

September 5, 2017
Letter from the President
Women In Bio

Dear WIB Members and Supporters,

Women In Bio is in a major growth spurt! We are growing due to the dedication and passion that our board, leaders, volunteers and supporters have for this wonderful organization. I'd like to review how we are growing and plans through the end of the year.

NEW WEBSITE AND CRM SYSTEM!

As most of you know, WIB's amazing staff led by [Jamie Griffin Strachota](#), WIB Executive Director, has been working very hard behind the scenes to set up our [new website](#) and improved Client Relationship Management (CRM) system. They have done a stellar job working long hours to make the transfer as seamless as possible. The switch to the new website and CRM system were launched last week Friday. Be sure to log into your profile to confirm the information is correct, update communication settings, and browse around the functionality both of these new initiatives offer. It may take a bit of getting used to however the new system will support all the growth we are experiencing and look forward to continuing for years to come. **An enormous thanks goes out to [Shannon Lachance](#), [Kathy Legako](#), [Kelly Williams](#), [Winnie Pong](#), [Ted Savides](#), and [Alice Ku](#) for all of the behind-the-scenes work they have put in to bring this to fruition.**

EWIB and Boardroom Ready Program

To keep the WIB brand under one umbrella as we expand our Executive programs, we have renamed the Executive Leadership Development Committee (ELDC) to Executive Women In Bio (EWIB). EWIB is finalizing plans for the Boardroom Ready (BR) retreat in NY this coming Fall after the 2017 BR class graduates. We intend to host this annually to enable BR alumni to stay in touch, continue training, and welcome new graduates. EWIB will also be working with chapter leaders to brainstorm strategies for working together to increase executive member involvement at the chapter level. Marketing efforts have increased for the BR program as we strive to create more professional marketing material and support the growing demands of this committee. Xconomy news agency has nominated WIB and Biogen for a diversity award in the efforts we have made on this very important topic. The event will be held in September in Boston and some of our board members will be in attendance. A special CONGRATULATIONS goes out to [Carolyn Broughman](#) who heads up the BR program and everyone who has helped with efforts to increase gender diversity in the life science industry.

Young Women In Bio

As mentioned in the April letter, Young Women In Bio (YWIB), is undergoing a re-brand to achieve two major objectives: 1) to develop strategic thinking that increases the alignment between the chapters' YWIB teams; and 2) create consistent branding and messaging that fosters a sense of unity across the entire YWIB initiative. YWIB hosts programs geared towards encouraging middle and high school girls to consider the life sciences as a career choice. [Lily Wound](#), YWIB National Chair, and her team are working hard towards making YWIB a nationally known organization. To help with this initiative, [Purohit Navigation](#), a strategically-focused healthcare communications and strategy agency, are working closely with the YWIB and National leadership to help us during this rebrand. We hope to launch the new YWIB brand in September in time for the new school year. The goals are to have each chapter host several YWIB events throughout the year. Stay tuned!

Programming, Membership, Sponsorship

Year to date we've hosted a total of 80 events, have 2,660 members, and almost every chapter is on target to meet and/or exceed their sponsorship goals. Programming has been stellar and we look forward to a robust end of the year. Fantastic job EVERYONE! Congratulations to all! [Cassidy Cantin](#), incoming 2018 WIB President, has done a great job of restructuring the Austin chapter and it will be re-launched very soon. The chapter will now be called WIB-Texas and we are excited to welcome the new leadership team to WIB.

Special Events:

The 2017 BIO International Convention was a great success thanks to all the efforts of the special events committee, WIB-SoCal chapter, and all the volunteers. Many hours were spent on the planning which typically begins in the Fall of the prior year. The 2018 BIO International Convention will be held in Boston and we are already in the planning stages to execute another successful BIO week.

Our signature Plenary event was a Pitch Perfect challenge. [monARC BioNetworks](#) was the winning company and we had nearly 250 people in attendance. The Executive luncheon discussing diversity at the executive level had 40 attendees. The annual WIB Speed-Networking WIB Meet-Up event had over 200 women attend. You can imagine the noise level and attention this group of women received from attendees walking by with mouths open agape at the flurry of networking. WIB also hosted a BPI panel discussion with 2016 Boardroom Ready graduates sharing lessons learned in the industry with at least 30 people in attendance. BIO hosted a diversity panel in which I was one of the panelists. Thank you to all of our BIO sponsors and the WIB members that worked hard to secure them!



Strategic Plan

The Executive Team and an ad-hoc group of WIB Board of Directors have formed a Strategic Planning Committee. We are reviewing the history of WIB, where we want it to go with specified goals, how we will make it happen with specific tactics, and the infrastructure needed to support our growth. As we go through this process, we welcome any input, feedback, comments from you. Please feel free to reach out to info@womeninbio.org with your thoughts/ideas for WIB's growth.

Thank you for all of your support, and I am so proud to be working alongside such a stellar group of smart, passionate, skilled women. Together we are making a tremendous difference for women in the life sciences.

Dawn Hocevar

2017 WIB President

