brighter assays, and 6–12 plates per hour with darker assays. These are realistic expectations for a LEADseeker system equipped with an automation peripheral and it would appear that, as far as the detection and analysis process is concerned, ultra-high throughput is attainable.

While these data are promising, the detection/analysis components are only part of a complete system for UHTS. Plate formulations must be optimized for imaging (e.g. low fluorescence backgrounds) to yield the best detection performance and dispensing and reformatting equipment must be adapted to the high-density plate formats. Furthermore, assays need to be verified in miniaturized formats, standard protocols developed and new applications evaluated. For example, with the use of appropriate enzymes and fluorescent-labelled oligonucleotides, an imaging system might be able to analyze mRNA by multiplex RT-PCR or analyze multiplex single-nucleotide polymorphisms.

With all of these demands, implementation of a practical system for image-based screening requires considerable resources. The recent commitment of leading suppliers to image-based screening programmes will accelerate new developments in this rapidly expanding field, and gives early adopters confidence that the technology is here to stay.

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Corrigendum

Please note three corrections to the article *High-throughput screening: new frontiers for the 21st century* by Randy Bolger published in *Drug Discovery Today* (1999) issue 6, 251–253. Firstly in line 4, the author intended to say that the conference took place from 1 to 3 March 1999 instead of 1998. Secondly, under the heading 'Critical evaluations of current technologies', in the last sentence of paragraph 3, the author would like to highlight that the statement 'LANCE, an improved version of HTRF' is inaccurate, and thirdly, HTRF is a registered trademark of Packard Instrument Company (Meriden, CT, USA).

The author would like to apologize for these inaccuracies and for any misunderstandings these have created for the readers.

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