13th International Conference on Lithium, Industrial Minerals and Energy IWLiME 2026, 9–11 November, Antofagasta, Chile

Day 1			
	8:00 – 8:30	Registration of pre-registered participants	
	8:30 – 8:45	Opening remarks by officials	Officials
	8:45 – 9:00	Welcome from the organisers	UA – UCN – Industry
Morning	Salt Flats, the Environment and Water		
Moderator: Dra. Svetlana Ushak			
Opening Plenary Lecture	9:00 – 10:00	Geochemical and isotope indicators for the origin and occurrence of lithium brines in the Lithium Triangle	Prof. Avner Vengosh Duke University, USA
Industry Plenary Session	10:00 –11:00	The Salar de Atacama of Tomorrow: Charting a Path towards Sustainable and Innovative Development	Dr. Gabriel Meruane Lithium Research and Process Manager, Novandino
Session chair: Dr. Alonso González			
Oral sessions	11:00 –11:30	Coffee break	
	11:30 –11:50	Thermal evaporation and energy integration for more efficient and sustainable lithium production	Felipe Fierro Albemarle Corporation
	11:50 –12:10	Adaptive hydrogeological monitoring in the lagoon systems of the Salar de Atacama	Juan Pablo Tapia Hydrogeological Conceptualization Lead, Novandino
	12:10 –12:30	Public Information for Better Decision-Making: INLISA's Agenda for Hydrogeology and Integrated Salt-Flat Monitoring	Dr. Claudio Contreras INLISA
	12:30 –12:50	Communities and Lithium Governance	Kathryn Ledebur Head of Andean Information Network, Bolivia
	13:00 –14:30	Lunch and afternoon tea	
Afternoon	AI and Advanced Analytics in Mineral Processing and Battery Technology		
Session chair: Dr. Adrián Quispe			
Oral sessions	14:30 – 14:50	Thermodynamic analysis of phase equilibrium using artificial intelligence: inorganic salt separation processes	Dr. Jorge Lovera Associate Researcher, CELiMIN-UA
	14:50 –15:10	From Historical Data to Operational Decisions: A Framework for Process Optimization with Advanced Analytics	M. Sc. Nicolás Grágeda Honeywell Chile S.A.
	15:10 –15:30	Digital Twin Approaches for Advanced Lithium Storage BMS Systems	Dr. Christian Velarde, UBILOGIX-WINAYTEC, Bolivia-Mexico
	15:30 –15:50	Improving Sulphate Control in Lithium Brine Evaporation for Higher Recovery with a Two-Dimensional Thermodynamic Approach	Felipe Tabilo Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
	15:50 –16:10	Coffee break	
	16:10 –16:30	Deep Q-Network-Based Direct Switching Control of a DC-DC Pseudo-Partial Power Converter	Dr. Oswaldo Menéndez-Granizo Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
	16:30 –16:50	Does recycling more mean mining less? Evidence from lithium, cobalt, nickel and copper	Pablo Bernal Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
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Day 2			
Morning	Sustainable Processes and Direct Lithium Extraction		
Session chair: Dr. Julio Valenzuela			
Oral sessions	9:00 – 9:20	Bolivian Lithium Brines: Strategies, Barriers, and Pathways towards Sustainable Industrial Development	Prof. Marcos Luján Universidad Católica Boliviana, Bolivia
	9:20 – 9:40	Advanced Liquid–Liquid Extraction Systems Based on Deep Eutectic Solvents for High-Selectivity Separation of Critical Metals	Dr Yecid Jimenez, Universidad de Antofagasta, Chile
	9:40 – 10:00	Direct Production of Battery-Grade LiOH via Electromembrane Processes: Semi-Industrial Scale-Up and Process Optimisation	Prof. Mario Grágeda CELiMIN-UA, Chile
	10:00 – 10:20	Selective Lithium Extraction: Technological Innovation for Efficient Production	Dr. Hugo Giraldo Research Director, Novandino
	10:20 – 10:40	Sociotechnical Uncertainties in the Lithium Industry: The Transition to Direct Lithium Extraction in Chile	Dr. Sebastián Herrera-León Universidad de O'Higgins
	10:40 – 11:00	Salt flats under pressure: Microbial impacts of Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE)	Dra. Carolina Cubillos Universidad de Antofagasta, Chile
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break, exhibition stands and posters	
Session chair: Dra Andrea Jara			
Oral sessions	11:30 – 11:50	Electrochemically Induced Precipitation of Mg and Ca from Concentrated LiCl Solutions with High Lithium Recovery	Dr. Alonso González CELiMIN-UA, Chile
	11:50 – 12:10	Towards Improved Direct Lithium Extraction: Development of Lithium Adsorbents Materials	Dra. Paula Marín CELiMIN-UA, Chile
	12:10 – 12:30	Advances in the bio-recovery of lithium and other critical elements using native acidophilic microorganisms	Dr. Francisco Remonsellez Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
	12:30 – 12:50	Removal and recovery of magnesium from brines: diversification in the lithium industry	Dra. Pía Hernández Universidad de Antofagasta, Chile
	13:00 – 14:30	Lunch and afternoon tea	
Afternoon	Sustainable Processes and Direct Lithium Extraction		
Session chair: Dra. Paula Marín			
Industry Plenary Session	14:30 – 15:30	Ionic selectivity and modular design as enablers of the transition to sustainable extraction.	Felipe Figueroa Lithium Extraction Technologies Manager, Albemarle Corporation
Oral sessions	15:30 – 15:50	Countercurrent Reactors in Series: A Robust Alternative to Columns for DLE Using LDH	M. Sc. Marcelo Bravo Ad Infinitum
	15:50 – 16:10	Selective Recovery of Lithium and Iron from Leachates by Direct Electrodialysis with a Selective Membrane	Evgeniya Pasechnaya CELiMIN-UA, Chile
	15:50 – 16:10	Coffee break, exhibition stands and posters	
	16:10 – 16:30	Potential of bacterial siderophores as boron extractants for hydrometallurgical purification of lithium brines	Dr. Luis Rojas Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
	16:30 – 16:50	Effects of Organosilanes on Silica-Based Janus Nanoparticles for Interfacial Stabilisation in Phase Change Slurries	Maura Judith Cruz CELiMIN-UA, Chile
END OF DAY 2			

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Day 3			
Morning	Lithium: Materials, Lithium Batteries, Recycling and the Circular Economy		
Session chair: Dra. Mariela Ortiz			
Plenary Lecture	9:00 – 10:00	Critical Materials Recovery from Secondary Resources: Challenges and Opportunities for a Circular Economy	Prof. Denise Crocce Romano Espinosa Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil
Oral sessions	10:00 – 10:20	Li^+ Dynamics in $LiTa_2PO_8$ Probed by μ^+SR	Dr. Nicolás Flores-González Universidad de Concepción, Chile
	10:20 – 10:40	Synthesis of $LiFePO_4$ Using Li_2SO_4 as an Alternative Lithium Precursor and Its Influence on Structural Evolution and Electrochemical Performance	Dr. Marcelo González CELiMIN-UA; Chile
	10:40 – 11:00	Lithium–air batteries and advanced materials development	Dra. Paulina Márquez Universidad Central, Chile
	11:00 – 11:30	Press briefing / Exhibition stands / Coffee	
Session chair: Dr. Marcos Lujan			
Oral sessions	11:30 – 11:50	Mg-Induced Lattice-Constrained Spinel $LiMn_2O_4$ Cathode with Suppressed Mn Dissolution and Jahn–Teller Distortion: Insights from DFT and Experimental Investigations	Dr. Kumaresan Lakshmanan CELiMIN-UA, Chile
	11:50 – 12:10	Multiscale Correlation of Structural and Electrochemical Degradation in Commercial NCA and LFP Li-ion Batteries	Dra. Mariela Ortíz Iberian Energy Storage Research Center (CIIAE), Spain
	12:10 – 12:30	Synthesis, Characterisation and Electrochemical Evaluation of a Trimetallic Spinel as a High-Voltage Cathode for Lithium-Ion Batteries	Dr. Alifhers Mestra Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
	12:30 – 12:50	Towards Water-Efficient Circular Recovery of Lithium and Cobalt from Spent Lithium-Ion Batteries	Dra. Erika Meza Universidad Arturo Prat, Chile
	12:50 – 13:10	Development and optimization of the synthesis of $LiClO_4$ and $LiPF_6$: challenges in purification and process scale-up	Dra. Isadora Berlanga, Consorcio LiNorth/Universidad de Chile, Chile
	13:10 – 14:30	Lunch and afternoon tea	
Afternoon	Lithium: Materials, Lithium Batteries, Recycling and the Circular Economy		
Session chair: Dra. Carolina Cubillos			
Oral sessions	14:30 – 14:50	Comparative Evaluation of Chloride- and Sulphate-Based Iron Salts for Hydrometallurgical Recycling of NMC Lithium-Ion Battery Cathodes	Dra. Constanza Cruz Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Chile
	14:50 – 15:10	From salar to battery recycling: Salar de Huasco bacteria as potential biorecovery agents for cobalt and lithium	Dra. Andrea Jara Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
	15:10 – 15:30	Integrated Pretreatment, Flotation and Selective Precipitation for Critical Material Recovery from Spent Lithium-Ion Batteries	Dr. Julio Valenzuela Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
	15:30 – 15:50	Upcycling of mixed spent cathode materials towards high-voltage $LiMnxFe_{(1-x)}PO_4$ cathode materials	Dr. Sagar Pawar CELiMIN-UA, Chile
	16:00 – 17:00	Poster session	
Closing	17:00	Poster awards and closing reception	