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## SABPA Science & Technology Forum VII Your DM/PK/ADME Specialist.....

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## SABPA Science & Technology Forum VII

The 7th SABPA Science & Technology Forum was held at Institute of the Americas, UCSD on March 21, 2009. This symposium attracted more than 200 attendees from San Diego and Orange County. The Forum focused on some of the hottest topics in the biomedical field: biomarker, pharmacogenomic and personalized medicine.

The symposium was kicked off by Dr. Sui-Xiong Cai (Chair of Sci&Tech committee of SABPA), who gave an introduction of SABPA and its Science & Technology Forum. The keynote speaker, Dr. Nicholas Schork from Scripps Genomic, presented an overview on the dramatic progress of human genome research, hapmap project and genome-wide association studies over the last few years and its drastic impacts on pharmacogenomic, an emerging field that has reshaped the landscape of medical field and already led the FDA to consider relabelling some of the most commonly used prescription drugs. Dr. Dominic Spinella from Pfizer then highlighted some key concepts and issues on applying biomarker into drug development, especially in the oncology area. Representing Rules-Based Medicine, Inc., Dr. Dominic Eisinger introduced Multi-Analyte Profiles (MAPS), an enabling technology that could be used in protein biomarker discovery. After the break, Dr. Wen Luo from Ligand Pharmaceuticals presented a case study on applying a genome-wide association study to identify genomic biomarkers that can be used to predict patient's response to bexarotene in treating non-small cell lung cancer. Dr. Michael Nerenberg from Genoptix then described a broad range of products and services that his company offers, which could facilitate the biomarker study and perhaps the development of eventual diagnostic tests. The last speaker, Bill Harten, who called himself a stranger to the biomedical field, illustrated UNICConnect's software that could be easily customized and configured by computer-naïve end users, therefore representing an ideal solution to meet the evolving IT demands in personalized medicine. In the end, Dr. Xiangming Fang, President of SABPA, acknowledged the committee members, volunteers and the audience who chose to spend their Saturday to participate in the meeting and made this year's Science & Technology forum a successful event.

The Forum was well-organized and well-received. Attendees enjoyed the top level presentations and networking opportunities. Many sponsors had good interactions with visitors and got business to follow up with.

