

▶ **SBS and Chips to Hits**

Two major meetings are slated in September.

Society for Biomolecular Screening

The 10th Annual Society for Biomolecular Screening (SBS) Conference and Exhibition will be held September 11–15 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, FL.

There will be four keynote presentations at the SBS conference: Quality and Relevance: Using the Right Tool for the Job in Drug Discovery, given by William Janzen, vice president of operations at Amphora Discovery; Biotech: A Worldwide Overview Circa 2004, presented by G. Steven Burrill of Burrill & Company; Speeding Access to New Medicines: The Current Challenges of Pharmaceutical R&D, given by Kenneth I. Kaitlin, director of the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development; and Origins and Evolution of HTS at Pfizer, presented by John A. Williams, research fellow at Pfizer.

PHOTONISC



The technical program will open with Productivity in Drug Discovery: Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going and continue with the following sessions: Advances in Automation and Low Volume Dispensing; Advances in Bioassay Technologies; Assessing and Maintaining Quality in HTS Data; Biopharmaceuticals: What SBS Members Ought to Know; Cells and Proteins for Drug Discovery: Keeping Pace with Screening; Chemogenics and Expanding the Druggable Genome; Concept to Product: Business Development and IP Issues; Evolution of HTS: A Critical Analysis; Lead-like or Drug-like: What Should We Put Into and Expect From Screening; Pathway Analysis: Target Selection and Screen Development; Reducing Attrition through High-Throughput ADMETox; and Role of In Vivo and In Vitro Imaging in Drug Discovery.

In addition to the technical sessions, the meeting will feature several short courses. The following courses are scheduled: Early ADMETox in Drug Discovery, Establishing Cell-Based Assays for Screening, Fluorescence and Luminescence Assays for Screening, Image-Based Assays in Drug Discovery: Instrumentation and

Image Analysis, Introduction to Receptor Pharmacology, and Statistics for In Vitro Assays in Drug Discovery.

There will be several opportunities to network at the conference. An invitation-only orientation and reception will be held for conferees who are also new members of the society. The opening reception and the Gala 10th Anniversary Reception will be held at Universal Studios. The SBS annual members' meeting, open to all conferees, is an opportunity for registrants to learn about SBS. Lastly, a poster viewing reception will offer many opportunities to meet poster presenters and view new research.

The exposition will feature more than 150 companies exhibiting the latest products and services for drug discovery. For more information, visit the SBS website at www.sbsonline.org.

Chips to Hits

The 11th Annual International Microarray and Microtechnology Congress, better known as Chips to Hits, will convene September 20–23 at Boston's World Trade Center and Seaport Hotel. In addition to its customary keynote and plenary sessions, Chips to Hits will feature 19 technical sessions on topics including DNA, protein, cell, and tissue arrays; microfluidics and nanotechnology; next-generation technologies and informatics; biomarkers for drug efficacy, toxicity, and diagnostics; target discovery and validation; disease-specific applications; and business opportunities and paths to commercialization.

The plenary address, Cool Technologies and Hot Applications, will examine how drug discovery technologies, such as biochips, will lead the transition from gathering raw data to producing biologically significant results.

The six scheduled keynote addresses will be held Monday afternoon, September 20. Genomic Information and Cancer will examine approaches to the genomic dissection of cancer. Toxicogenomics: Functional Genomics in Drug Development will focus on the application of functional genomics in toxicology. Nanoshells: Applying Nanotechnology to Harvest Light for Biomedicine will discuss the use of nanoshells to create drug delivery devices and instantaneous tests for specific trauma or disease.

Expression Screening in Complex Human Disease: What to Expect—Use of cDNA versus Oligonucleotide-Based Systems will compare specific learning points for the two approaches. Nanostructures in Biodiagnostics: Will They Make a Difference? will explore the advantages and disadvantages of nanostructures in biodiagnostics. The Diagnostic Proteome: Challenges and Opportunities in Serum and Plasma will describe an alternative approach for effective marker validation studies.

The opening night reception Monday evening will offer conferees the opportunity to network with colleagues as well as visit the start of the poster session and the exhibition.

For more information, visit www.chipstohits.com. ■



PHOTO: ORLANDO/ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU, INC.