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SLAS Announces New Members of Society's Board of Directors

CHICAGO – SLAS (the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening) has announced the three individuals who will be joining the nine-member SLAS Board of Directors. Each of these new members will serve a three-year term, beginning at SLAS2016, which starts January 23, 2016, at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA, USA. Listed alphabetically, the newest SLAS Board members are:

Peter Grandsard, Amgen, Inc. Thousand Oaks, California (USA)

Peter Grandsard is an Executive Director in Amgen Research. In this current role, he is responsible for the chemical, biophysical, and physical characterization of research-stage therapeutic candidates, synthetics and biologics alike. Peter has more than 20 years of industrial experience across the biopharmaceutical and petrochemical industries. Grandsard has managed Amgen functions in bio-assay development and screening; small molecule process analytical sciences; and laboratory automation technologies.

Ian Shuttler, Tecan Trading, AG, Zurich, Switzerland

Ian Shuttler is head of strategy and portfolio management for the Life Science Division at Tecan Trading AG. He is an analytical scientist with over 25 years experience in product, business and R&D management at Tecan Trading, PerkinElmer and Agilent Technologies. At Agilent Technologies, he led the R&D team for developing chromatography consumables. In his time with PerkinElmer, he worked in the United States and Europe in a variety of positions. While based in the US, Shuttler served as vice president for strategic initiatives within the environmental health division and vice president leading the global inorganic analysis business.

Elisabeth (Sabeth) Verpoorte, Ph.D., University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands

Sabeth Verpoorte has more than 25 years of research experience in the lab-on-a chip field in both industrial and academic environments. Head of the Pharmaceutical Analysis Group in the Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy since 2003, she has been working with cells and tissues in microfluidic devices to develop enabling tools for her colleagues. Her efforts have also concentrated on microparticle separation strategies and miniaturized analytical instrumentation. Verpoorte has published more than 80 papers in top analytical chemistry journals. She is or has been involved in several international conference organizations and journal editorial boards.

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Grandsard, Shuttler and Verpoorte will fill vacancies created by the completion of terms of three SLAS Board members, who include:

- Joshua Bittker, The Broad Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA)
- Richard Ellson, Labcyte Inc., Sunnyvale, California (USA)
- Dean Ho, Ph.D., of the University of California – Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California (USA)

“SLAS is extremely proud to welcome these three new members of the Society’s Board of Directors,” said 2015 SLAS President Dean Ho. “Sabeth, Peter and Ian each bring a volume of valuable knowledge, experience and industry connections which will immediately benefit SLAS and the global community we serve. Their perspectives and unique backgrounds will ensure we continue to represent the current – and future – needs of life science discovery and technology professionals at every opportunity. I appreciate their willingness to serve and look forward to working with them to benefit SLAS and our various constituencies from around the globe.”

The selection and vetting process for incoming Board members was led by the SLAS Nominations Committee that considered not only professional qualifications and experience of candidates, but also a healthy diversity of scientific discipline, industry affiliation and geographic backgrounds. The confirmation process for Grandsard, Shuttler and Verpoorte began with an open call for nominations in September 2015. Proposed candidates were carefully considered last fall and, in November, final recommendations were approved by the SLAS Board of Directors and presented to the SLAS membership for consideration and comment.

For more information visit www.SLAS.org or contact SLAS Global Headquarters at +1.877.990.SLAS (5727) or e-mail slas@slas.org.

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 science research and development discovery and technology. For more information, visit www.SLAS.org.