Couriers Robert Levy: Head of Marketing & Sustainability <i>eCommerce Innovation: Turning the Post-Purchase Experience into a Growth Advantage</i>
12:20pm	Panel 1: Commercialisation Host: Michelle Cubitt, Smart Regulatory Solutions (NHPNZ Board Member) Anagenix, Dr Vishakha Mahajan: Product Manager & NPD Specialist <i>Braincurrent™ - Mechanistic insights using a zebrafish inflammation model</i> Aroma NZ, Associate Professor Alexander Tups: Chief Science Officer Aroma NZ <i>Great Science Isn't Enough: How to Turn University Research into Products People Actually Buy</i> Nutralytics, Dr John Ingram: CEO / Founder <i>Nutraverse™: An AI Bioactive Discovery Platform for Natural Health Products</i>
12:50pm-1:50pm	Botanic Healthcare Lunch & Networking MCC Label Coffee Cart
1:50pm	Kaneka Ubiquinol™ Bobby Mehta: Pharmacist, Education Delivery Specialist and Integrative Medicine SME <i>The Age of Mitoceticals: Why Mitochondrial Health is Defining the Future of Nutraceutical Innovation</i>
2:05pm	Keraplast Dr. Sujay Prabakar: Chief Scientific Officer <i>Keratin Beyond Hair: Creating a New Skincare Platform from New Zealand Wool</i>

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2:20pm	Panel 2: The Future of Healthy Ageing: Next-Generation Ingredients Transforming Natural Health Host: Patricia Kitchen, Alaron Products (NHPNZ Board Member) Ingredients Plus, Sharlene Bennett: Commercial Health Accounts <i>Liponova® Beyond Omega 3 Next Generation Specialised Pro-Resolving Mediators; SPM's, the New Kid on the Block</i>
	Sacco Systems, Ben Griffiths: Senior Sales and Business Development Manager ANZ <i>Unlocking Healthy Ageing: The Emerging Role of the Microbiome in Supporting Longevity</i>
	WeCare Probiotics, Chengle Qiu: Technical Support Engineer <i>Beyond Supplements: Unlocking New Food and Beverage Applications with a Heat-Resistant Spore-Forming Probiotic</i>
	Afternoon Tea & Networking MCC Label Coffee Cart
3:50pm	IFF Health Sciences Bagila Baikadamova: Senior Application Scientist H&B <i>The Gut Microbiome and Metabolic Health in the Age of GLP-1</i>
4:05pm	Swisse Wellness NZ Erin Krelle: Scientific Affairs Associate, Translational Science <i>Beyond the Hero Ingredient: Building Defensible Dietary Supplement Platforms Through Science</i>
4:25pm	2026 Supplier of the Year Awards
5:00pm	IMCD Networking Function
7:00pm	Innovation Expo Close

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