



Dear WIB friends,

One of the great privileges of being president of WIB is that I get to spread good news -- this time with the announcement that **Kristi Sarno**, outgoing chair of WIB-Greater Boston, will take on the role of President-Elect, effective January 1, 2015. Kelly Kral will be the new chair of the Greater Boston chapter.



Kristi has impressed us all with her thoughtful, strategic and effective leadership of the Boston chapter, and will join incoming president **Dimitra Georganopoulou** to expand the organization with their ideas, energy and relentless dedication.



"I am thrilled to be working with Women in Bio at this level. This is an organization that is making an impact nationally, and I am looking forward to contributing to the further development of an organization that truly adds value for its members." Kristi Sarno.

As I come to the end of my term as president, I can say quite honestly that there is nothing more gratifying than knowing I leave WIB in the hands of people I admire so much, who will continue the mission of empowering women to take their careers to new heights -- and have fun doing so.

So what have we done this year?



First, we welcomed the New York chapter as our 11th member, and saw it hit the ground running with a line-up of events ranging from "Lessons in the C-Suite" to a Young Women In Bio event at Roche's new Manhattan premises.

In March, we held our first WIB conference for Women's History Month with events from all chapters covering topics such as Non Profit Advocacy in Biotech, Women Trailblazers in Life Sciences and How to Dare to Be Yourself.



Our annual National WIB Celebration was held at the BIO International Conference for a second year in a row -- which proved a successful formula that we'll continue to use. Annalisa Jenkins, now CEO of Dimension Therapeutics, joined me for an engaging "Fireside chat" held against the backdrop of the San Diego bay, that inspired an audience of women and men from across the industry. Since then, I'm delighted to say, Annalisa has joined WIB's National Board of Directors, bringing a wealth of executive level experience to help us grow.

In addition, we helped put WIB on the map with the WIB-SmartBrief, a weekly newsletter that highlights news about women in life sciences, and launched the WIB job board which already has several hundred subscribers.



On the communications front we launched a new website, created an online video library with recordings of a range of WIB events, advanced our social media platform and developed our branding to reflect who we are and what we do.

And that is only the tip of the iceberg. Of course the bulk of what we've done this year has been done by you, the volunteers who have organized events, hosted speakers, engaged sponsors and recruited new members -- embodying the true core of our mission.

Which brings me to the long list of people to thank for all their support during my term as president;

That starts with you -- our volunteers -- who have met and surpassed every goal we set, helped us solve problems, produced imaginative programming and enabled us to reach more women than ever before.

None of this would be possible without our sponsors, who support us at a national and local level and demonstrate their commitment to our mission of promoting careers, leadership and entrepreneurship for women in life sciences.

I also want to thank our Board of Directors, which has given me unwavering support, in addition to ideas, insight and advice, and counsel on strategic matters that has helped me sleep well at night.

Shannon Lachance and Ted Savides have been the power behind the scenes -- the people who make the website run, get the newsletter out, handle event registration, and many more activities without which we would fall apart.

And Jamie Strachota has of course been the unflinching steady hand behind most of what we do -- turning our ideas and strategy into a reality that makes WIB the force that it is.

Finally, I have to thank Dimitra, who has been a true partner for me, helping me think things through, inspiring me with bold ideas, and supporting me with her shared vision.

And that brings me to my final message to you -- and what WIB has done for me. I met Dimitra, Jamie and several of you through WIB, who have now become good friends that cross that intersection of work and private life. Those connections will stay long beyond my term as president

This is an organization that allows you to try new things, test-drive roles you think you might like, discover skills you never knew you had. You can find mentors, sponsors, new jobs and friends here -- and more than that, WIB provides a way for you to give

back.

Helping someone else find a job, mentoring a friend and seeing her take on new professional challenges, starting a group and seeing it survive without you -- this is what WIB lets you do for others, and in so doing, lets you grow yourself.

"Networking is more than standing around with a glass of wine in your hand." Those were the words of BayBio's president Gail Maderis at a WIB-San Francisco event. Networking is truly that - a way to connect with people that influences their lives, and this organization has allowed me to benefit from all sides of that equation.

So I wish Dimitra, Kristi and all of you much fun as you take WIB forward into 2015, and I look forward to seeing the initiatives and ideas translate into a stellar year for the organization.

Simone Fishburn

To take advantage of a free subscription to WIB-Smartbrief, a weekly newsletter that will keep you updated about women making a difference in biotech and life sciences, please [sign up here](#).

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