IFT | Philadelphia Section | Institute of Food Technologists

Philadelphia IFT News

AUTUMN 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Catherine Templeton
Quality/Food Safety Consultant

Welcome to the 2026–2027 Philadelphia IFT year!

As we begin a new year together, I want to thank each of you for being part of the Philadelphia IFT community. What makes our section strong is not simply our shared connection to food science, but the collective expertise, curiosity, and willingness to learn from one another that our members bring.

The food industry continues to evolve rapidly. New technologies, changing consumer expectations, food safety and regulatory challenges, sustainability, and advances in research are creating both new questions and exciting opportunities. In that environment, professional communities like Philadelphia IFT are more valuable than ever.

This year, our goal is to create opportunities that help our members **connect, learn, share, and grow.** We want Philadelphia IFT to be a place where experienced professionals can exchange ideas with peers, emerging professionals can build their networks, students can see the possibilities within our profession, and all of us can continue learning from one another.

I encourage you to make the most of the year ahead. **Many of the opportunities and activities offered by Philadelphia IFT are free to attend and participate in,** making it easy to get involved, expand your network, and take advantage of what our section has to offer. Attend an event, introduce yourself to someone new, reconnect with a colleague, share your expertise, mentor a student or young professional, or simply bring a question that sparks a great conversation. Our section becomes stronger when our members actively contribute to the community.

Be sure to review our planned activities for the year and see how and when you can get involved. We hope you'll take advantage of these opportunities and make Philadelphia IFT an active part of your professional community.

On behalf of the Philadelphia IFT leadership team, thank you for your continued membership and support. We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to seeing you throughout the 2026–2027 season.

Here's to another year of advancing food science, strengthening professional connections, and learning together!

Warm regards,
Cathy Templeton - President, Philadelphia IFT

Upcoming Events

THURS, NOV 19 • 5:30 - 9:30 PM

Behind the Brew: *An Evening at Brewery Thirty-Three*

A guided brewery tour with Co-Founder Tommy Cimino, plus two beers and food.
Free to attend. **Register by Nov 13.**

Details & Registration

FRI, DEC 18 • DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM

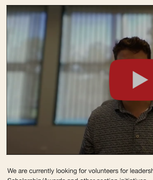
Hockey Night: Flyers vs Red Wings

Enjoy balcony-level access with unlimited food and drinks, great views, and a relaxed lounge-style atmosphere.

Get Tickets

Get Involved

President-Elect Peter Walsh shares how being part of Philly IFT has paid off and the opportunities it has opened up for him.



We are currently looking for volunteers for leadership roles, Suppliers ExpoSocial, Scholarship/Awards and other section initiatives.

Volunteering is a great way to expand your network, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the success of our local food science community.

Interested or know someone who would be a great fit? Email **phillyift@gmail.com**.

2026-2027 Philadelphia IFT Officers

PRESIDENT
Catherine Templeton
Quality/Food Safety Consultant

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Peter Walsh
Tastepoint by IFF

PAST PRESIDENT
Brittany Lisanti
Tastepoint by IFF

TREASURER
Susan Tracey
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SECRETARY
Zhixin Wang
Puratos

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
Juzhong Tan
University of Delaware

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
Nymisha Ravindranath
Campbell's

Learn More About Our Officers

Welcome New Members!

Richard Black - Wixacode | Shannon Bonelli - Tastepoint by IFF | Taylor Borz - Campbell's Company | Michelle M. Flood - Del Monte Foods, Inc. | Melissa Giberson | Lauren Kulp | Steven Lehotay - USDA Agricultural Research Service | Devon Little - Phageguard | Albert A. McDowell | Sarah McNeil - Just Born Inc. | Carolina Mercado - Jungbunziauer | Vijay Nambiar - Vismi LLC | Ava Slaughenhoupt - University of Delaware | Pamela Smith - AskPam Regulatory, LLC | Taylor Steinberg | Jamie Sullivan - Science of Tea | Juan Urbina - Food Export Northeast | Emily Wagener - HTBA | Hailey Wehner - Drexel University | Kalefe Wright - Agthia Ventures | Jacob Yahav

Why joining the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) is one of the highest-ROI moves in food

By Susan Tracey (Commercial Creamery) – PhIFT Treasurer

If you work anywhere in the food system — R&D, QA/food safety, regulatory, product development, sensory, operations, ingredients, or commercialization—IFT membership is more than a résumé line. It gives you faster access to trusted science, real-world training, and a built-in network of people who've already solved the problems you're facing. Instead of piecing together info from scattered sources, you get credible research, focused communities, and career tools all in one place—so you can move smarter and faster.

On the practical side, membership often pays for itself through discounts on IFT FIRST (the industry's biggest event), training, certifications, and publications—plus access to job tools, salary data, and leadership opportunities. Bottom line: IFT compresses time. You learn faster, connect more strategically, stay current as the industry shifts, and spend smarter doing it. If you're serious about staying relevant in food, joining IFT is one of the simplest high-leverage steps you can take.

Learn More About IFT and Why You Should Join

Winter Webinar Series

Missed one? Our sponsor webinars are free to watch anytime on YouTube. Click a title to watch. Our 2027 lineup is coming together now, so stay tuned for dates.

The Ozempic Revolution: How Obesity Drugs Are Redefining Consumer Food Behaviors

Food Protection and the Impact of Product Recalls on the Industry

How to Reduce Sugar with Natural Sweeteners

Unlock the Future of Savory Natural Flavors with NAMINO & DSavory

Revolutionizing Nutrition: Introducing White Chlorella & GoldRella

Insoluble Dietary Fiber: An Effective Tool for Bakery Product Development

Career Center

Do you have a position available at your company? Email **phillyift@gmail.com** with a short job description and we will post the positions on our **Career Center page** free of charge.

Philadelphia IFT is proud to partner with **CareersInFood.com** to provide a centralized resource for food industry job opportunities in the Greater Philadelphia area. Click the link below for featured positions across R&D, product development, quality assurance, food safety, regulatory affairs, manufacturing, engineering, sales, and more.

Browse All Listings

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