A meeting of minds for world-renowned scientists

A world-class line-up of speakers

Salzburg in Austria was the beautiful autumn setting for Tecan's third symposium, where key thought leaders from Europe, the US, Asia and Australia came together to discuss this year's topic – Applying Genomic Technologies – in an informal and stimulating atmosphere.

The packed two day program focused on a number of different aspects of applied genomics, with the broad spectrum of speakers providing unique insight into the advantages and limitations of current technology.

The first session began with an overview of some of the exciting new technologies currently in development. Introduced by Marc Feiglin, Tecan's Chief Technology Officer of Life Sciences, and led by Dr David Galas from the Strategic Partnerships Institute for Systems Biology, USA, this session offered delegates a preview of what these latest innovations will bring to the laboratory environment and how they might impact the whole spectrum of genomics applications. The emphasis then turned to the application of genomics, discussing the impact of this relatively new field of science on human health, in human identification for forensic applications, and on food and the environment. Topics ranged from the genomics behind consumer and over-the-counter healthcare products to the latest techniques and trends for criminal investigation and missing persons casework, as well as details of how genomics methodologies have led to more effective procedures for monitoring water and food supplies for contamination.

A key element of the program was the significant amount of time set aside for question and answer forums at the end of

Dinner at the Gwandhaus in Salzburg

each session, allowing delegates to openly discuss issues surrounding this technology with some of the leading experts in the field. And discussions did not stop at the symposium door, with speakers and attendees alike taking advantage of the rare opportunity presented by having so many prominent figures together in one place. "The symposium provides Tecan with a valuable opportunity to interact with key players and thought leaders from both academia and industry, helping us to understand the current trends in this cutting-edge area of science and technology, as well as the bottlenecks and problems that are encountered in applying these technologies," said host Marc Feiglin. "In addition, it offers an unrivalled opportunity for our guests to engage with their peers, not only from within their industry or area of specialty, but also from other areas. This helps to identify the commonalities between diverse areas of research, stimulating cross-fertilization of ideas and accelerating our understanding of the natural world."

Abstracts from the symposium can be found on the Tecan website, at **www.tecan.com/symposium2010**

Dr David Galas offered the audience a fascinating insight into the complexity of interpreting the human genetics revolution

Round table discussion featuring Dr Rinaldis, Dr Galas, Dr Shapiro and Dr Hattori (left to right)

Dr Barbara Zehentner, Renate Wohlgemuth and Cornelia Kegele (left to right) toasting the success of the symposium

Happy 30th Birthday Tecan!

Delegates enjoyed a range of captivating presentations

Tecan Symposium speakers

Thursday 7th October

Dr David Galas
Senior Vice President of Strategic Partnerships
Institute for Systems Biology, USA
The revolution in human genetics – deciphering complexity

Dr Emanuele de Rinaldis
Senior Research Fellow
King's College London, UK
Molecular dissection of triple-negative breast cancers: integrated-omics approaches

Dr Ehud Shapiro
Professor of Computer Science and Biology
Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
Uncovering the human cell lineage tree in health and disease

Dr Masahira Hattori
Professor
University of Tokyo, Japan
Metagenomics of human gut microbiomes

Dr Kári Stefansson
Executive Chairman and President of Research
deCODE, Iceland
Population genetics and its impact on human health

Dr Frederic Zenhausern
Director, Center for Applied NanoBioscience
University of Arizona, USA
The 6th vital sign: a rationale for genomic profiling

Dr Jim Fleming
Vice President and Director
Labcorp, USA
Molecular testing and the changing face of medicine

Dr Josef Thalhamer
Head of Gene Vaccines
Salzburg University, Austria
Gene vaccination against allergic diseases

Dr Jay Tiesman
Principal Scientist, Global Biotechnology Division
Proctor and Gamble, USA
Putting the 'consumer' in consumer genomics

Friday 8th October

Dr Ron Fourney
Director, National Services and Research Branch
RCMP, Canada
Outlook for next generation methods for forensic analysis and human identification

Dr Tom Callaghan
Special Assistant to EAD
FBI Laboratory, USA
Rapid point of collection DNA analysis for human identification

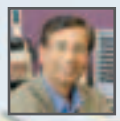
Dr Angela van Daal
Associate Professor
Bond University, Australia
Forensically relevant SNP markers

Dr Christian Lauber
Senior Scientist
University of Colorado, USA
Forensic identification using skin bacterial communities

Dr Pingfan Rao
Professor
Fuzhou University, China
Applications of biotechnology in food processing

Dr Bernard Berger
Senior Scientist
Nestlé Research Centre, Switzerland
Bacterial genomics for probiotics

Dr Alain Houde
Research Scientist
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada
Development and application of tools for the detection of food-borne viruses



Dr Syed A. Hashsham
Professor
Michigan State University, USA
DNA microchips for detection of microorganisms in water and food samples