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Association for Laboratory Automation

**For Immediate Dissemination**

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ALA Appoints Dean Ho, Ph.D., as Editor-in-Chief of JALA

**CHICAGO** – The Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA), a multi-disciplinary, non-profit scientific society spanning diverse industries and technology sectors announced today that Dean Ho, Ph.D., of Northwestern University, will assume responsibility for the *Journal of the Association for Laboratory Automation (JALA)* as editor-in-chief effective January 1, 2009.

Dr. Ho earned his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the University of California Los Angeles, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering in the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Member of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University where he directs the Laboratory for Nanoscale Biotic-Abiotic Systems Engineering (N-BASE).

“We are delighted to welcome Dean to the ALA leadership team,” said 2008 ALA President James D. Sterling, Ph.D., Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences, Claremont, CA. “Dean’s experience and perspective will provide a meaningful strategic complement to the breadth and depth of the ALA leadership knowledge base. Plus, his enthusiasm and dynamic vision ensure that JALA will experience continued growth and success.”

Dr. Ho is equally excited about forging a new future for ALA’s award-winning, peer-reviewed scientific journal. “It’s a privilege serving as the Editor-in-Chief of a unique publication like JALA, which is a focal point for communicating innovation driven by a broad range of disciplines across the academic, industrial and government domains,” said Dr. Ho. “I look forward to working with the Editorial Board members to forge an exciting future for the JALA community.”

Dr. Ho’s current research is focused on investigating the fabrication of nanodiamond-based technologies for drug delivery as well as localized and sustained chemotherapy using novel nanomaterial devices. He has published over 90 peer-reviewed journal and proceedings papers in the areas of nanomedicine and drug delivery.

Additionally, Dr. Ho’s research achievements have garnered news coverage on the CNN homepage, Reuters, Yahoo, CNBC, MSNBC, ABC News, *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, and over 300 international news outlets. He has also given multiple plenary/keynote talks at international meetings pertaining to nanomedicine and nanomaterials.

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## **JALA Selects Dr. Ho Next JALA Editor-in-Chief**

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Dr. Ho is currently an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Biomedical Nanotechnology*, *Journal of Nanotechnology Law and Business*, and *Advanced Science Letters*; has served as a Guest Editor for multiple peer-reviewed publications, including JALA; and is a member of Sigma Xi. He is a recipient of the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation Early Career Award for Translational Research, and one of 15 cancer researchers in the nation awarded a V Foundation for Cancer Research V Scholars Award. In addition, Dr. Ho was named a recipient of the John G. Bollinger Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Distinguished Young Alumnus Award of the UCLA School of Engineering and Applied Science, and honored by the New Faces of Engineering National Award presented by IEEE.

JALA is a multi-disciplinary international forum devoted to the advancement of technology in the laboratory. It is the official, peer-reviewed journal of the ALA, and provides a unique forum for the presentation of method-focused scientific papers, and related news, events and products. Six issues are published each year in partnership with Elsevier, Inc., and subject and author indexes appear annually in the December issue. JALA manuscript abstracts are indexed by Analytical Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts (CAS+), CINAHL, Compendex, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Google Scholar, Inspec, ProQuest, SciFinder, Scirus, and Scopus. JALA Online and Elsevier ScienceDirect publish abstracts and full text articles.

Dean Ho, Ph.D., replaces Doug Gurevitch, M.S., P.E., of the University of California San Diego who served as JALA executive editor for 2007 and 2008. Prior to Mr. Gurevitch, the post was held by Mark Russo, Ph.D., of Bristol-Myers Squibb from 2003 through 2006.

For more information, visit [www.labautomation.org](http://www.labautomation.org) or call +1.630.208.6830.

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*The Association for Laboratory Automation 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.*