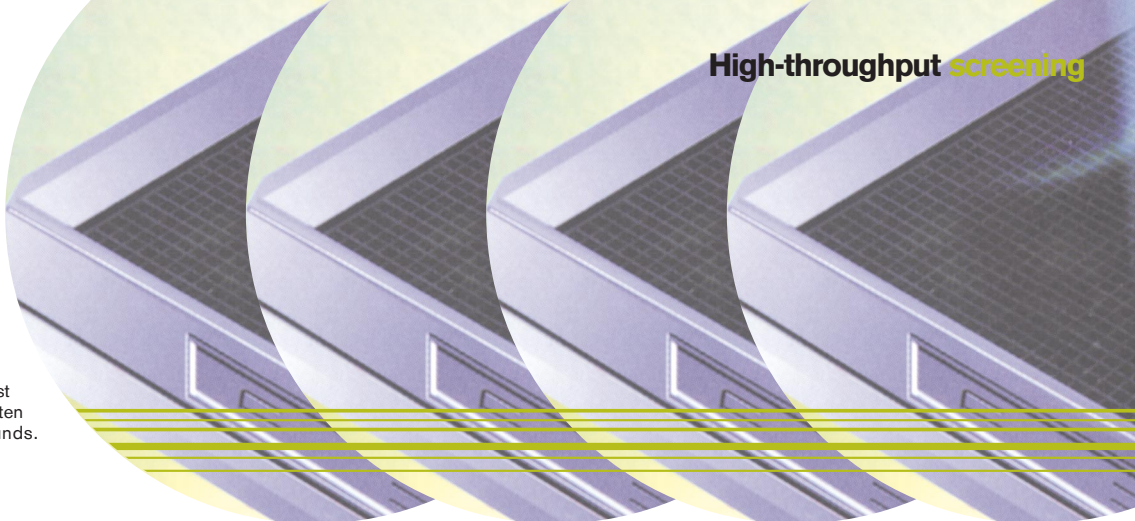


Cover image

The cover depicts the 3456 NanoWell™ plate developed by Aurora Biosciences Corporation as part of an integrated screening platform to accelerate and enhance the discovery of novel medicines and genes. The overall approach combines a portfolio of fluorescence assay technologies, novel genomic biology systems and an ultra-high-throughput screening system (UHTSS). A key feature of the 3456-well plate is the small assay volumes that can be used, approximately 100-times smaller than most conventional screening assays. This feature is crucial for reducing the cost per test, and conserving compound libraries that often consist of very small quantities of test compounds.



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The role of HTS in discovery is swiftly evolving in response to the escalating pressure on the pharmaceutical industry to generate more effective medicines with shorter timelines to the market. Assay miniaturization, an improved diversity of lead sources, and progressively more sophisticated assays are among a gamut of trends currently sweeping through the HTS world. The *Drug Discovery Today* editorial team have initiated a new series of supplements to reflect these trends accurately with a timely and objective approach. These supplements will provide an up-to-date, essential point of reference.

This first supplement examines an array of technologies and approaches that play a crucial role in HTS. Screening informatics, fluorescence and luminescence technologies, miniaturization, glutamate-receptor antagonist screening and submicroliter microfluidic capillary electrophoresis are placed under the spotlight in this edition. We hope you will find this first supplement to be enjoyable reading. Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the members of our Advisory Panel for helping make this supplement a success.

Debbie Tranter
Editor of *Drug Discovery Today*