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Contact Information:

SLAS Director, Marketing Communications Tom Manning

Telephone: + 1.630.256.7527, ext. 103

E-mail: tmanning@slas.org

ANSI Renews and Renames Existing Microplate Standards 1, 2, 3 and 4

CHICAGO—October 29, 2012—The Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) announced that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) recently finalized reaffirmation and redesignation of four existing microplate standards.

- ANSI/SLAS 1-2004 (R2012)
Microplates - Footprint Dimensions
(formerly recognized as ANSI/SBS 1-2004)
- ANSI/SLAS 2-2004 (R2012)
Microplates - Height Dimensions
(formerly recognized as ANSI/SBS 2-2004)
- ANSI/SLAS 3-2004 (R2012)
Microplates - Bottom Outside Flange Dimensions
(formerly recognized as ANSI/SBS 3-2004)
- ANSI/SLAS 4-2004 (R2012)
Microplates - Well Positions
(formerly recognized as ANSI/SBS 4-2004)

This news follows the recent announcement of the accreditation of the new SLAS Microplate Standard 6 for Well Bottom Elevation, known as ANSI/SLAS 6-2012.

“SLAS is proud to maintain a leadership role in the important arena of microplate standards,” says SLAS President Dave Dorsett. “Our commitment to advancing scientific research and innovation through laboratory technology is an essential part of our Society’s mission. As a nonprofit membership organization, we are fortunate to have access to the expertise and enthusiasm required to fulfill this role. In this case, sincere thanks are due to Amer El-Hage, co-chair of the SLAS Microplate Standards Special Interest Group.”

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SLAS Global Headquarters 100 Illinois Street Suite 242 St. Charles, IL 60174 USA
P: +1.630.256.7527 U.S. toll-free: +1.877.990.SLAS (7527) F: +1.630.741.SLAS (7527) E: slas@slas.org slas.org

SLAS Asia Office Wise Logic International Ctr. 66 North Shan Xi Road Suite 2301-2304 Shanghai 200041 China
P: +011.86.21.51081513 F: +011.86.21.51160260 E: asia@slas.org asia-slas.org

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In the 1990s, a need for clearly defined dimensional standards for microtiter plates (or microplates) was identified. At the time, microplates were becoming essential tools for drug discovery research. The concept of a microplate was similar among manufacturers, but the dimensions and nomenclatures for microplates were different and confusing for everyone involved – microplate vendors, instrumentation companies and end-users. Differences often caused problems when microplates were used in robotics and automated laboratory instrumentation. In 2004, the former Society for Biomolecular Sciences (SBS) secured accreditation for these original four microplate standards to accelerate and streamline the industry. SLAS is recognized by ANSI as an official standards developing organization (SDO) and will continue to work with ANSI to renew accreditation for all six standards.

Since 1918 when it was founded by five engineering societies and three government agencies, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has served in its capacity as administrator and coordinator of the United States private sector voluntary standardization system. Accreditation by ANSI signifies that the procedures used by the standards body in connection with the development of American National Standards meet ANSI's essential requirements for openness, balance, consensus and due process.

More information about SLAS Microplate Standards, including detailed descriptions) is available at SLAS.org. Visit the Special Interest Groups Community page and scroll down to find Microplate Standards information.

For information about SLAS, contact SLAS Global Headquarters at +1.877.990.SLAS (5727) or slas@slas.org.

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***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 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.*