

# Tecan @ AACC 2015

The clinical community enjoyed another successful AACC exhibition, giving delegates from around the world the opportunity to learn about the latest developments for clinical research and diagnostics.

The AACC Annual Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo is a highlight of the clinical chemistry calendar, bringing together key opinion leaders, equipment manufacturers and diagnostic kit providers from around the world. Tecan had a strong presence at this year's event – held in Atlanta, Georgia – showcasing a range of automation solutions for two of the current hot topics in diagnostics: the increasing role of automated sample preparation in genomics, and the latest developments in the field of immunodiagnosics.

With the ever-increasing role of genomics and personalized medicine in patient care (read more about this topic on pages 26-27), reliable and reproducible sample preparation is now vital. Tecan demonstrated a wide range of automation technologies for this application – including the turnkey Freedom EVO® NGS workstation and the Fluent™ laboratory automation solution – generating a lot of interest among the meeting's 18,000 attendees. Visitors also had the opportunity to explore the OEM capabilities of Tecan's Partnering Business, including the first public demonstration of the company's advanced eFluidics electrowetting technology and the use of Tecan Cavo® brand components in DaAn Gene's DA3000 DNA extraction system (read about this system on page 9).

This year also saw IBL International join Tecan for the first time. Perfectly complementing Tecan's existing offerings for the clinical immunodiagnosics market, the IBL International team was able to provide visitors with an insight into the latest innovations in immunodiagnosics, as well as the benefits of combining microplate-based diagnostics with efficient automated liquid handling workstations – such as the Freedom EVOlyzer® and Freedom EVO ELISA platforms – to streamline laboratory workflows. Tecan was also pleased to be able to contribute to the AACC Biomarkers of



Cardiovascular Disease Division's project to establish 99<sup>th</sup> percentile values for the latest generation of high sensitivity troponin assays. Aiming to collect samples from 1,100 volunteers across the five days of the event, samples gathered by a team of phlebotomists in the exhibition hall were processed for cryostorage

in a pop-up lab. This sample collection is now with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and will be made available to diagnostics companies offering high sensitivity troponin assays, helping to establish relevant cut-offs and improve diagnostic accuracy.



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**Symposium 2015**

Alongside the main AACC conference and exhibition, Tecan invited a number of leading academics and industry figures to attend the latest Tecan Symposium – *New frontiers in immunodiagnosics*. After a two year absence, the return of this highly regarded event gave delegates from across the clinical sector the opportunity to discuss the latest technical developments and unmet needs in immunodiagnosics in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Following a welcome from Dr Achim von Leoprechting, Executive Vice President of Tecan's Partnering Business, and Dr Mike Martens, Managing Director of Future Diagnostics – a key strategic partner for Tecan – the program for the symposium was introduced by Tecan's Nicholas Smith, Head of Global Marketing and Portfolio Management, and included presentations from a number of the industry's key opinion leaders.

Dr Peter Schulz-Knappe, CSO of Protagen AG, opened proceedings with a presentation entitled *From "omics" biomarker discovery to novel clinical tests: strategies and challenges*, providing an insight into the various approaches and pitfalls in the selection of new markers and development of novel clinical assays. This was followed by *Biotherapeutic drug and immunogenicity monitoring, a critical look at the role of companion diagnostics* from Dr Kelly Y Chun, VP and Director at Laboratory Corporation of America. Using infliximab – a chimeric monoclonal antibody for the treatment of Crohn's disease – as an example, Dr Chun discussed the need for greater clinician education to avoid potential misinterpretation of results and ensure the best outcomes for patients.

*Point of care immunoassays: challenges and platform implications* was the topic chosen by Dr Jeroen Nieuwenhuis, Technology Director of the Philips Healthcare Incubator. He discussed how the ever-increasing role of point of care and near patient testing is affecting the way healthcare services are delivered, highlighting the potential of robust, reliable technologies – such as microfluidics – in enabling a more

personalized approach to patient care. The final speaker – Dr Jeffrey Bishop, Vice President of Research and Development at Singulex – looked at *The impact of ultra-sensitivity immunoassays: a change in diagnostic modalities*. Using the advent of high-sensitivity troponin assays as an example, he discussed how clinician education is becoming increasingly important for the effective use of these assays for both diagnostic and prognostic applications.

The interactive presentations were followed by a panel discussion with the speakers, giving members of the audience a chance to pose specific questions and look at the various topics in more detail. This enlightening event was followed by a meal at internationally-renowned broadcaster CNN's headquarters, with a tour of the CNN tower facility providing a unique opportunity to continue the discussion and explore exciting new opportunities over a glass or two.

To find out more about upcoming Tecan events, go to [www.tecan.com/events](http://www.tecan.com/events)

