Announcing New Leadership for Executive Women In Bio and Boardroom Ready

June 18, 2019 - Women In Bio (WIB) is thrilled to announce the selection of new co-chairs for Executive Women In Bio (EWIB) and the Boardroom Ready program. Incoming co-chairs for EWIB are Shehnaaz Suliman, M.D., M.B.A., M.Phil., and Melanie Kleinschek, D.V.M., Ph.D., who are both members of the San Francisco chapter. EWIB also welcomes Kelly Huang from the Southern California chapter, who will co-chair the Boardroom Ready program with Elese Hanson, a founding leader who helped establish the program in 2016.

We are full of gratitude for outgoing EWIB founders and co-chairs Jessica Swartz, Ph.D., and Yasmin Chandrasekher, Ph.D., for their work establishing this important community and network of executive women in the life sciences. Boardroom Ready founder and chair Carolyn Brougham will be stepping down from her role in the program but will remain on as an executive liaison for WIB. Her passion for empowering women in the life sciences to advance into the boardroom has been the bedrock for making the Boardroom Ready program what it is today. These three founders have provided countless hours devoted to laying a strong foundation that can withstand important growth and elevation of the WIB community as more and more women work to advance their careers into executive leadership positions. We are thankful for their service and wish them well in their next endeavors.

EWIB champions for greater diversity and is committed to supporting female leadership through professional development programs, including Boardroom Ready. EWIB strives to be a foundational resource for women in executive roles, by fostering achievement and empowering women to be the best leaders and influencers they can be through formal education, training, and structured networking. EWIB offers the Boardroom Ready program, a competitive, intensive board competency-building curriculum held annually at George Washington University to refine skills and to increase preparedness for the responsibilities related to serving on both public and private boards.

We are excited to have Shehnaaz Suliman, Melanie Kleinschek, and Kelly Huang accept these co-chair roles as each one brings a unique skill set and point of view that will support EWIB as it continues to grow in the coming years.

Shehnaaz Suliman, M.D., M.B.A., M.Phil., EWIB co-chair: Shehnaaz is a physician and strategy and business development leader with a more than 18 years delivering results in business development, corporate and commercial strategy and early development. She currently serves on the boards of Ultragenyx and Parvus Therapeutics. Previous roles include leadership positions at Gilead, Genentech, Roche and Theravance Biopharma. Her healthcare career began in South Africa and in the UK as a practicing physician. She received her medical degree at the University of Cape Town followed by an MBA, with distinction, and a master’s in development studies from Oxford University, where she was a Rhodes Scholar. Shehnaaz was selected as one of 2017 Fierce Women in Life Sciences.
Melanie Kleinschek, D.V.M., Ph.D, EWIB co-chair: Melanie joins the EWIB team with more than a decade of experience in the life sciences industry and currently serves as Vice President, biology and pharmacology at Theravance Biopharma. Previous experience includes principal scientist, respiratory and immunology at Merck and senior scientist at Schering-Plough Biopharma. Melanie earned her Ph.D. from Leipzig University in Germany and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Justus Liebig University Giessen.

Kelly Huang, Boardroom Ready co-chair: Kelly is a senior executive coach, facilitator and expert in leadership transitions at Genesis Advisers. She has over 20 years of teaching, marketing executive, and management consulting experience. She started her career in sales and marketing at IBM and moved to business development at Monsanto Greater China. In San Diego she has been active in the biotechnology community by designing and delivering marketing and innovation curriculum for UCSD Extension and CONNECT accelerator. Kelly holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School with honors and a joint degree in computer engineering and economics from Brown University.

Please join us in welcoming the incoming these new co-chairs as they transition into their roles in June 2019.

Women In Bio (WIB) is an organization of professionals committed to promoting careers, leadership, and entrepreneurship of women in the life sciences. Each of its 13 chapters hosts numerous events throughout the year, including networking, career development, professional education, and executive level-focused events. WIB also hosts a mentorship program which offers women the chance to mentor or be mentored, a Young Women In Bio program, which offers events and encouragement to middle-school aged girls, webinars, and 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. For more information, visit www.womeninbio.org.

Executive Women In Bio (EWIB) is a committee comprised of senior leaders in biopharma and the life sciences operating within the membership-based, national non-profit organization, Women In Bio (WIB). EWIB champions for greater diversity and is committed to supporting female leadership through professional development programs, including Boardroom Ready. EWIB strives to be a foundational resource for women in executive roles, by fostering achievement and empowering women to be the best leaders and influencers they can be through formal education, training, and structured networking. EWIB offers a competitive, intensive board competency-building curriculum held annually at George Washington University to refine skills and to increase preparedness for the responsibilities related to serving on both public and private boards.