

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Stacie D. Byars, Women In Bio National Marketing Director

206-660-2588 or sdbyars@comcast.net

**Women In Bio Announces the Launch of YWIB's First Annual Spring Into STEM™ Festival**

*A unique experience to ignite girls' curiosity in STEM*

**March 27, 2017 (New York, New York)** -- Women In Bio (WIB), an organization of professionals committed to promoting careers, leadership, and entrepreneurship of women in the life sciences, is proud to announce the launch of Young Women In Bio's (YWIB) first annual Spring Into STEM™ Festival. Spring Into STEM™ celebrates the spring season by showcasing the work that YWIB does yearlong to introduce young girls interested in STEM to the wide range of career opportunities open to them in the sciences. From the first day of spring in March through the end of April 2017, participating chapters of YWIB across the country and in Montreal are offering unique events and company tours to present to middle and high school girls a diverse array of careers in STEM, ranging from scientific research, drug development, agricultural biotech, urban forestry to biotech entrepreneurship. The companies and organizations participating in Spring Into STEM™ events include [the National Institute of Health \(NIH\)](#), [the American Heart Association](#), [Pfizer Centers for Therapeutic Innovation](#), [Abbott Molecular](#), [Corealis Pharma](#), [the Neomed Institute](#) and [the New York City Parks Foundation](#).

Spring Into STEM™ will conclude the Festival with its keynote event, "High School Career Conference" at the Johns Hopkins University in Rockville, Maryland. The event will feature a panel of trailblazing women in the life sciences who will discuss how to prepare for a science-based career with high school students. A video of this panel discussion will be released at the end of April on the Young Women In Bio website located at: <http://www.womeninbio.org/ywib>

"These events are designed to ignite curiosity in STEM, expose girls to the vast range of career opportunities in STEM, and connect young women with their peers and industry leaders who can help provide academic advice and career guidance," said Lily Wound, National Chair of YWIB. "The Spring Into STEM™ Festival highlights what our volunteers across the country and in Montreal do all year long, which is to develop stimulating events and programs that pave the way for young girls to explore their passion for science and discover career pathways in STEM."

Below is a list of featured events included in the Spring Into STEM™ Festival. Each of these events are open to young girls located in the specific YWIB chapter's region. To find out how to participate or learn more about YWIB, visit: <http://www.womeninbio.org/ywib>

**2017 Spring Into STEM™ Festival Events**

**KEYNOTE:**

**April 28:** “Prepare for Your Career in STEM: A High School Career Conference and Workshop”

YWIB-DC/Balt is pleased to present the keynote event for the YWIB Spring Into STEM™ Festival at the Johns Hopkins University in Rockville, Maryland. Our panel will consist of female trailblazers in the life sciences, who will speak to high school students on preparing for science-based careers. Join our industry experts as they discuss lessons they have learned along the way to establishing their own successful high-profile careers. Our speakers will offer varied perspectives on the subject, ranging from medical, to regulatory, to policy and more. Following the panel session there will be a breakout session on strategies for college admissions. To learn more, visit: <http://www.womeninbio.org/eventdetails.aspx?EventId=31048>

### **CHAPTER EVENTS:**

**March 28:** **YWIB-Pittsburgh:** “YWIB/WIB-Pittsburgh Career Development and Mentoring”

On March 28, YWIB-Pittsburgh will host a career development panel session with middle/high school aged girls from local area schools. Women in a range of careers (e.g. academia, industry, consulting) will share their career development and educational experiences and answer questions students have about career trajectories in the biosciences. Following this event, WIB-Pittsburgh will host an event titled “Creating and Cultivating a Start-up,” which will include a panel discussion with several female start-up company leaders from the Pittsburgh area. Panelists will be discussing their experiences working in science start-ups - covering multiple topics, including challenges they have faced, inspiration they had for their products/services and for the companies themselves, the atmosphere experienced in start-up venues, and advice they might have for women considering such a career route. YWIB-Pittsburgh is inviting and encouraging the girls to stay and attend this event for additional exposure.

**April 1:** **YWIB-Chicago:** “WIB-Chicago GO RED STEM Speed Networking and Mentoring with Young Women In Bio and American Heart Association”

YWIB-Chicago and the American Heart Association will host a speed networking and mentoring event for high school girls on April 1st. Students will be introduced to a panel of women working in careers related to the life sciences, followed by a break-out session in which the girls will have time to network with other event participants. This event will provide an opportunity for the girls to be introduced to many different career paths within the life sciences and to develop their networking skills.

**April 5:** **YWIB-DC/Baltimore:** “STEM Summit hosted by Junior Achievement of Central Maryland”

YWIB-DC/Baltimore will host a hands-on, day-long summit at a local high school. The program will consist of rotating stations of experiments, competitions, and demonstrations. The goal of the

summit is to inspire students to pursue an academic STEM focus for the remainder of their high school careers, in preparation for STEM careers.

**April 11: YWIB-Greater Montreal: “Spring Into STEM™ Event at Corealis and Neomed”**

YWIB-Greater Montreal will host its first annual Spring Into STEM event at the life sciences manufacturing company, Corealis Pharma and Neomed Institute in Laval, Canada. Local companies will host Grade 11 girls for presentations on research and manufacturing in the life sciences. Speakers will discuss their own career paths, and conduct laboratory tours and scientific demonstrations. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.womeninbio.org/eventdetails.aspx?EventId=31063>

**April 13: YWIB-Boston: “Curious About Careers in Science?”**

YWIB-Boston will partner with Pfizer Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) to host 20 middle school girls to learn more about biotech and STEM careers. The program will include a lab tour, lab experiment and drug discovery game, and career development discussions. To learn more, visit: <http://www.womeninbio.org/eventdetails.aspx?EventId=30965>

**April 13: YWIB-Chicago: “YWIB-Chicago Tour of Abbott Molecular Labs”**

YWIB-Chicago will take middle school girls on a tour of Abbott Molecular. The tour of the facility will include a presentation of the laboratories, introduction to R&D scientists, rotations to work stations, and lunch. During and after the tour, participants will have the opportunity to question Abbott Molecular scientists and Women In Bio members, and network with other girls who are interested in careers in the sciences. To learn more, visit: <http://www.womeninbio.org/wib-chapters/chicago>

**April 25: YWIB-SF: “YWIB-SF Visits Pfizer”**

YWIB-SF is pleased to work with Pfizer Center for Therapeutic Innovation and Pfizer Oncology to host a Spring Into STEM™ event for 40 girls in grades 9-12 from 4pm to 7pm. The students will participate in a panel discussion led by volunteers from Pfizer who will share their experience of bringing a drug all the way from idea through early development and clinical trials. The panel will be followed by breakout discussion groups and hands-on science demonstrations and activities.

**April 28: YWIB-MetroNY: “Tree Care on Arbor Day”**

YWIB-MetroNY will partner with Trees New York and the City Parks Foundation to host a "Tree Care on Arbor Day" event. The event will take place on Arbor Day 2017 and will feature an interactive workshop on urban forestry. Girls will learn how New York City maintains the 700,000 trees that are planted in its parks and have the opportunity to learn about tree maintenance and try out techniques firsthand as a part of the event. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.womeninbio.org/wib-chapters/metro-new-york/ywib>

**April 29: YWIB-Research Triangle Park (RTP): 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Into STEM™ Event at RTP**

YWIB-RTP held the first ever Spring Into STEM™ event last year in the Research Triangle Park area, which lead the way for YWIB to create a national festival around Spring into STEM™. YWIB-RTP is excited to be hosting its second annual Spring Into STEM™ event. Middle and High school girls will learn what it means to be a Disruptive Innovator from leaders in all areas of STEM, and work with peers to solve problems while challenging the bounds of their creativity. Guest speakers will include women covering multiple topics, from Agricultural Biotech and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, to Clinical Studies and Drug Development in a “science fair” format. The girls will also partner with industry leaders and peers to perform hands-on experiments and activities tailored to each age group.

**April TBD: YWIB-Philadelphia: “Career Panel at STEM Academy”**

YWIB-Philadelphia will host a career development panel session with Sophomore, Junior and Senior girls around what a woman can do with a Biology degree. Women panelists in a range of roles will share their educational experience, career path and successes. The session will close with a question and answer session.

**About YWIB:** Young Women in Bio (YWIB) is a special initiative of Women In Bio, designed to introduce elementary, middle and high school girls to careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and creates programs and events geared towards igniting the interest of girls in STEM and encouraging them to consider STEM as a career choice. With 13 chapters across the US and Canada comprised of women in STEM, including scientists, physicians, managers, legal professionals and bioentrepreneurs, we share the passion of inspiring a love of science in girls, and are committed to increasing the representation of girls in STEM. To learn more, visit: <http://www.womeninbio.org/ywib>

**About Women In Bio**

Women In Bio is an organization of professionals committed to promoting careers, leadership, and entrepreneurship of women in the life sciences. Each local chapter hosts numerous events throughout the year that vary from networking events to career development, to professional education, to executive level-focused events. In addition to events, WIB hosts a mentorship program that offers women the chance to mentor or be mentored, a Young Women In Bio program that offers events and programs in STEM to young girls, webinars, and provides the support of a large national organization with 13 chapters and growing. As a volunteer organization, WIB offers leadership opportunities at every stage of your career, and a chance to expand your network in a supportive and professional environment.

###

---