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Contact: Mike Duff (703) 647-6214 mduff@thealda.org

Sloan-Kettering's Djaballah Shares Cancer Drug Discovery Insights

Alexandria, VA (January 24, 2014) — Drug Discovery: Innovation or Serendipity was the title of Dr. Hakim Djaballah's presentation at ALDA's recent breakfast at the SLAS Conference in San Diego. Dr. Djaballah serves as Director of the High-Throughput Drug Screening Facility at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Among other things, Dr. Djaballah told the 60-plus attendees at the breakfast:

- The reality of the chemical space coverage of today's chemical libraries is infinitesimally small. Of a chemical space estimated at 10 to the 180th power, we have 1,073 approved drugs and 124 blockbusters. Researchers are all screening similar compounds.
- More often and ignored, issues are more often associated with the biology in question, especially the targets for high-throughput screening. This leads to the question of how good is your assay. Chemical libraries often are not the source of failures – it is the man-made chemistries.
- Seven of the top best selling blockbuster drugs including Lipitor, Plavix and Nexium have an origin linking them to natural products.
- The many different wars on cancer – so many treatments, but yet little impact on many and major effects on few. Conventional therapies are inadequate.
- The linear evolution of therapeutic intervention; in constant flux and in search of the panacea: pharmacology & chemistry prior to the 1980s; genetic engineering and biotechnology from the 80s to the 00s; and after the new millennium, the stem cell revolution – small molecules, gene therapies, biologics, validation tools and cell therapies.

For more information regarding ALDA, contact Mike Duff, President, at 703-647-6214. More information regarding ALDA, its purposes, objectives and programs, and links to its members' websites can be found at www.thealda.org

Based on the Washington DC suburb of Alexandria, VA, ALDA is an industry trade association for companies that develop and supply life science, analytical and diagnostic products and services used to conduct research, drug discovery, QA/QC testing and diagnostics in a wide range of industries and applications. Major customer segments including pharmaceuticals, biotech, academic and government research, food safety and environmental testing, personalized medicine and diagnostics.

ALDA's Mission is to be an advocate for our industry and a valuable aid to our members' global business success and to their customers' advancement of healthcare, science and industrial innovation by providing meetings with strategic content, networking, global market and business intelligence, and insights on emerging technologies, markets and business strategies.