



Association for Laboratory Automation

ALA Board of Directors

Torsten A. Staab,
MS, Dipl. Inform. (FH)
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Mailstop J580
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Andrea Chow, Ph.D.
Caliper Life Sciences
605 Fairchild Drive
Mountain View, CA 94043

Peter Grandsard, Ph.D.
Amgen, Inc.
One Amgen Center Drive
M/S 29-1-A
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Stephen C. Jacobson, Ph.D.
Indiana University
Department of Chemistry
800 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405

Anne R. Kopf-Sill, Ph.D.
NuGEN Technologies, Inc.
821 Industrial Road, Unit A
San Carlos, CA 94070

James Myslik, Ph.D.
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
DiscoveryTechnologies/
Lead Discovery
5 Research Parkway, Dept. 507
Wallingford, CT 06492-7660

Mark F. Russo, Ph.D.
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
Pharmaceutical Research Division
P.O. Box 4000
Princeton, NJ 08543-4000

Reinhold Schaefer, Dr.rer.nat
Fachhochschule Wiesbaden
Computer Science Department
Kurt-Schumacher-Ring – 18
Wiesbaden, Germany D-65197

Andrew Zaayenga
SmarterLab
1730 West Circle Drive
Martinsville, NJ 08836-2147

Greg Dummer, CAE
Executive Director
330 West State Street, Suite 1
Geneva, IL 60134
Direct: 630.208.6830, ext. 223

For Immediate Dissemination December 1, 2005

Contact Information

David Laurenzo
Telephone: 630.305.0003
Fax: 630.305.8522
dlaurenzo@labautomation.org

ALA Names Innovation Award Finalists for 2006

(Geneva, IL – December 1, 2005) – The Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA) a multi-disciplinary, non-profit scientific association spanning diverse industries and technology sectors, announces the finalists for its \$10,000 Innovation Award.

This year's award recognizes LabAutomation2006 participants who present work that is exceedingly innovative, and contributes to the exploration of automation technologies in the laboratory. Podium presentations that exhibit independence of thought, clarity of vision, extraordinary technical originality, and unique integration and automation strategies qualify for the award.

The Innovation Award Judges Panel narrowed the candidates from hundreds of presentation abstracts to a list of 10 finalists, including:

Jonathon Dordick, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York; Metabolizing Enzyme Toxicology Assay Chip (MetaChip) for High-Throughput Microscale Toxicity Analyses

David Ecker, Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc., Carlsbad, California; Rapid, High-Throughput Bacterial Genotyping to Reduce Healthcare-Associated Infections

Kurt Evans, Ambion Inc., Austin, Texas; High-Throughput Sample Preparation from Whole Blood for Gene Expression Analysis

Minseok Kim, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Daejeon, Republic of Korea; Microfluidic 3-Dimensional Cell Culture System by Self-Assembling Peptide Hydrogel

Gang Liu, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California; All-Optical-Logic Microfluidic Circuit for Biochemical and Cellular Analysis Powered by Photoactive Nanoparticles

-more-

330 West State Street, Suite 1, Geneva, IL 60134 (USA)

Tel: 888.733.1252
Web: labautomation.org

Fax: 630.578.0172
Email: ala_office@labautomation.org

ALA Innovation Award Finalists

Page 2

Robin Liu, CombiMatrix Corp., Mukilteo, Washington; Fully Integrated Microfluidic Devices for Automated DNA Microarray Analysis

Miguel Maccio, Wyeth, Pearl River, New York; Modular Automation Platforms: A Case Study of a Flexible NMR Sample Preparation Robot

Goetz Muenchow, Institut für Mikrotechnik Mainz, Mainz, Germany; Electrophoretic Partitioning of Proteins in Two-Phase Microflows

Achim Wixforth, University of Augsburg, Augsburg, Germany; Acoustically Driven Programmable Microfluidics for Biological and Chemical Applications

Zhiyu Zhang, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts; A Polymer-Based, Instrumented Microbioreactor for High-Throughput Microbial Cell Cultures

Innovation Award chairman Gary Kramer Ph.D. was extremely pleased with the variety and quality of submissions for this year's award. "LabAutomation has always served as a platform for presenting emerging *and* merging laboratory automation technologies. For the second year, laboratory innovation and technology advancement will be recognized, along with the outstanding scientist behind it."

A judging panel of 10 experts in laboratory technologies conducted a preliminary screening of abstracts leading to the finalist list. Once on-site, they will conduct a rigorous evaluation and select the overall winner. That winner will be announced Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 12:30 p.m. during the closing plenary session featuring E.L. Kersten, Ph.D., co-founder of Despair, Inc. Dr. Kersten's presentation is titled, "Demotivation: The State of the Art."

ALA's LabAutomation2006, the world's leading conference and exhibition on emerging laboratory technologies, will be held January 21-25, 2006 at the Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA. The conference will feature more than 200 educational sessions, over 300 exhibit booths and 5,000 attendees from around the world. For more information on the conference, visit labautomation.org, or call 888.733.1252.

###

The Association for Laboratory Automation is a worldwide organization representing leaders in all aspects of laboratory automation. ALA seeks to provide a greater understanding of the importance and value of automation technologies in laboratory settings, to advance science and promote education related to laboratory automation by encouraging the study, advancing the science and improving the practice of medical and laboratory automation.

LabAutomation2006, January 21-25, Palm Springs Convention Center, is a five day event bringing together laboratory automation business leaders and scientists from around the globe in conjunction with the world's largest exhibition of laboratory technologies with over 300 exhibit booths.

ALA thanks Velocity11 for their premier sponsorship contribution to LabAutomation2006. For more details, visit labautomation.org.

For more information on the ALA Innovation Award, contact David Laurenzo, ALA Director of Marketing & Communications, at 630.305.0003 or dlaurenzo@labautomation.org.