

December 11, 2017
Letter from the President
Women In Bio

Dear WIB Members and Supporters,

2017 is coming to a close and so is my term as President of Women In Bio. I'd like to reflect on the past year and my tenure with WIB from the perspective of WIB's mission to support women throughout their careers.

I joined WIB in 2012 and volunteered to be on the leadership team on the newly formed SF Chapter. This came from my passion of wanting to help women find mentors, leaders and programs to support their career development. The personal reason I joined was networking with other professional women and WIB offered a tremendous amount of networking opportunities. I have met so many talented and passionate women that have led to friendships, professional connections, mentors and career opportunities.

One of the benefits of getting involved at either a chapter and/or national leadership level is that you can roll up your sleeves and volunteer for a position that will either enhance your skills and/or teach you new skills. That is the essence of what WIB offers to you, just by volunteering! By being your own advocate, you can take your involvement to whatever level you want, by getting involved and learning to take on projects that you may have never done before but are willing to learn. This approach gave me the confidence to take on new roles within WIB as well as my professional journey to becoming President & CEO of CURE CT. Confidence builds upon experiences and empowers you to take risks.

During my tenure as President I experienced all types of situations from procedural to interpersonal and it was other women within WIB that made all the difference in support, guidance and encouragement. "WIB's primary focus is to provide women-to-women mentorship and leadership support through all stages of career development". Finding women who want to lend a hand is very important especially as you rise in your career. You learn quickly the politics of working with different personalities and having the support of other professional women is key to success and growth. WIB wants to extend that hand and I hope you take advantage of it throughout your career.

No matter how much opportunity WIB provides, you must empower and believe in yourself so that you can drive your career. Don't be afraid of mistakes or failure, as long as you learn from them. Mistakes will always happen, it's what we do about them that can build respect and trust. It's not an easy journey however if you align yourself with women and peers that you trust and respect then hopefully you can endure the ups and downs and even have fun along the way. Thank you, Women In Bio, for all the doors that opened to me and giving me the confidence to walk through them.

The executive team is very proud of what WIB accomplished in 2017.

- Very successful BIO in San Diego. Thank you to all the chapters for your contributions and a special thanks to the SoCal chapter for hosting and your sponsorships
- Rebrand of YWIB with its new logo, tagline and mission statement to properly reflect this growing program
- Creation of the EWIB committee which launched the first annual BR retreat in NYC which was very well received and the graduation of the second BR graduating class of 2017
- Groundwork to relaunch of the Texas chapter in 2018
- Transition to a new Client Relationship Management (CRM) system, which is WIB's database and emarketing platform, to support WIB's growth. A very special thank you to the WIB staff for the herculean effort that was done to research and implement the new CRM system.

- As of December 7, 2017, our 13 chapters hosted 154 successful events, grew membership to 2,728 and raised sponsorship totaling \$121,000. CONGRATULATIONS to all leaders and volunteers!

WIB National is also finalizing a 3 year strategic plan for WIB. We are very excited about the years ahead and what we can do to make WIB the premiere women's organization in the life sciences industry. Our goal is to offer programs at every stage of your career and all you need to do is take advantage of them.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hocevar

