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## **SLAS2017 Welcomes More than 5,000 to Washington, DC**

*Education, interaction and Society updates highlight sixth annual flagship conference and exhibition*

**CHICAGO** – [SLAS](#), the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening, welcomed 5,050 participants from 42 countries to [SLAS2017](#), the Society's flagship International Annual Conference and Exhibition, held Feb. 4-8 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. This significant and influential collection of researchers, academicians, business leaders and students from around the globe benefitted from an extensive lineup of education, new production information, and opportunities to connect with peers interested in charting the future of life sciences discovery and technology.

SLAS utilized the event's opening general session on Monday, Feb. 6, to announce several key organizational updates:

### ***New Strategic Plan***

SLAS CEO Vicki Loise publicly introduced the 2017-21 SLAS Strategic Plan during the annual State of the Society address. Conveying that the plan was the result of nearly a year of careful deliberations by a committee of leaders and professional team members, Loise concluded that "The process of developing the plan is itself an empowering exercise, and I know the implementation phase will yield positive results, an improved and expanded program portfolio, and a broader membership base from which we will all benefit." [View the SLAS Strategic Plan here.](#)

### ***2017 Class of SLAS Fellow Members Announced***

In the same session, SLAS President Scott Atkin announced the inaugural class of SLAS Fellow Members, a brand new, invite-only member category created to recognize the elite class of individuals who have made significant contributions to the Society by way of sharing technical expertise and volunteer service. Said Atkin, "These individuals are shining examples of the spirit of SLAS, freely sharing of their time, talent and connections to serve our entire community." [See the 2017 class of SLAS Fellow Members.](#)

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#### Award Winners

As is the SLAS tradition, a host of distinctive awards were recognized at SLAS2017:

#### Student Poster Awards

A panel of SLAS judges gave highest honors - and \$500 in award money - to these three promising young professionals:

- **Alice Bong** (University of Queensland, Australia): *Imaging Intracellular Calcium Dynamics in Breast Cancer using Automated High-Content Fluorescence Imaging*
- **Sudip Mondal** (University of Texas at Austin, USA): *Next Generation Screening Technology for High-Throughput Drug Screening using C. elegans Disease Models*
- **Bilal Zulfiqar** (Griffith University, Australia): *High-Throughput Phenotypic Screening Reveals Novel Pharmacologically Active Compounds for Visceral Leishmaniasis*

#### New Product Awards

Among the 296 companies that exhibited in the SLAS2017 Exhibition, 40 submitted new products to be considered for the SLAS2017 New Product Award. SLAS congratulates the following three winners that were selected after judging at SLAS2017 in Washington, DC:

- [Avidien Technologies](#); Product: Avidien MicroPro 300
- [Infinitesimal, LLC](#); Product: Nanofountain Probe
- [Analytik Jena](#) US, Inc.; Product: SmartExtraction

The SLAS Journals, *SLAS Discovery* and *SLAS Technology*, took the opportunity at SLAS2017 to recognize exceptional manuscripts and volunteer service from the journals' editorial committees. Journal awards included:

#### 2017 SLAS Readers' Choice Awards

*Reflecting popularity among readers throughout 2016.*

2017 *SLAS Discovery* Readers Choice Award

##### [A New Bliss Independence Model to Analyze Drug Combination Data](#)

By Wei Zhao, Kris Sachsenmeier, Lanju Zhang, Erin Sult, Robert E. Hollingsworth, and Harry Yang  
From JBS Volume 19, Issue 5, Pages 817-821

2017 *SLAS Technology* Readers Choice Award

##### [TEER Measurement Techniques for In Vitro Barrier Model Systems](#)

By Balaji Srinivasan, Aditya Reddy Kolli, Mandy Brigitte Esch, Hasan Erbil Abaci, Michael L. Shuler, and James J. Hickman  
From JALA Volume 20, Issue 2, Pages 107-126

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### 2017 SLAS Authors Choice Awards

*Reflecting popularity among authors (citations) throughout 2016.*

2017 SLAS Discovery Authors Choice Awards (tie)

[Chagas Disease Drug Discovery: Toward a New Era](#)

By Eric Chatelain

From JBS Volume 20, Issue 1, Pages 22-35

[Increasing the Content of High-Content Screening: An Overview](#)

By Shantanu Singh, Anne E. Carpenter, and Auguste Genovesio

From JBS Volume 19, Issue 5, Pages 640-650

2017 SLAS Technology Authors Choice Award

[TEER Measurement Techniques for In Vitro Barrier Model Systems](#)

By Balaji Srinivasan, Aditya Reddy Kolli, Mandy Brigitte Esch, Hasan Erbil Abaci, Michael L. Shuler, and James J. Hickman

From JALA Volume 20, Issue 2, Pages 107-126

### 2017 SLAS Reviewer Excellence Awards

*Reflecting review quality, timeliness and volunteer service in 2016.*

2017 SLAS Discovery Reviewer Excellence Awards

**Marc Bickle**, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden (Germany)

**Geoff Holdgate**, AstraZeneca, Cambridge (UK)

**Christophe Morriseau**, University of California, Davis, CA (USA)

**Christian Parker**, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Basel (Switzerland)

2017 SLAS Technology Reviewer Excellence Awards

**Marcos Cheney**, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD (USA)

**Dieter Drexler**, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Wallingford, CT (USA)

**Shue Wang**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (USA)

### 2017 SLAS Innovation Award

[Nine podium presentations](#) were selected as finalists for the 2017 SLAS Innovation Award. The final round of judging took place during SLAS2017, when all presentations were viewed and evaluated by the members of the Innovation Award Judging Committee. Following deliberations at the conference, **Elodie Sollier-Christen**, Vortex Biosciences, Inc. was selected as the 2017 Innovation Award Winner for her presentation, "Vortex Biosciences Technology for Fast and Label-Free Isolation of Circulating Tumor Cells from Blood Samples". As a result of her selection, Sollier-Christen was awarded a \$10,000 cash prize, an SLAS Premier Membership, and an invitation to join the SLAS Innovation Award Judging Committee for 2018.

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### SLAS2018

[SLAS2018](#) will be held February 3-7 at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA, USA. Short Courses will take place Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 3-4; the Exhibition and Conference will run Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 5-7. Three new educational tracks will be introduced at SLAS2018: Biologics Discovery, Chemical Biology and High-Definition Biotechnology. The latest information on SLAS2018 can be found at [SLAS2018.org](#), where the SLAS2018 Call for Abstracts will be posted in April 2017. For exhibit and sponsorship opportunities, contact SLAS Exhibits Manager Barry Sacks at [bsacks@slas.org](mailto:bsacks@slas.org).

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*The Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) is an international community of more than 25,000 individual scientists, engineers, researchers, technologists and others from academic, government and commercial laboratories. The SLAS mission is to bring together researchers in academia, industry and government to advance life sciences discovery and technology via education, knowledge exchange and global community building. For more information, visit [www.SLAS.org](http://www.SLAS.org).*