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SLAS2014 Sets New Attendance Record for Society

CHICAGO – The Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) welcomed a record-setting 5,819 participants from 46 countries to SLAS2014, the Third Annual SLAS Conference and Exhibition, at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, Calif., Jan. 18-22, 2014. This five-day annual event convened scientists, academicians, business leaders and students from around the globe to gain new information, ideas and insight about laboratory science and technology.

“We’re extremely pleased with the attendance and participation at SLAS2014, and our grateful to our key contributors – including attendees, exhibitors, presenters and volunteers – who made the event the tremendous success that it was,” said Daniel Sipes, SLAS President. “Throughout the conference, it was obvious that scientists, researchers, engineers, and technology developers and users look to the Society as a means of staying informed and connected. We look forward to filling that role for many years to come.”

Program Highlights

With its primary focus on education, SLAS2014 included 132 world-class scientific podium presentations organized within seven topical tracks, two thought-provoking keynote presentations (Dr. Eric Topol and Radiolab co-hosts Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich), 17 one- and two-day short courses, 376 poster presentations and 57 industry-sponsored tutorials. The SLAS2014 exhibition featured new technology, products and services from 306 different regional, national and multinational companies. The exhibition also showcased the [SLAS Innovation AveNEW exhibitors](#), eight entrepreneurial start-up companies that applied and competed with others to earn complimentary exhibit space and accessories, travel and lodging for one company representative and an invitation to make a presentation at the popular Late Night with LRIG Rapid Fire Innovation session at SLAS2014.

Awards and Honors

Nine exceptional presenters were selected to compete for the 2014 SLAS Innovation Award, the winner of which was announced during the closing session on Jan. 22. Based on criteria that include quality of science, impact on laboratory automation and screening, originality and creativity, the Innovation Award is judged by a volunteer committee of practicing scientific and technology professionals. In addition to the prestige associated with this distinction, the winner also received a \$10,000 cash prize. SLAS congratulates 2014 Innovation Award winner Patrick P. Beattie, Diagnostics For All, Cambridge, Mass. (USA), for his award-winning presentation: *Paper-Based Sensors for Low-Cost Diagnostics*.

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SLAS2014 Attracts Record Attendance in San Diego

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More than 45 new products were launched at SLAS2014, and three companies were selected by a panel of judges to receive the SLAS New Product Award (NPA) Designation, recognizing the best of what's new on the exhibit floor.

SLAS2014 NPA winners were:

- [Coastal Genomics \(www.coastalgenomics.com\)](http://www.coastalgenomics.com); Product: Ranger Technology
- [Dynamic Biosensors GmbH \(http://www.dynamic-biosensors.com/\)](http://www.dynamic-biosensors.com/); Product: switchSENSE Analyzer DRX 2400
- [Planet Innovation \(www.planetinnovation.com.au\)](http://www.planetinnovation.com.au); Product: Gavi

Forty-six students traveled to SLAS2014 from 10 countries to present their work as part of the SLAS Tony B. Academic Travel Awards program and the SLAS Young Scientist Awards program. These programs provide recipients with travel, hotel accommodations and full conference registrations. Three individuals earned top honors in the SLAS2014 Student Poster Competition:

- Garrett Mosley, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Bioengineering, for "[Layer-by-Layer Chitosan-Alginate Coating of Polymeric Nanoparticles for Colon Specific Drug Delivery](#)"
- Tim Ruckh, PhD, Northeastern University, for "[Ultra-small and Ratiometric Nanosensors for Dynamic Potassium Imaging](#)"
- Kris Wilson, Ph.D, University of Edinburgh, for "[A Novel High Throughput Drug Screening Technique Targeting Human Kynurenine 3-Monooxygenase](#)"

Looking Ahead: SLAS2015

SLAS2015, the Fourth Annual SLAS Conference and Exhibition, will be held Feb. 7-11, 2015, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., USA. The latest information on SLAS2015 can be found at www.slas2015.org. For information on exhibit and sponsorship opportunities, contact SLAS Exhibits Manager Barry Sacks (bsacks@slas.org). SLAS2015 Call for Abstract information will be available in March, 2014.

The Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) is an international community of more than 15,000 individual scientists, engineers, researchers, technologists and others from academic, government and corporate 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 on the Society, visit www.SLAS.org. For more information on SLAS2014, visit www.SLAS2014.org.

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