

## Announcement

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*ISLAR '97 recognizes pioneers in laboratory automation and robotics*

The fifteenth International Symposium on Laboratory Automation and Robotics, held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel during 19–20 October 1997 recognized 11 scientists for their roles in developing new applications and techniques, designing unique solutions to technical problems, and implementing laboratory robotics in their organizations. Nominated by colleagues in their companies or industry, these scientists were selected for this recognition by a committee of previous award winners.

The 11 scientists included John Babia, Wyeth-Ayerst, Princeton, NJ; Allen Carman, US FDA, New Orleans, LA; Scott Jennings, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, New Brunswick, NJ; Kirk J. Leister, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Syracuse, NY; Dinesh S. Thakur, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Syracuse, NY; Lars W. Linquist, WMX Technology Center, Geneva, IL; Thomas L. Lloyd, DuPont Merck, Newark, DE; Martin Phillippi, Clorox Company, Pleasanton, CA; Danh Nguyen, Clorox Company, Pleasanton, CA; Michael E. Rusak, Air Products and Chemicals, Allentown, PA; Michael L. Rutherford, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN.

Islar '97 attracted more than 600 scientists and managers

from 34 states and 15 countries for three days of presentations on laboratory automation and robotics. The premier technical symposium in this field featured a programme with over 125 papers and posters, six discussion groups, several workshops and six short courses. Session topics included:

- High throughput screening
- Data management/data handling
- Re-engineering the laboratory
- Managing laboratory automation
- Pharmaceutical analysis
- Bioanalytical assays
- Automated synthesis
- Compound purification, distribution and analysis in drug discovery
- Laboratory workstations
- Chemical/agriculture chemical analysis
- Advanced topics.

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