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## **SLAS Announces 51 Recipients of the Society's Academic Travel Awards Program**

### **Students, Post-docs and Junior Faculty from Around the World Receive Funding to Attend LabAutomation2011**

**CHICAGO** – The Association for Laboratory Automation, now officially the Laboratory Automation Section of the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS), has selected 51 up-and-coming scientists and engineers to attend and present at LabAutomation2011, January 29-February 2, Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA, USA.

Tony B. Academic Travel Award recipients receive complimentary travel, hotel accommodations and conference registration to participate as podium and poster presenters at this five-day international event. This year's award recipients are:

- Stephanie Archer-Hartmann – West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, USA
- Muhammad Awais, Ph.D. – University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
- Christopher Baker – Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA
- Krzysztof Churski, M.S. – Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland
- Timo Cuntz – Fraunhofer IPA, Stuttgart, Germany
- Caroline Davis – San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, USA
- Cerasela Zoica Dinu, Ph.D. – West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, USA
- Gerard Dumancas – Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, USA
- Simon Ekstrom, Ph.D. – University of Lund, Lund, Sweden
- Mikael Evander, Ph.D. – Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA
- Paige Feikert – Wichita State University, Wichita, KS, USA
- Laura Filla – St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, USA
- Santaneel Ghosh, Ph.D. – Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO, USA
- Siegfried F. Graf, M.S. – CSEM SA, Alpnach, Switzerland
- Björn Hammarström, Ph.D. – Lund University, Lund, Sweden
- SoonGweon Hong – University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Amy Hsiao, M.S. – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- Elzbieta Jedrych, M.S. – Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland
- Kayla Kaiser, M.S. – University of California, Riverside, CA, USA
- Kelly Karns, M.S. – University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA

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## 2011 Academic Travel Awards

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- Joong Kim, Ph.D. – Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Daejeon, Republic of Korea
- Douglas Kirkpatrick – St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, USA
- Radoslaw Kwapiszewski, M.S. – Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland
- Cari Launiere – University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, USA
- Kai-Chun Lin, Ph.D. – Arizona State University, Mesa, AZ, USA
- Thomas Linz – University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA
- Ying Liu – University of California, Riverside, CA, USA
- Joe Fu-Jiou Lo, Ph.D. – University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, USA
- Zhenda Lu, M.S. – University of California, Riverside, CA, USA
- Debkishore Mitra – University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Ahsan Munir, M.S. – Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA, USA
- Frank Myers – University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Vinay Nagaraj, Ph.D. – The Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University, Gilbert, AZ, USA
- Johnbull Sonny Ogboi, M.S. – Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria
- Tim Ruckh, Ph.D. – Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA
- Thiago Segato – University of São Paulo, São Carlos-SP, Brazil
- Asmira Selimovic – St. Louis University, Fenton, MO, USA
- Silja Senkbeil, M.S. – DTU Nanotech, Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark
- Barbara Smith – Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA
- Nickolaj Starodub, Ph.D. – National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine
- Yi-Chung Tung, Ph.D. – Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
- Paul van Midwoud, M.S. – University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands
- Krishna Vattipalli, Ph.D. – Wichita State University, Wichita, KS, USA
- Ming Zhong, Ph.D. – University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA
- Karina Ziolkowska, M.S. – Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland

Each year the SLAS Education Committee conducts a comprehensive evaluation to select an elite group of students who qualify for Tony B. Academic Travel Awards. SLAS allocates up to \$50,000 annually for this program.

Additionally, working in concert with some of the world's top prestigious scientific conferences, institutions and educational forums, the SLAS Young Scientist Award program selects top student presentations made throughout the year. These Young Scientist Award recipients are then rewarded with a Tony B. Academic Travel Award and the opportunity to present their materials at LabAutomation2011. This year's winners are:

- Victoria Echeverria, M.S.; MipTec – BellBrook Labs, Madison, WI, USA
- Songyu Hu, Ph.D.; IEEE Robotics and Automation Society – City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
- Sanam Mustafa, Ph.D.; ELRIG – Western Australian Institute for Medical Research, Nedlands, Australia

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## 2011 Academic Travel Awards

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- Rosalee Rasmussen Hellberg, Ph.D.; Institute of Food Technologists – Oregon State University, Portland, OR, USA
- Hunter Rogers; American Institute of Chemical Engineers – Auburn University, Auburn, AL, USA
- Christa Snyder; Analytical Systems Digital Library – Whittenberg University, Springfield, OH, USA

For more information about LabAutomation2011, Tony B. Academic Travel Awards or the Young Scientist Award program, visit [www.slas.org/LA11](http://www.slas.org/LA11).

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**The Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS)** is a new non-profit scientific organization uniting the Society for Biomolecular Sciences (SBS) and the Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA). The SLAS mission is to be the preeminent global organization providing forums for education and information exchange and to encourage the study of, improve the science and practice of, laboratory automation and screening. Watch for the official launch of SLAS.org, our new, comprehensive website, in October. For additional information, please visit [www.sbs-alamerger.org](http://www.sbs-alamerger.org).

**LabAutomation2011**, January 29-February 2, Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA, USA is a five-day event bringing together laboratory automation scientists, academicians, business leaders and students from around the globe in conjunction with the world's largest exhibition of laboratory technologies.