

## ► Chips to Hits heads to Boston

*The premier microarray conference has a new format.*

Chips to Hits, a conference for microarray technologies and their use in drug discovery and development, will be held October 28–31 in Boston at the World Trade Center and Seaport Hotel. Over the past 10 years, Chips to Hits has followed the development, challenges, trends, and applications of microarrays. In 2003, Chips to Hits will continue to do so with a different format. Sessions have been designed specifically to meet the needs of either a technology developer making products for sale, an end user conducting drug discovery and development research, or a business professional leveraging new opportunities. Technology developers will hear how companies are overcoming technological challenges in reproducibility, cost, labeling and detection, validation, and standardization. End users will hear ways to design their experiments, analyze data, and apply microarray technologies to accelerate each stage of their drug discovery and development pipelines. For business professionals, there is a specialized, two-day conference on positioning your business and capitalizing on opportunities. Attendees also can examine the newest advances in genomics and proteomics-based platforms for high-throughput assay development.

### Preconference seminars

These sessions will be held on Tuesday, October 28, before the official opening of the meeting. Included among these sessions is a preconference short course, Application of DNA Microarrays and RNAi in Biomedical Research, designed to educate new-generation investigators on two cutting-edge technologies in modern biology—DNA microarrays and RNA interference (RNAi) in mammalian systems. Both of these methods continue to show promise in revolutionizing biology and medicine. Seminar topics include methods for clinical and biomedical applications, surface chemistry, intellectual property, and protein arrays.

### Keynote/Plenary

On Wednesday, October 29, Dalia Cohen, vice president and global head, Functional Genomics, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, will give the keynote address, discussing how Novartis is addressing the need for target



generation in drug discovery. Plenary sessions will be held on the mornings of October 29–31, covering topics such as versatile protein and nucleic acid labeling, clinical genomics resources for human disease-focused drug discovery efforts, high-throughput microplate DNA microarray platform technology, and multicomponent genomic microarray analysis.

### Networking

There will be several opportunities to network throughout the conference. On the evening of Tuesday, October 28, a networking reception will be held in the exhibit hall accompanying the official opening of the exposition. There are networking luncheons each day of the conference, as well as numerous networking breaks accompanying poster sessions and product demonstrations. On the evening of Thursday, October 30, attendees can take advantage of a discount for the *Spirit of Boston* Dinner Cruise. The *Spirit of Boston* offers something

different and fun to do while in Boston. The ticket price of \$60 includes dinner, cruise, and entertainment. Semiformal attire is recommended. The *Spirit of Boston* docks near the World Trade Center/Seaport Hotel.

### Exhibits

The exhibit hall officially opens on the evening of Tuesday, October 28. Representatives from more than 75 exhibitors will be available to discuss their products with conference attendees. In addition to the exhibit hall, there will be product demonstrations for companies to show their products in action. For more information on the meeting and the complete technical agenda, visit [www.chipstohits.com](http://www.chipstohits.com).

### BioTech Forum 2003

BioTech Forum 2003, arranged by the Karolinska Institutet in collaboration with the Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will take place November 26–28 in Stockholm. The conference will include a general session oriented toward emerging methodologies in the postgenomic era in parallel with sessions on specific topics. BioTech Forum 2003 will run concurrently with med.xpo 2003, Scandinavia's largest event for the medical profession and health care sector. Med.xpo is a biannual exhibition and meeting organized in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Swedish Society of Medicine.

The first BioTech Forum was held in October 2000, attracting 90 exhibiting companies and 1000 visitors. The following year, the event was held in conjunction with med.xpo 2001, and 20,000 visitors attended, 3000 of whom were registered only for BioTech Forum. The exhibitor list also increased to 144 companies. BioTech Forum 2002 brought in 5100 visitors, and the list of exhibitors increased yet again to 336 companies. For more information, go to [www.biotechforum.org](http://www.biotechforum.org).