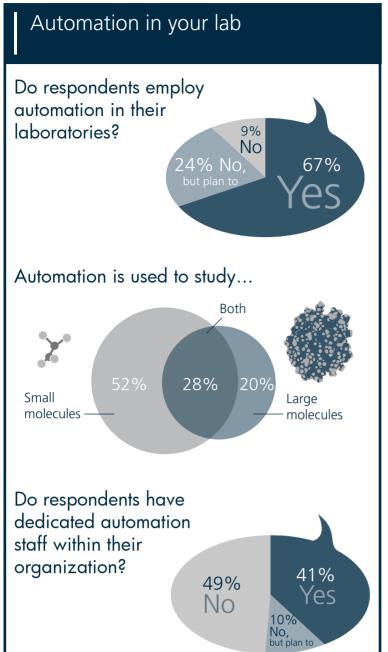


Automation

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Automation is a key area of interest for bioanalysts as it can increase throughput while maintaining quality; this increase in efficiency can led to a reduction in the cost of bioanalysis. Along with many other benefits, automation also eliminates bottlenecks and improves workflows. Together with our automation experts, we put together a survey to find out how you employ automation in your laboratory and your opinion on key issues such as: whether there is a need for an increased focus on automation in quality control, quality assurance, incurred sample reanalysis and data management; and whether there is a need for increased collaboration between robot manufacturers and bioanalysts.



Advantages and limitations of automation

Top 4 advantages of automation

Increased productivity

Consistency

Reduction of error

Scientists more available to focus on alternative tasks

Top 3 limitations of automation

Costs 1

Integration with existing workflows 2

Technical difficulties 3

Top 3 processes that have benefited from automation

2. Data analysis

29%

Mavbe

I believe there will be improved user software which will continue reduction of working sample sizes.

Do respondents believe automation will

62% **No**

The increase of analytical demand is so vast that you

need more technicians, not less. However, these

technicians must have a better background than that

of the past.

Is there a need for an increased focus on

3. Separation

1. Sample preparation

Future of automation

lead to job loss in bioanalysis?

and extraction

9%

Yes

In the future, I believe automated systems will be standardized, which will lead to easier integration with various instruments and new technologies.

About the respondents Location ○31% Europe 9% India 43% North America Rest of the world **Employer** 4% **Biotech** 4% Other 34% large 52% 15% small-mid 3% Pharma Hospital 5% 15% Clinical Diagnostics CRO/CMO Role Director/CEO/VP Manager/Group leader Chemist/Scientist Technician • Student =

I believe in the future there will be greater ease of

programming, use and maintenance, and also

miniaturization – primarily to cope with microsampling.

I foresee full installation of automation into the ELISA

area, and full barcode sample tracking with collection

of sample events.

automation in quality control, quality assurance, incurred sample reanalysis and data management? Automation of preparation and detection just moves the bottleneck elsewhere such as data analysis. Would increased collaboration between robot manufacturers and bioanalysts be beneficial? Maybe Yes 89% Robotic vendors need to understand the requirements of bioanalysis with respect to: nature of sample, process flow, execution and complete traceability of the executed actions right from the beginning of automation.

Read more commentary and analysis on automation
at www.bioanalysis-zone.com

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panel discussion

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