

Metabolomics: New Technologies for Continued Innovations (A Workshop of the ASMS Interest Group on Metabolomics)

The metabolomics workshop was started at 5:45pm on Tuesday, June 17. The number of attendees, estimated at 250 exceeded the seating capacity of the room (345-346) at the Baltimore Conference Center. There were about 30 people that remained standing throughout the workshop. A laptop computer and two microphones were available in the room. The hand microphone had poor sound quality and we opted not to use it. Besides Gary Patti and Sunia Trauger, four other invited panelists were part of the informal program. The invited panelists were Ian Blair (University of Pennsylvania), John McLean (Vanderbilt University), Stephen Barnes (University of Alabama) and Paul West. Each of the participants except Paul West, gave a 5 minute presentation about an emerging trend in metabolomics and their work. These included the use of isotope labeling for comparative analysis, ion mobility mass spectrometry for metabolomics and the use of bioinformatics software like XCMS to process highly complex data for multiple samples. The participants were told that there was a 5 minute limit to their short presentation and to enforce it, a buzzer would sound after the 5 minutes. After the short presentations, the panelists took a seat at the front of the room facing the attendees to address their questions. There was a lot of discussion with many questions from the attendees which were addressed by the panelists. The workshop was adjourned at 7:00pm. The reaction of the participants was generally positive. Ideas for next meeting include setting up a Linked-Inn discussion group for the Metabolomics Interest Group as well as taking surveys to assess future topics for discussion. ASMS is going to look at getting access to on-line tools such as gosoapbox to provide the attendees and dynamic on-line forum to sample opinion and keep them engaged during the workshop.