Dear WIB Community,

Women In Bio’s history is rooted in supporting women founders and executives in the life sciences. In fact, our organization was founded by a group of women entrepreneurs in the greater Washington D.C. area almost 20 years ago. Since inception, our organization continues to promote women entrepreneurs – something that is imperative to achieve gender parity.

The statistics are bleak: according to Pitchbook, while investment in women founded life sciences companies has steadily grown, in terms of deal value, male founders have taken in 83% of money in 2021 alone. A recent survey conducted by Silicon Valley Bank that examined startup demographics found that only 56% of responding startups had at least one woman in an executive position, only 40% had at least one woman on the board of directors, and only 28% had at least one women founder. WIB has been working tirelessly since the beginning to address the challenges faced by women founders in the life sciences.

Through National Initiatives, such as the WIB Entrepreneur Center (EC), we aim to support women founders leading early stage starts-up. Our EC is hosting its 2nd Annual Founder’s Showcase on October 21.

We will highlight 15 to 20 women founders of life science start-up companies that have been selected to deliver their pitches to experts. This exciting event will provide women founders with a platform to connects start-ups and early-stage investors on a national level. Additionally, our EC Founders’ Forum is a mentorship program dedicated to both first-time and serial female founders of life science startups. WIB provides women entrepreneurs with resources for critical activities as they launch their company.
From coast-to-coast our 14 sister chapters have developed flagship initiatives for women founders. **WIB-Greater Boston** hosts the **Lobster Pot event**, an annual Women’s History Month tradition for the chapter since 2015, to commemorate influential women entrepreneurs and investment firms in Boston biotech.

**WIB-Southern California’s Startup Showcase**, which took place in August, highlighted the blossoming Los Angeles startup scene and the women who are pioneer the way. L.A. is primed to be one of the next premier bioscience destinations, and WIB aims to provide the support for the women leading this exciting growth.

Every September, **WIB-Chicago** hosts their annual **Start-up Challenge** (SUP). The event, which is in its 7th year and takes place tonight, features women-led Midwest biotech companies who pitch their business concepts and showcase their companies to the local biotech ecosystem including investors; the winning pitch receives a cash prize. To date, there have been over 30 women-led startups who have been SUP finalists. In July of this year, the chapter held their **“Circle of Winners”** event celebrating all of the past SUP Winners.

**The 3.8 Initiative**, named for International Women’s Day, seeks to increase diversity and inclusion in startup boards, by providing female leaders with deeper skills of startup board governance. Now in its 2nd year, this WIB-Chicago initiative, in partnership with Horizon Therapeutics, has provided 21 Chicagoland women in the life sciences with a rigorous curriculum and experiential opportunities as board observers for local biotech startups. To date, this first-of-its-kind initiative has facilitated the placement of six leaders on startup boards or startup incubator advisory positions.

**WIB-Pittsburgh’s Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs Rally (P.O.W.E.R.)** is a celebration of women in the Pittsburgh region that have significantly contributed to the local entrepreneurial ecosystem. This past September marketed the 8th annual P.O.W.E.R. event.

WIB continues to serve as an organization dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurs, providing them with a platform where they can unleash their potential and to believe in their ability to do just as well – if not better – than their male peers. We aim to support women entrepreneurs by expanding their network through peer-to-peer interactions, increasing their visibility by highlighting their companies at flagship events, and directing investment into their ventures through our pitch competitions. Through these events and initiatives, WIB elevates the women that are making an impact in the life sciences with their breakthrough ideas.

Regards,
**Kayla Valdes**, PhD
Women In Bio National President & Board Chair
Check out the following resources to connect with career opportunities, support WIB, and keep current with your industry.

WIB Career Center
Connecting Talent with Opportunity

Email Address:
Info@WomenInBio.org

Young Women In Bio:
YWIB@WomenInBio.org

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