

# The Upstate New York Laboratory Robotics Interest Group

Glenn Saunders

President, Upstate New York LRIG, Inc.



## Mission:

To provide an open and unbiased forum for users and providers of laboratory automation to communicate and exchange ideas\*

\*See [www.lab-robotics.org](http://www.lab-robotics.org) for a more complete mission statement

## What is LRIG?

A Non-profit, volunteer organization: Professionally run, membership-driven

- Regional Chapters worldwide; including Upstate New York
- Over 9,000 members: scientists, lab managers, researchers and engineers
- Membership drawn from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, genomics, chemical, agricultural, cosmetics and other industries.
- Involvement from Industrial, Government and Academic sectors.

The name "Laboratory Robotics" doesn't capture all activities and interests: Robotics, automation, instrumentation, high-throughput screening, drug discovery, compound management, compound purification, compound distribution, bioinformatics, combinatorial chemistry, chemical synthesis, data management, validation, pharmaceutical form sample preparation, dissolution testing, toxicity testing and product formulation among others.

## What does LRIG Do?

The Upstate New York LRIG provides [networking opportunities](#), [unbiased technical support](#) and [educational programs](#)

### Networking:

We organize and present semi-annual symposia and vendor exhibitions on laboratory automation topics

We also proudly support four regional US FIRST Robotics teams

### Technical Support:

We provide a moderated, un-biased forum where end-users and suppliers can communicate on laboratory automation issues

### Educational:

We provide opportunities for vendor training seminars



## The LRIG Business Model

- Free Membership
- Free attendance at exhibitions
- Free food
- Unbiased
- Vendor funded
- Membership data vigorously protected
- Mailing lists are not shared
- Moderated forum
- Online Forums:
  - Discussion
  - Swap Shop
  - Career Center



LRIG is a pseudo-franchise of affiliated non-profits

## Some Sponsors:



## Typical Meeting Format

- One evening event: ~3pm to ~9pm – free admission
- Social hour (networking with free food)
- Vendor exhibits: 10-50 tables (with more free food)
- 3-5 scientific presentations (with still more free food)
- Vendor workshops

## Upstate NY LRIG Background

- **October 2006:** Incorporated; 501 (c)(3)
- **October 2006:** Inaugural meeting and vendor exhibition, "Laboratory Automation Technologies and Practices: An Overview"
- **June 2007:** Meeting and Vendor Exhibition, "Albany Area Laboratory Automation Review and Social"
- **November 2007:** Meeting and Vendor Exhibition, "The Future of Genomics: How the X PRIZE Will Revolutionize Sequencing"
- **June 2008:** Meeting and Vendor Exhibition, "Applications and Advances in Automation for Forensics"

Upstate New York LRIG Membership: 750

President: Glenn Saunders  
Research Engineer  
Center for Automation Technologies and Systems  
Rensselaer

Treasurer: Michael P. Ryan  
Assistant Director  
Division of Laboratory Quality Certification  
Wadsworth Center

Secretary: Joanne I. Brown  
Marketing Communications Manager  
Applied Robotics, Inc.

October 26, 2006

### Laboratory Automation Technologies and Practices: An Overview

"Laboratory Automation Strategies", Dr. Steve Fillers, TekCel

"Automation Analysis of Edible Oils and Lubricants by FTIR Spectroscopy-Problems and Solutions", Dr. F.R. Van de Voort, McGill University

"High Throughput Crystallization System Development at Bristol-Myers Squibb", Dr. Anne I. Song, BMS

"Microarray Biochips for High-Throughput Drug Screening", Dr. Moo-Yeal Lee, Solidus Biosciences

Posters:

"Adaptive Scanning Optical Microscope", Dr. Benjamin Pollock, CATS  
"New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center: Automated DNA Casework", Danielle Brownell  
"New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center: Automated DNA Database", Brian J. Murphy  
"Vial Syringe: Different Volumes in Each Vial", John Brohan, Traders Micro  
"From the Factory to the Lab: Flexible Automation Solutions Provide Quality and Quantity", Applied Robotics

Attendance: 120

Vendor Tables: 42

June 25, 2007

### Albany Area Laboratory Automation Review and Social

"Drug Discovery and Development: Applications of Robotics and High-Throughput Instrumentation", Brian T. Gregg, Ph.D., Research Fellow, Medicinal Chemistry, AMRI, Inc.

"Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies", Robert J. Linhardt, Constellation Chair, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

"Center for Functional Genomics (CFG)", John Tine, Ph.D., Director, Molecular Genetics Laboratory

"Science in the Pursuit of Health", Carmen Mannello, Wadsworth Center, NYS Department of Health

"NYS Forensic Investigation Center", Danielle J. Brownell, Forensic Scientist III (DNA), NYSP Forensic Investigation Center

"Eight Years of HTS Research at GE", Dr. Donald Wisenhunt Jr., Manager, Combinatorial Chemistry Lab

"Laboratory Automation at Taconic's Molecular Analysis Laboratory", Stephen Festin, Ph.D., Senior Manager Molecular Analysis Services, Taconic Labs

"Applied Robotics"

Attendance: 68

Vendor Tables: 5

November 5, 2007

### The Future of Genomics: How the X PRIZE will Revolutionize Sequencing



"The Archon X PRIZE for Genomics: Ushering in a New Era of Personalized Medicine, Through Competition", Mr. Marc Hodosh, Senior Director of the Archon X PRIZE for Genomics

Attendance: 65  
Vendor Tables: 17

"What Will it Take to Sequence the Human Genome Error-Free, in Minutes, For Pennies?", Dr. Sadeq M. Faris and Dr. James N. Eakin, Reveo, Inc.

"Technology Advances for DNA Sequencing – A Perspective from the University Core Lab", Dr. Peter Schweitzer, Director of the Cornell DNA Sequencing and Genotyping Laboratory



Coming Up:  
June 25, 2008

### Applications and Advances in Automation for Forensics

#### Desmond Hotel and Conference Center

3:00 – 5:00 Vendor exhibition  
3:00 – 5:00 Networking – full gourmet menu provided  
5:00 – 7:00 Technical Program

- Robotics
- LIMS
- Expert Systems
- Future Directions

Speakers from:

- New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center
- Forensic Identification and Profiling, Inc.
- Perkin Elmer



Contact:  
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