

Hello members! We are already well into this gorgeous summer, which means we are halfway through the year. Women In Bio kept up its momentum during the second quarter, ending with a bang at the BIO International Convention, which also included the official launch of our [Boardroom Ready program](#). Both of these events were co-chaired by our new President-Elect, [Dawn Hocevar](#), who graciously stepped into the role when unexpected events led [Stacie Byars](#) to require a leave of absence. I feel so lucky to be surrounded by so many capable leaders, including our entire BIO planning committee and our Boardroom Ready committee of volunteers. These teams made planning a series of events and launching a new initiative fun!

The BIO Convention consisted of a [number of events](#), including an invite-only executive luncheon. The format of this forum was small and more personal in order to discuss the issues facing women as they progress in their careers. Topics included what steps to take in order to achieve a board position, how to negotiate salary while switching jobs, and how to evaluate your worth in both consulting and on a salary level. That very same evening was our plenary event, where the atmosphere was casual and inviting. Over 200 women and men had the opportunity to take home a number of tips, including how to learn from failure, spot industry trends, and how to integrate your “side hustle” activities into your career development. Our panelists were absolutely fantastic, and we can’t thank them enough!

WIB also hosted two well-attended speed networking events on the BIO Convention exhibit floor, and our social media volunteers and supporters made sure lots of tweets were coming from our booth! The interactions between all of the volunteers, both face-to-face and via social media channels, from across the country were great to see. <http://www.womeninbio.org/events/past-events/bio-2016-recap#>

We ended the week at the Bioprocess International Theater, where we held a pitch event which featured five company presenters pitching to a panel of women investors. The investors gave each presenter a number of tips to help improve their pitch as they continue to fundraise and promote their companies. A more detailed recap of this event should be available by the end of the summer. In the meantime, a recap of all of the other events can be found [here](#).

The BIO Convention also showcased a panel at the Massachusetts pavilion which brought together a group of people to officially launch our Boardroom Ready program, including participants from our sponsors, our Boardroom Ready leaders, and other supporters from the industry. We are thrilled that the program has received so much attention and enthusiasm since then, and we are looking forward to announcing our first class in August!

The heart of our organization remains with our chapters, who have hosted a whopping 51 events across the country in the second quarter. Topics included “[Strategies for Female Entrepreneurs to Secure Funding and Protect their Company's IP](#),” “[Trivia Night Party: Countdown of the Top Life-Science Discoveries of 2015](#),” and “[Juggling Time: Integrating All That is Important in Life](#).” I am so honored to lead an organization of such dedicated volunteers, and it is easy to see why interest remains high from our members.

A special thanks once again to the organization’s staff members: [Jamie Strachota](#), Executive Director; [Shannon Lachance](#), Events and Database Coordinator; [Debra Chamra](#), Treasurer; and [Ted Savides](#), Communications Coordinator. Getting us all ready to attend and execute the number of events at BIO,

while supporting all of our chapters at the same time, is no easy task. We'd also like to welcome our newest staff member, Kelly Williams, who has joined the team to help liaise with our sponsors on a national level, among other duties.

I want to thank all of you again for your support of me as we continue to innovate, challenge, and participate in the unique, all-volunteer environment that is WIB! I'd love to hear from you with your ideas, thoughts, and questions, and I was thrilled to meet many of you in person at BIO. Looking forward to our continued enthusiasm in Q3!

Kristi Sarno

WIB President