



Association for Laboratory Automation

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ALA Offers Reprieve During Worldwide Economic Slowdown

CHICAGO – The Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA), an international non-profit scientific society serving several technology industries and disciplines, has waived the LabAutomation2009 registration fee for unemployed professionals in response to the current worldwide economic slowdown that has left many in the pharmaceutical and related industries jobless.

“We’ve had very serious and heartfelt discussions with many of our members as well as with the ALA Career Advisors,” says ALA President Jim Sterling, Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences. “We are pleased to help those unemployed professionals in our community by giving them access to the great resources and support offered at LabAutomation2009 through the ALA Registration Waiver Program.”

The 13th annual LabAutomation2009 to be held Jan. 24-28 at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, Calif., USA will offer a variety of tools and training for career search and advancement as well as numerous professional development opportunities. ALA Career Advisor Megan Driscoll, Principal, Pharamlogics Consulting, comments on two important tactics for those seeking employment:

“First, a solid job-search strategy is to attend your industry’s major conference and actively network. LabAutomation2009 provides a place for you to make lasting connections with thousands of lab automation professionals. And the conference’s Career Center allows you to discretely post your curriculum vitae and review posted positions. Specialists will also be on-hand to provide free advice through résumé critiques, mock interviews, strategizing your job search and more.”

“Second, a key factor in distinguishing yourself from the competition is to stay current through continuing education,” Driscoll says. “The life sciences job market will rebound in the coming months, especially with the new administration taking seat in Washington, D.C. Employers will surely be looking for job candidates that meet their needs and have demonstrated the self initiative to stay current through continuing education.”

For those interested in participating in LabAutomation2009 through the ALA Registration Waiver Program, simply complete and submit the waiver application at <http://www.labautomation.org/LA09/waiverapplication.pdf>.

For more information on career opportunities at LabAutomation2009, please visit <http://labautomation.org/la09>.

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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 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