



Dear Members and Industry Colleagues,

It was great to see the 17 SEFA Members exhibiting at the 2026 I2SL Annual Conference in Boston last week, and I am looking forward to seeing many more of you in the coming months!

2026 SEFA Lab of the Year® Finalists:

During the judges meeting at the Kirksey office in Houston, Texas this week, the judges determined that the two finalists for this year's SEFA Lab of the Year® Competition are (in no particular order):

- Life and Mind Building at the University of Oxford; and
- Roche Diagnostics Innovation Center in Penzberg, Germany

Congratulations to all that were involved in these two outstanding projects, and thank you to everyone that submitted a project to this year's competition, as the judges truly struggled to determine which projects should be the two finalists. The architecture and lab design teams from the two finalists will be invited to give presentations about their projects at our Annual Conference on the morning of November 12th.

Lab Designer Project Survey:

In our August newsletter, I spoke about the [Lab Designer Project Survey](#) being conducted by Top Down Analytics, which has already received survey data from eighteen (18) lab design firms which included eight (8) non-members. Therefore, if you work for a lab design firm, please email Glenn Cudiamat (glenn@tdaresearch.com) from Top Down Analytics to participate in the survey. The results of this survey will be discussed during a general session meeting at our Annual Conference on the morning of November 12th and distributed to all SEFA Members. Furthermore, SEFA is offering one free Annual Conference registration (worth \$1,350) and a free copy of the survey results to any non-Member lab design firm that participates in this survey. Notably, half of the responses we have already received have come from non-Member lab design firms. Responses are anonymous and confidential; no individual firm-level data will be provided to SEFA or any SEFA Members.

SEFA 10 Lift (Height-Adjustable) Table Subcommittee Surveys:

Additionally, our SEFA 10 Lift Table Subcommittee has created two short surveys mostly consisting of multiple choice questions that aim to collect information that will assist this subcommittee in understanding current terminology, product capabilities, testing practices, safety features and market needs as they relate to this type of product. These two surveys ask similar questions, but one is meant to be completed by [manufacturers](#) and the other is meant to be completed by [specifiers/end-users](#). Your responses will be used to focus the subcommittee's work moving forward on this important potential addition to SEFA's Standards. Thank you to Bert Bowden for volunteering to be the chairman of

this subcommittee and leading this group as they work to properly address this trending product category, and to SEFA-10 co-chair Bob DeLuca Jr. in formulating the concise survey questions.

SEFA Annual Conference:

To see the informative presentations from the Lab of the Year® Finalists, participate in our standard writing committee meetings, attend our networking events, and honor our Lifetime Achievement Award recipients Hank von der Bruegge and Abbie Gregg, make sure to [register for our Annual Conference](#) at the JW Marriott Miami Turnberry (from November 11-13). If you are attending our Annual Conference, we encourage you to make your hotel reservation before October 12th, as you will not be able to book your room as part of our room block (\$289 per night) after that date. There is also still time to sign up for our Annual Conference “No Pressure” Golf Scramble, which will be played on November 11th on the beautiful Soffer course that is conveniently located on-site at the JW Marriott. There are only a few open spots remaining, so please email barbara@sefalabs.com to sign up as soon as possible. If you are unsure if you have registered for our Annual Conference and/or our Golf Tournament, please use the following links to view the current list of people that have already registered/signed up:

[List of Conference Attendees](#)

[List of Golfers](#)

I look forward to seeing all of you in sunny Florida in November!

Ross Sutton, JD
Associate General Counsel, Director of Marketing
Scientific Equipment and Furniture Association