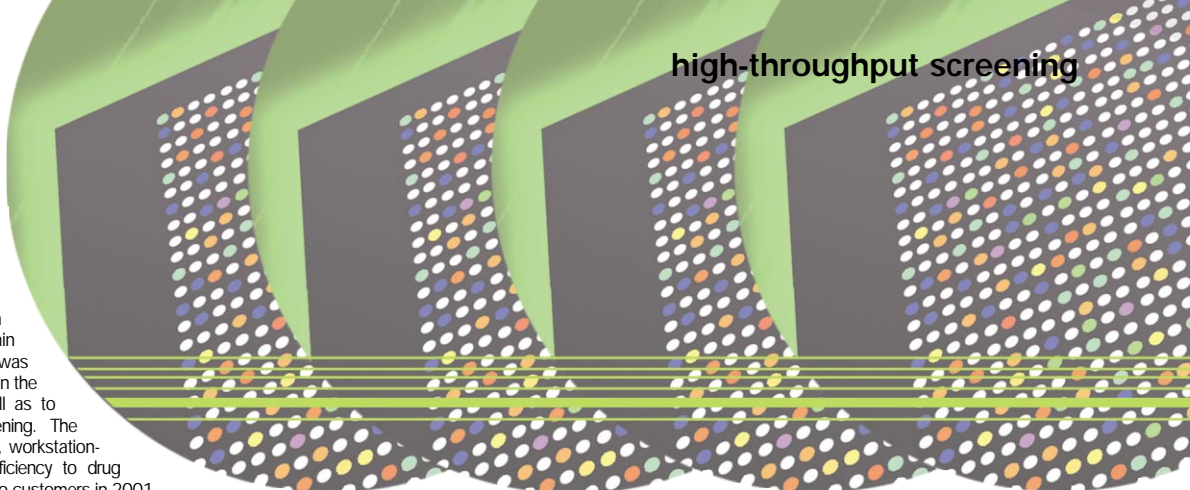


Cover image

The cover depicts the LibraryCard™ reagent array from Caliper Technologies, designed for ultra-HTS. The system is a plastic card, approximately the size of a 96-well plate, which can be used to dry and store picomoles or hundreds of picograms of individual reagents. As chemical compounds are highly stable when dry, these cards can then be distributed within a discovery organization. This system was designed to produce a significant reduction in the consumption levels of compounds, as well as to eliminate plate manipulation during screening. The system should also enable a decentralized, workstation-based process to increase speed and efficiency to drug discovery. The system is due to be released to customers in 2001.



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The argument that HTS has limited value within discovery has recently become a controversial point. Whether this view is becoming more accepted or not, HTS is still considered to be an important strategy in big pharma. There is ever increasing pressure to develop technologies that rapidly and cost-effectively screen and validate compounds that will prove successful in the clinical phase. Hence, a visible trend toward early toxicity screening and computational approaches is now emerging.

Following on from the success of our first HTS supplement, this second supplement examines a variety of strategies, such as pharmacokinetic screening, integration of high-throughput and virtual screening, microfluidics, microchip-based systems and cytokine-mimic screening. News of recent technological advancements in HTS, insights from key researchers and a brief account of this year's Society of Biomolecular Screening meeting are also under the spotlight.

We hope that you will find this supplement enjoyable and informative reading. We would, once again, like to express our thanks to the members of the Editorial Advisory Panel for their input.

Rebecca Lawrence

Supplements Editor to *Drug Discovery Today*