



Association for Laboratory Automation

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ALA Names \$10,000 Innovation Award Finalists for LabAutomation2008

CHICAGO – The Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA), a multi-disciplinary, non-profit scientific association spanning diverse industries and technology sectors, announces the finalists for its \$10,000 Innovation Award. This year's award recognizes **LabAutomation2008** participants who present work that demonstrates outstanding innovation and contributes to the exploration of automation technologies in the laboratory. Podium presentations that exhibit independence of thought, clarity of vision, extraordinary technical originality, and unique integration and automation strategies qualify for the award. The Innovation Award Judges Panel narrowed the candidates from the scientific program to a list of 10 finalists, including:

Frederic Reymond, Ph.D., Monthey, Switzerland, Diagnoswiss S.A. - GRAVI-Chip: Robotisation of Microfluidics for Fast and Automated ELISA

Hugh Daniels, Ph.D., Palo Alto, CA, Nanosys Inc. - Break free of the matrix: sensitive and rapid analysis of small molecules using nanostructured surfaces and LDI-TOF mass spectrometry

Igor Mezic, Ph.D., Santa Barbara, CA, University of California, Santa Barbara - Electrokinetic mixing in 1536 well plate format

David Rothwarf, Ph.D., San Diego, CA, Arrayomics, Inc. - A Novel Scalable Liquid Array Platform for DNA and Protein Analysis

David Russell, Ph.D., College Station, TX, Texas A&M University - Nanoparticles as Selective Matrices for Biological Mass Spectrometry

Hossein Tavana, Ph.D., Ann Arbor, MI, University of Michigan - On-Chip Engineering of Lung Pathophysiology

Clyde Smith, Ph.D., Menlo Park, CA, Stanford University - Automation, Robotics and Remote Access at the SSRL Protein Crystallography Beam Lines

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Charles Lieber, Ph.D., Cambridge, MA, Harvard University - Nanoelectronic Devices for Detection of and Interfacing to Biological Systems

Joshua Coon, Ph.D., Madison, WI, University of Wisconsin - New proteomic technologies to detect and monitor the pos-translational modification events that commit embryonic stem cells to exit the pluripotent state

James Landers, Ph.D., Charlottesville, VA, University of Virginia - A Simplified Microfluidic Device for Ultrafast Genetic Analysis with Sample-In/Answer-Out Capability: Application to T-cell Lymphoma Diagnosis

Innovation Award Chairman William Sonnefeld, Ph.D. was extremely pleased with the variety and quality of submissions for this year's award. "LabAutomation has always served as a platform for presenting emerging and merging laboratory automation strategies and technologies. Once again this year, innovation and technology advancement for the laboratory will be recognized, along with the outstanding scientist behind the work."

A judging panel of experts conducted a preliminary screening of scientific program to select the list of finalists. Once on-site, they will conduct a rigorous evaluation and select the overall \$10,000 award winner. That winner will be announced Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. during the closing plenary session featuring Paul R. Gudonis, President, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST).

LaAutomation2008 will be held at the Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA, Jan. 26-30, 2008. More than 300 exhibits will be on-site and some 5,000 participants from 40 different countries will converge to share, learn and experience. This five-day event is the world's largest conference and exhibition on emerging and merging laboratory technologies, promoting knowledge-sharing across diverse industries and scientific disciplines. For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.labautomation.org/LA08>.

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The Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA) is a worldwide organization representing leaders in all aspects of laboratory automation. ALA seeks to provide a greater understanding of the importance and value of automation technologies in laboratory settings, to advance science and promote education related to laboratory automation by encouraging the study, advancing the science and improving the practice of medical and laboratory automation.