

▶ LabAutomation in the desert: Palm Springs is the place

The LabAutomation 2003 conference will be held February 1–5 in Palm Springs, CA, and is sponsored by the Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA). The ALA was created to advance the worldwide use of automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence in order to improve the quality, efficiency, and relevance of laboratory analysis. Through the *Journal of the Association for Laboratory Automation*, conferences, short



courses, and scholarship programs, the ALA keeps its members informed of the latest developments and products.

LabAutomation 2003 will feature scientific symposia, poster sessions, and networking opportunities for attendees. There will also be commercial exhibits of products and services for scientists working in the field of laboratory automation.

Registration

Prospective attendees can register either online, via fax or mail, or on-site. If you choose to register before the meeting, you will receive a confirmation notice. On-site registration hours are January 31, 5:00–8:00 p.m.; February 1, 3, and 4, 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; February 2, 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; and February 5, 7:00–9:00 a.m.

Special events

There will be two plenary sessions on February 3—the Welcome and Beckman Award presentation and the Jouann Robotics Award presentation. The keynote address

will take place during the Beckman Award session. The Gala Evening dinner will also be held on February 3. The closing session, on February 5, will feature a look at the future of laboratory automation.

Technical program

The program is divided into six tracks: clinical, genomics, high-throughput chemistry, high-throughput screening, microfluidics, and proteomics. Included in these six tracks will be topics such as Recent Advances in Clinical Proteomics, New Generation of Antibodies for Proteomics, Practical Synthetic Chemistry for Generating Quality Leads, Robotic Systems for Product Control and Catalyst Screening, Microfluidic Large Scale Integration, Miniaturization and Integration of Laboratory Processes on a CD, and Protein Microarray as a High-Throughput Assay for Protein–Protein Interaction.

Short courses

LabAutomation 2003 will offer short courses that feature the latest technology applicable to automation in the laboratory. A series of one- and two-day short courses are being offered on February 1 and 2 in areas such as DNA microarrays, high-throughput screening, laboratory automation, mass spectrometry, combinatorial chemistry, LIMS, patent law, and microfluidics.

Exhibits

LabAutomation 2003 will showcase the latest automation technologies from nearly 300 exhibitors for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and clinical laboratories. The exhibition will be open during the following hours: February 2, 4:00–8:30 p.m.; February 3, 10:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m.; and February 4, 10:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Receptions for conference attendees will be held in the exhibition hall on the evenings of February 2–4.

For more information on any aspect of the meeting, visit the LabAutomation website at www.labautomation.org. ■