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**JALA Special Issue on Advancing Scientific Innovation with Acoustic Droplet Ejection**

**CHICAGO** –“Advancing Scientific Innovation with Acoustic Droplet Ejection” (ADE) is the theme of the February 2016 special issue of the *Journal of Laboratory Automation (JALA)*. The issue, now available online with free public access sponsored by Labcyte Inc. (Sunnyvale, CA, USA), showcases 22 original scientific reports that share diverse peer-reviewed perspectives on how new ADE capabilities are changing the way that science is done.

“Multiple articles reveal the revolutionary nature of acoustic droplet ejection and its broad application,” says special issue guest editor Joe Olechno of Labcyte. “The power of acoustic dispensing is the result of the ability to transfer liquids using sound waves with no physical contact from pipette tips or pin-tools. The unparalleled precision, accuracy and speed of ADE have set new standards for liquid handling performance. Diverse fluid types in a range of volumes can be transferred with nanoliter resolution to support assay miniaturization and deliver more biologically relevant results by eliminating errors caused by the adsorption of solutes, carry-over and cross-contamination. This enables high-density assay formats, significant reductions in consumption of samples and reagents, time savings, improved throughput – all to achieve lower project costs with higher data quality.”

Serving as guest editors along with Olechno were Clive Green of AstraZeneca (Cheshire, UK) and Lynn Rasmussen of Southern Research (Birmingham, AL, USA).

One paper featured in this special issue of JALA is based on the 2015 SLAS Innovation Award-winning presentation from SLAS2015, the SLAS International Conference and Exhibition that was held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 7-11, 2015. “Novel Acoustic Loading of a Mass Spectrometer – Towards Next Generation High-Throughput MS Screening” by Sinclair et al. describes the first-ever coupling of mass spectrometry with ADE to analyze as many as three assays per second. In conjunction with free access of this special issue sponsored by Labcyte, a live recording of this SLAS2015 presentation by Jonathan Wingfield of AstraZeneca (UK) also is being made available for free public viewing at [www.slas.org/slas2015-webinar](http://www.slas.org/slas2015-webinar).

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Other papers in this special issue explore new, seminal approaches to personalized medicine from both the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Finland (FIMM) and Uppsala University; solutions to the special challenges associated with protein crystallography with articles from both Genentech and the Brookhaven National Labs; and advances in synthetic biology, genotyping and RNAi (U. Edinburgh, Genentech, Merck and Southern Research). Other researchers at Southern Research use ADE in the study of infectious diseases including Ebola while researchers from MedImmune cover how ADE is critical to the discovery of therapeutic peptides. What is impressive is the breadth of applications addressed by the power of the technique.

“Thanks to thoughtful and assertive outreach by the three guest editors of this special issue, JALA is able to publish this collection of high-quality papers that reflect the continuum of ADE capabilities,” says JALA Editor-in-Chief Edward Kai-Hua Chow of the National University of Singapore. “It truly is an impressive achievement and we are very proud of it.”

“SLAS is grateful to Labcyte for its partnership in this special issue,” says SLAS CEO Greg Dummer. “Labcyte’s unique free access sponsorship allows SLAS to over-deliver on its mission of providing meaningful scientific education to the life sciences R&D community. Rigorously peer-reviewed science and technology is the gold standard and this special issue sets the bar very high.”

JALA is one of two MEDLINE-indexed scientific journals published by SLAS (Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening). Visit JALA Online at <http://jla.sagepub.com/content/21/1> to read the special issue on “Advancing Scientific Innovation with Acoustic Droplet Ejection.” For more information about SLAS and its journals, visit [www.slas.org/jala-jbs](http://www.slas.org/jala-jbs). For more information about Labcyte, visit [www.labcyte.com](http://www.labcyte.com).

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**SLAS (Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening)** 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 discovery and technology. For more information, visit [www.SLAS.org](http://www.SLAS.org).

SLAS publishes two internationally recognized, MEDLINE-indexed journals, now in their 21st year of publication. **The Journal of Laboratory Automation (JALA)** and **Journal of Biomolecular Screening (JBS)** uniquely serve life sciences discovery and technology professionals. Together, JALA and JBS address the full spectrum of issues that are mission-critical to this important audience, enabling scientific research teams to gain scientific insights, increase productivity, elevate data quality, reduce lab process cycle times and enable experimentation that otherwise would be impossible.

Specifically, **JALA** explores ways in which scientists adapt advancements in technology for scientific exploration and experimentation. In direct relation to this, **JBS** reports how scientists develop and utilize novel technologies and/or approaches to provide and characterize chemical and biological tools to understand and treat human disease.

**Journal of Biomolecular Screening (JBS):** 2014 Impact Factor 2.423. Editor-in-Chief Robert M. Campbell, Ph.D., Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN (USA).

**Journal of Laboratory Automation (JALA):** 2014 Impact Factor 1.879. Editor-in-Chief Edward Kai-Hua Chow, Ph.D., National University of Singapore (Singapore).