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SLAS Announces New Members of Society's Board of Directors

CHICAGO – The Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) announced the names of the three individuals who will be the latest additions to the nine-member SLAS Board of Directors. Each of these new members will serve a three-year term, beginning at SLAS2015, which starts February 7, 2015, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, USA. The newest SLAS Board members are:

Scott Atkin, SAGIAN Ventures, Zionsville, Indiana (USA)

Scott Atkin is CEO and Managing Director for SAGIAN Ventures. In his current role at SAGIAN, Atkin identifies new candidate businesses for acquisition, performs due diligence, contract negotiations and facilitates the transition of the businesses out of the parent company and into a stand-alone entrepreneurial entity. Atkin brings more than 30 years professional experience in the life science, scientific automation and clinical diagnostics industries, including stints with Dow Chemical and Beckman Coulter, Inc. where he was an Executive Vice President overseeing the company's Clinical Chemistry and Discovery Business Groups and the Instrument Systems Development Center.

Michele A. Cleary, Ph.D., Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, Pennsylvania (USA)

Michele Cleary is the Executive Director of Genetics and Pharmacogenomics for Merck Research Laboratories (MRL). She brings more than 12 years' experience managing drug discovery teams in a pharmaceutical industrial setting. Cleary has specific expertise in biomarker discovery and development, genomics, RNA interference, microRNA biology, drug target validation, and oncology pathway biology. Among her experience with SLAS, Cleary served as Conference Co-Chair for SLAS2013.

Susan M. Lunte, Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas (USA)

Susan (Sue) Lunte is Director of the COBRE Center for Molecular Analysis of Disease Pathways and Director of the Ralph N. Adams Institute for Bioanalytical Chemistry at the University of Kansas, where she is also Ralph Adams Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Lunte has served as a faculty member at the University of Kansas since 1994. She has earned more than 20 awards for her teaching and scientific research, and has authored or co-authored more than 135 scientific papers. Her research interests include bioanalytical chemistry, liquid chromatography, capillary electrophoresis, electrochemical and laser-induced fluorescence detection, microdialysis sampling, neurochemistry, protein and peptide analysis, microchip analytical systems, mass spectrometry and anticancer drug analysis.

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2015 SLAS Board of Directors

Page 2 of 2

Atkin, Cleary and Lunte will fill vacancies created by the completion of terms of three SLAS Board members, who include:

- Frank Fan, Ph.D., of Promega, Verona, Wisconsin (USA)
- Robyn Rourick, M.S., of Genetech Inc., South San Francisco, California (USA)
- Daniel G. Sipes, M.S., of the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, California (USA)

“SLAS is extremely proud to welcome these three new members of the Society’s Board of Directors,” said 2014 SLAS President Daniel Sipes. “Scott, Michele and Sue bring a host of knowledge, experience and industry connections which will undoubtedly benefit SLAS and our global community as they assume their roles on the Board. Not only is each of them well qualified to serve on the Board, I know how vested they are in delivering value to members and ensuring a positive, long-term future for the Society.”

“Following a thorough review and vetting process by the SLAS Nominations Committee, it is very exciting to have professionals the caliber of Scott, Michele and Sue join the SLAS Board of Directors,” added Gregory Dummer, CEO of SLAS. “Just as their additions will provide an infusion of fresh perspectives on the Board, we must also commend the Board members completing their terms: Robyn Rourick, Fran Fan and Dan Sipes, the outgoing SLAS President. Their leadership, commitment and careful stewardship of the Society over their Board terms has helped SLAS reach new heights in terms of program quality and international reach.”

The confirmation process for Atkin, Cleary and Lunte was conducted in accordance with SLAS bylaws, policies, procedures and strategic plan. The process began with an open call for nominations in September and October. Proposed candidates were carefully considered by the SLAS Nominations Committee in October; 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.

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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 laboratory science and technology. For more information, visit www.SLAS.org.