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Dear readers,

First of all we would like to wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR, filled with success and prosperity!

It has been a while since our last issue and we would like to share some of our latest updates with you. This issue will provide you with information about our progress and achievements so far regarding confirmed speakers, participants, sponsorship and others.

In addition, it is our pleasure to inform you that we have launched our NEW WEBSITE! This website includes information about BioVisionAlexandria Conferences from 2004 till now. Therefore, we would like to invite you to have a look at it on: <http://www.bibalex.org/biovisionalexandria>

As always, we will be glad to receive your comments and suggestions at: [biovisionalexandria@bibalex.org](mailto:biovisionalexandria@bibalex.org)

We hope you find this newsletter beneficial. For additional information, please visit our website: <http://www.bibalex.org/bva2012>

Welcome to our third edition of BVA 2012 Newsletter!

BVA 2012 Organizing Committee

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## The Library of Alexandria

The Ancient Library of Alexandria is the largest and the most famous library of the Ancient World. It was launched in 288 BCE by Ptolemy I (Soter) under the guidance of Demetrius of Phaleron. It formed part of the Research Institute of Alexandria in Egypt (Alexandrian Museum).



The Library comprised a Peripatos walk, gardens, a room for shared dining, a reading room, lecture halls and meeting rooms. However, the exact layout is not known. The Library itself is known to have had an acquisitions department and a cataloguing department. A hall contained shelves for the collections of scrolls (as the books were at that time on papyrus scrolls), known as bibliothekai (βιβλιοθήκαι). It was the first known library of its kind to gather a serious collection of books from beyond its country's borders. This was done through an aggressive and well-funded royal mandate involving trips to the book fairs of Rhodes and Athens and a policy of pulling the books off every ship that came into port. They kept the original texts and made copies to send back to their owners.



The Library flourished under the patronage of the Ptolemaic dynasty and functioned as a major center of scholarship from its construction in the 3rd century BCE until the Roman conquest of Egypt in 30 BCE. It hosted many international scholars, and the great thinkers of the age, scientists, mathematicians, poets from all civilizations came to study and exchange ideas as Aristarchus, who was the first person to state that the earth revolves around the sun, a full 1800 years before Copernicus; Hipparchus, who established the first atlas of the stars and calculated the length of the solar year accurately to within 6.5 minutes; and Herophylus identified the brain as the controlling organ of the body and launched a new era of medicine among others.

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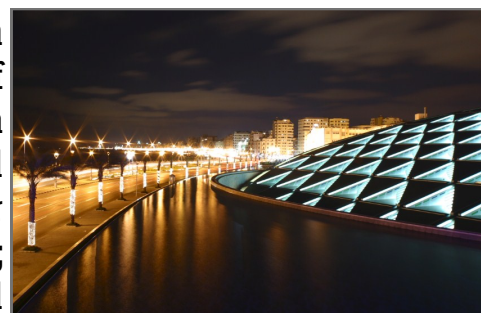
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As a research institution, the Library filled its stacks with new works in mathematics, astronomy, physics, natural sciences and other subjects. The editors at the Library of Alexandria are especially known for their work on Homeric texts. The more famous editors generally also held the title of head librarian, such as Zenodotus, Apollonius of Rhodes, Eratosthenes and others.

Ancient and modern sources identify four possible occasions for the partial or complete destruction of the Library of Alexandria: Julius Caesar's fire in the Alexandrian War, in 48 BCE; the attack of Aurelian in CE 270–275; the decree of Coptic Pope Theophilus in CE 391; and the Muslim conquest in CE 642 or thereafter. However, the real tragedy is that so much of ancient history, literature and learning was lost forever.

The New Library of Alexandria was inaugurated in 2002. It is dedicated to recapture the spirit of openness and scholarship of the original Bibliotheca Alexandrina. It encompasses a library that can hold millions of books; an Internet Archive, four specialized museums; a Planetarium; Culturama; VISTA (the Virtual Immersive Science and Technology Applications system), an interactive Virtual Reality environment allowing researchers to transform two-dimensional data sets into 3-D simulations, and to step inside them; eight academic research centers; a Conference Center; and a Dialogue Forum.



In addition, the New Library of Alexandria also hosts a number of institutions; such as the Arab Regional Office of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS-ARO), the Arab Network for Women in Science and Technology (ANWST), the Academia Bibliotheca Alexandrina (ABA), the International Federation for Library Associations (IFLA) Regional Office and others.

Sources:

[http://www.serageldin.com/ancient\\_Library.htm](http://www.serageldin.com/ancient_Library.htm)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library\\_of\\_Alexandria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Alexandria)  
[http://www.bibalex.org/aboutus/overview\\_en.aspx](http://www.bibalex.org/aboutus/overview_en.aspx)

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to join the RIGHT TEAM  
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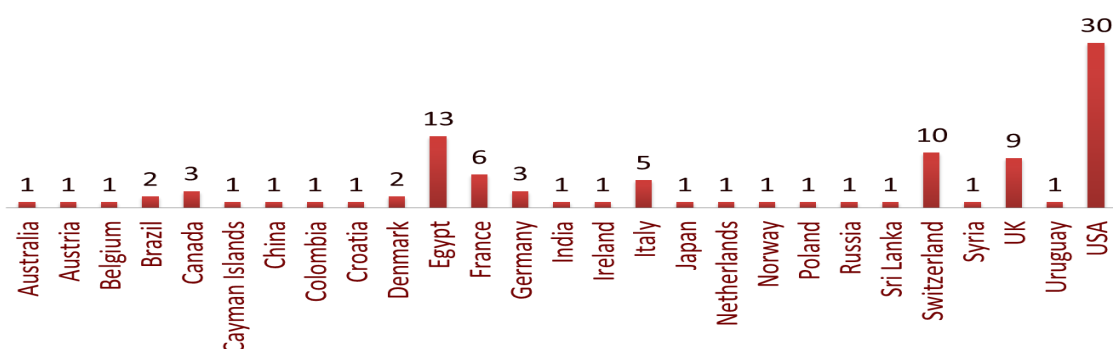
Prof. Ingo Potrykus





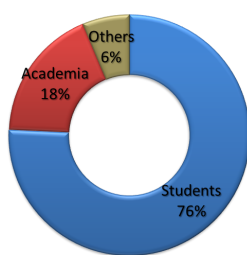
## BVA 2012 Statistics so far...

### BVA 2012 Confirmed Speakers by Country

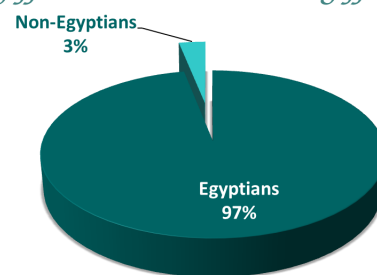


### BVA 2012 Confirmed Registrants

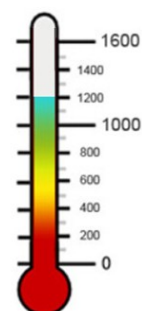
#### BVA 2012 Confirmed Registrants by Category



#### BVA 2012 Confirmed Registrants Egyptians Versus Non-Egyptians



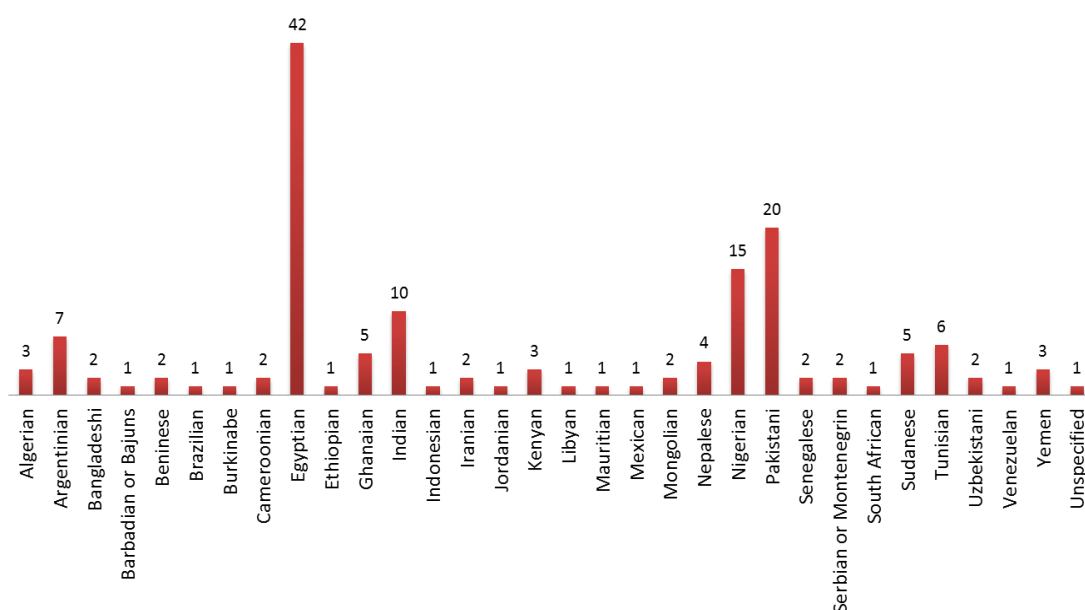
Registration will close on **15 April 2012** or **earlier** if full capacity (1,600 registrants) is reached before this date.



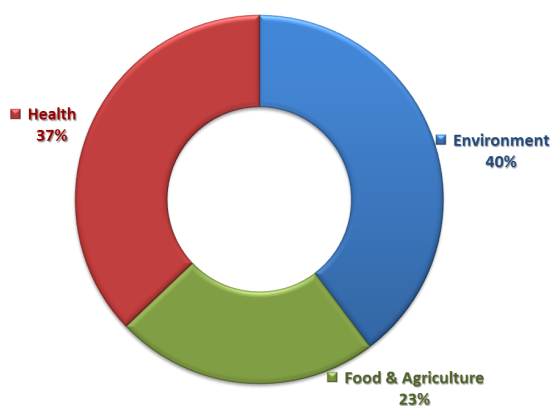
To know the status of Registration, check the **Indicator Thermometer**.

## TWAS/BVA.NXT 2012

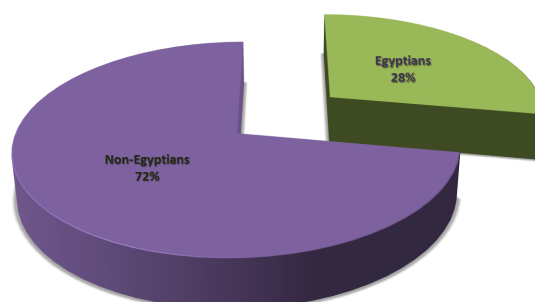
### Applicants by Nationality



### Applicants by Field



### Egyptians Versus Non-Egyptians



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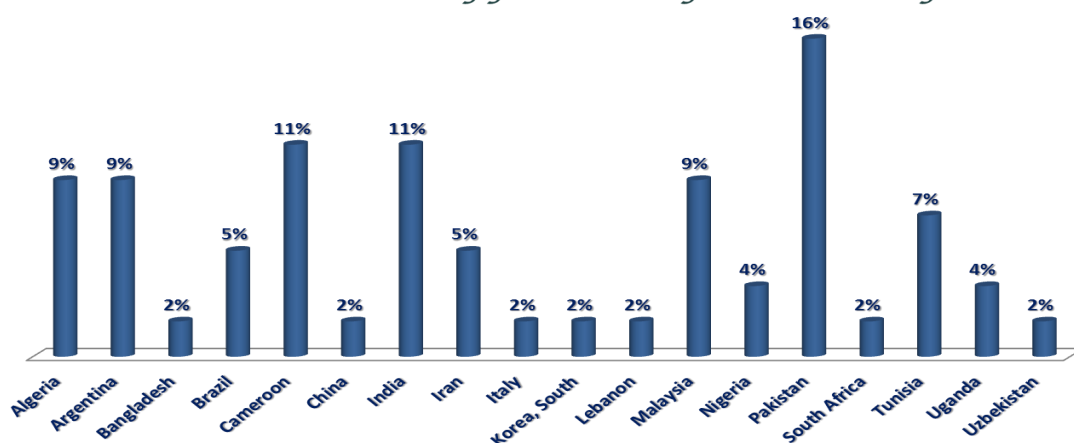
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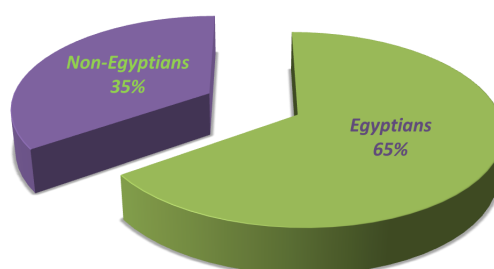
Join *BioVision Alexandria 2012* initiative as an *exhibitor* to foster North to South, and South to South collaboration through a *better exposure* of *your programs* on the *regional* and the *international* levels. **JOIN US**

To see what you have missed in the Biofair@Biovision Alexandria 2010, go to [Exhibitors' photo gallery](#).

## Poster Session Applicants by Nationality



## Posters Session Applicants Egyptians Versus Non-Egyptians



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