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Contact Information:

Tom Manning, Director of Marketing Communications

Telephone: +1.630.256.7527, ext. 103

E-mail: tmanning@slas.org

**The 2015 SLAS Annual Report
Accelerating Excellence in Life Sciences Discovery & Technology**

CHICAGO – SLAS (Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening) ended 2015 on a high note with 27,514 members and stakeholders in 115 countries, groundbreaking new educational initiatives and a healthy bottom line according to the 2015 SLAS Annual Report, now available online at www.ELN.SLAS.org.

Topping the list of important achievements in 2015 was a \$1 million commitment to a new **SLAS Educational Fund**. Established to empower and engage the next generation of scientific leaders, the first major program launched by this fund was the **SLAS Graduate Education Fellowship Grant Program** for outstanding students pursuing advanced degrees in quantitative biosciences and/or life sciences R&D.

The flagship **2015 SLAS International Conference and Exhibition (SLAS2015)**, held Feb. 7-11, 2015, in Washington, DC, was another noteworthy highlight, attracting nearly 4,700 participants from around the world; and featuring the Society's first annual **SLAS Leadership Forum**, a VIP event featuring a moderated panel discussion for senior life sciences discovery and technology experts to share perspectives on the U.S. Biomedical Research Model. A summary of this lively discussion was published in the *SLAS Electronic Laboratory Neighborhood* e-zine at <http://eln.slas.org/story/1-issues/180-2015-slas-leadership-forum-rethinking-the-us-biomedical-research-model>.

SLAS also presented and participated in 10 other **international educational events** in 2015, including the SLAS Asia Conference and Exhibition in China; and SLAS Author Workshops at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, National University of Singapore, and the European Laboratory Robotics Interest Group in the UK. Also in Europe, the Society presented the SLAS Conference on Compound Management in Industry and Academia in Germany; and partnered with other European organizations to provide educational leadership to the Nordic Chemical Biology Meeting in Sweden, Cutting-Edge Technologies for Target Validation Conference in Scotland, and the Spanish Drug Discovery Network in Spain, and MipTec in Switzerland.

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SLAS GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

100 Illinois Street, Suite 242
St. Charles, IL 60174, USA
P: +1.630.256.7527
US Toll Free: +1.877.990.SLAS (7527)
slas@slas.org
www.SLAS.org

SLAS EUROPE OFFICE

Boulevard du Souverain, 280
B-1160 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 7393026
europe@slas.org
www.Europe-SLAS.org

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In cyberspace and face-to-face at SLAS2015, the **SLAS Special Interest Groups** and their online forums at LinkedIn were reorganized to better facilitate ongoing real-time communication among 17 active networks of like-minded members throughout the Americas and Europe.

The official SLAS journals, the ***Journal of Biomolecular Screening (JBS)*** and the ***Journal of Laboratory Automation (JALA)*** celebrated their 20th year of publication in 2015 with important special issues from JBS on Novel Therapeutic Approaches for Neglected Infectious Diseases (which was made freely available upon publication courtesy of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative); and Therapeutic Antibody Discovery and Development. JALA marked the year with special issues on Microengineered Cell- and Tissue-Based Assays for Drug Screening and Toxicology Applications; New Developments in Biosensing; and In Vitro Diagnostic Technology Reviews from the Keck Graduate Institute School of Applied Life Sciences.

SLAS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit scientific organization whose mission is squarely focused on education. Its stakeholders are its members who pay dues; participate; and contribute to its many different programs, products, services and events. On their behalf, SLAS is committed to carefully and conservatively managing its resources to ensure organizational stability, operational excellence, and sound investments in growth and development to benefit members as well as the organization. This past year, SLAS maintained careful attention to detail and careful expense management, enabling it to achieve better than budgeted 2014-15 year-end results with appreciable net returns in its operating and reserve funds.

“SLAS is a collaborative community that brings together creative visionaries and fearless pioneers whose ingenuity and innovation are reshaping the world and changing the way we think,” writes SLAS CEO Gregory F. Dummer, CAE, in the 2015 Annual Report. *“SLAS members are some of today’s most accomplished scholars, scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs. They’re creative problem solvers, collaborators and over-achievers. They celebrate their diversity and find a provocative home base in SLAS.”*

To read the 2015 SLAS Annual Report, visit www.ELN.SLAS.org. For more information about SLAS, visit www.SLAS.org or contact SLAS Global Headquarters at +1.877.990.SLAS (5727) or e-mail slas@slas.org.

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***The Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS)** is an international community of more than 20,000 individual scientists, engineers, researchers, technologists and others from academic, government and commercial laboratories. The SLAS mission is to be the preeminent global organization providing forums for education and information exchange and to encourage the study of, and improve the practice of life sciences R&D and technology. For more information, visit www.SLAS.org.*