



Association for Laboratory Automation

**For Immediate Dissemination**

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University-based Researchers and Educators Seeing Budget Cutbacks  
**ALA Responds to Dwindling Grant Funding with  
Exclusive Program for the Academic Community**

**CHICAGO** – The widespread, global nature of the current economic recession has academic communities concerned about already scarce federal and private funding, and the inability to travel to recognized scientific conferences for continuing education and peer-to-peer collaboration.

In response to this unprecedented financial pressure, the Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA), an international non-profit scientific society serving several technology industries and societies, has instituted a new program offering complementary conference registration to academic researchers and educators who attend LabAutomation2009 with at least two pre-registered students. Student registration for the five-day event is only \$25. LabAutomation2009, the premier scientific conference and exhibition devoted exclusively to advancements in laboratory technologies, will be held January 24-28 in Palm Springs, CA.

“According to a recent survey of 117 university-based life science researchers, 68% are seeing reductions in their budgets,” said ALA President Jim Sterling, Ph.D., Keck Graduate Institute of Life Sciences. “Obviously these findings are significant and compelling enough for ALA to take action. ALA’s mission is based on furthering science and education in the field of laboratory automation, and thus, with this first-ever program, we are doing our best to ensure that the opportunity for sharing knowledge and information and continued learning is not at risk.”

For complete details about this program, go to:

<http://www.labautomation.org/la09/LA09AcademicRegWaiverApp.pdf>. ALA policies, procedures, rules and regulations apply.

For more information regarding LabAutomation2009, visit [www.labautomation.org/la09](http://www.labautomation.org/la09) or call +1.888.733.1ALA (1252).

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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 the laboratory settings, to advance science and promote education related to laboratory automation by encouraging the study, advancing the science and improving the practice of laboratory automation.*

*With more than 4,500 participants and 250 multi-national companies as part of the exposition, LabAutomation2009, Jan. 24-28, Palms Springs Convention Center, CA, USA is a five-day event bringing together laboratory automation scientists, academicians, engineers, business leaders and students from around the globe in conjunction with the world’s largest exhibition of laboratory technologies.*

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