

**ISMAIL SERAGELDIN**  
**BioVisionAlexandria 2004**  
**Inaugural Session**  
**3 April 2004**

Welcome Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen in the Library of Alexandria, a venue for BioVisionAlexandria 2004.

The ancient Library of Alexandria was the world's first academy of learning, the world's first free space for inquiry and interdisciplinary research, and the world's first great universal library.

We have now successfully revived the Library by your very presence and so to start these proceedings, I would like to introduce the Library of Alexandria and let a brief film speak for itself.

Thank you.