

2018 BIO International Convention makes history

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The 2018 BIO International Convention (BIO 2018) recently wrapped up four days of programming under the theme of “Make History.” Hosted by the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), BIO 2018 attracted thousands of U.S. and international attendees, celebrated innovations that have shaped the past 25 years and recognized the companies, patient groups, academic centers and investors that continue to advance novel solutions to the world’s toughest challenges.

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To encourage students to attend BIO and learn more about careers in the biotechnology industry, BIO 2018 included the first Free Student Day. Eligible participants got a one-day Exhibition Access registration and the opportunity to meet with representatives from the biotechnology community. The breadth and depth of offerings and the networking opportunities afforded to thousands of industry stakeholders and students continues to make the Convention the premiere event for the biotechnology industry.

BIO 2018 drew companies, academic centers, patient groups, researchers and investors working to advance innovation in key areas such as drug development, brain health, digital health, oncology, opioids, renewable fuels and agriculture. Celebrities also made a presence at BIO, with stories of triumphs over illnesses such as cancer and addiction. Robin Roberts, a cancer survivor and an award-winning journalist, and Rob Reiner, an actor, director and advocate, delivered keynote addresses that emphasized the challenges faced by patients, the importance of patient advocacy and the need for continued innovation to address unmet needs.

Setting a Guinness World Record for “The Largest Business Partnering Event,” BIO 2018 hosted 46,916 partnering meetings, facilitated by BIO’s One-on-One Partnering system — a 13% increase over 2017. These invaluable connections form the foundation of innovative industry collaborations and scientific breakthroughs.

BIO 2018 also included over 1,800 exhibitors, more than a thousand speakers, 180 sessions, 17 plus super sessions and fireside chats and 19 education tracks. Special programming, such as the Start-Up Stadium, also provided a forum for up and coming companies to receive invaluable advice to accelerate their growth and potential.