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For Immediate Release:

July 25, 2016

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**Opening New Frontiers in the Development of Life Sciences Technology
with Collaborative 3D Printing Technology**

CHICAGO – Despite the hype and headlines, 3D printing truly is a paradigm shift in how life sciences research can be conducted. The August 2016 issue of the *Journal of Laboratory Automation* (JALA) presents a special collection of manuscripts devoted to this timely topic.

Among this collection's highlights is a comprehensive overview of the work being performed by the U.S. National Institutes of Health 3D Print Exchange, which is exploring new ways to use 3D printing and maintaining a large library of plans and CAD files for downloading and printing.

The use of the 3D motion platform is explored in two studies from Michigan Technological University's Open Sustainability Technology (MOST) Lab initiative. This initiative is a resource of ideas and plans for instruments that can be custom built by researchers using 3D printed parts. Together, the two studies provide an excellent overview of how to create custom apparatus. One focuses the development of a device to construct micro-channels for microfluidics; and the other presents the development of a general purpose instrument that can be used for a variety of laboratory chores.

Another paper demonstrates how researchers at Zurich University of Applied Sciences have developed and implemented 3D printing technology to deposit living cells, and how the ability to "print" combinations of cells in precise locations provides an exciting capability to develop new cell-based assays.

This collection was organized with leadership guidance from James M. Gill II, PhD, Bristol-Myers Squibb (Wallingford, CT) and Alden S. Hart, PhD, Ten Mile Square Technologies (Arlington, VA). 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/21/4> to read this special collection and listen to a Podcast with Gill and Hart.

In 2017, JALA's name will change to **SLAS Technology** (Translating Life Sciences Innovation). For more information about SLAS and its journals, visit www.slas.org/publications/scientific-journals.

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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.*

*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):** 2015 Impact Factor 2.218. Editor-in-Chief Robert M. Campbell, Ph.D., Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN (USA). In 2017, JBS's title will change to **SLAS Discovery** (Advancing Life Sciences R&D).*

***Journal of Laboratory Automation (JALA):** 2015 Impact Factor 1.297. Editor-in-Chief Edward Kai-Hua Chow, Ph.D., National University of Singapore (Singapore). In 2017, JALA's title will change to **SLAS Technology** (Translating Life Sciences Innovation).*