

# Catalonia calling

Plans are progressing fast for the fifth Paperless Lab Academy, which will be held in Barcelona in April

**W**ith an official theme entitled: 2020 Roadmap for Digital Convergence, the fifth Paperless Lab Academy (PLA) once again promises to be an informative and rewarding event for its delegates.

Recognised as Europe's leading laboratory automation event, PLA 2017 is aimed at directors and managers of research and development, quality and IT departments in markets as diverse as pharmaceutical, cosmetic, biotechnological and petrochemical. Some 90 per cent of all major LIMS, ELN, LES and SDMS suppliers will be participating in the event – which is free to attend – with around 200 delegates and 25 sponsors/exhibitors planning to register.

Though the PLA committee of Peter Boogaard, Isabel Muñoz-Willery and Roberto Castelnovo are still in the early stages of planning the conference, they have identified the following themes:

- Expanding the holistic lifecycle;
- Data analytics to detect data Integrity;
- Spreadsheet management – how to manage differing versions of almost the same spreadsheet;
- Audit trail as a source to improve operational excellence;



- Data governance versus data integrity;
- Transforming to self-documenting processes. Learnings from other industries;
- Impact of robotics on paperless document flow;
- Are we training our scientists right? How to measure alignment of our personnel skill-set;
- Waterfall vs agile processes.
- Modelling and simulation to predict shelf-life time;
- Gaining insights by integrating different scientific technologies processes; and
- Expanding the DI mind-set to include simulation life cycle.

Boogaard told *Scientific Computing World*: 'At PLA 2017 we'll be investigating a roadmap for the next decade; the convergence of paper and digital will turn laboratory informatics into management information – but only if all data is integrated and harmonised.'

'Data integration has been a principal

## THE CONVERGENCE OF PAPER AND DIGITAL WILL TURN LABORATORY INFORMATICS INTO MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

focus for most organisations in 2016. However, in laboratory informatics the mind-set needed for change management has yet to arrive. Driving a still-faster speed to innovation is urgent, as is ensuring the integrity of data through solid integration and a long term strategy for informatics.

'Over the past four years, the PLA has put strong emphasis on raising awareness of "what works and what doesn't" and of enhancing the visibility of the latest solutions and methodologies.'

'For its fifth session, the PLA aims to stimulate creative and productive discussions that will set the basis for a successful Roadmap to 2020 to convert laboratory data into information with a purpose – providing the right information at the right moment and driving informed decision-making.'

Once again, the event will be held at the Hotel Rey Don Jaime, Castelldefels, which is just 10 minutes by taxi from Barcelona Airport. The hotel offers competitive room prices for attendees, and a special discount for extra nights before or after the conference. ●

[www.paperlesslabacademy.com](http://www.paperlesslabacademy.com)

## WHAT THEY SAID

'The Paperless Lab Academy is an essential networking event for all involved in the automation of laboratories. I found it a great way to connect with others facing the same decisions and operational issues as me – and of course, learning how other industries dealt with them.'

Having easy access to the major vendors also helped enormously in laying out our Digital roadmap. I would thoroughly recommend this event.' – **Lawrence Barratt, Unilever**

'Coming from outside the Laboratory area I found the conference to be very informative

and, by listening to the various speakers – both industry and vendors – I gained a good insight into where laboratory systems are going system-wise, and gained an understanding of the challenges they face in the current environment.' – **Rory McCan, Astellas**