



**Page 1:** The latest news in NYC Biotech, by **Chandrani Mondal**.

**Page 2:** Science events in the city this month, by **Rewatee Gokhale**.

**Page 2:** Co-chair Corner, by **Agata Kurowski**.

## NYC Biotech: Will it thrive or take a nosedive?

By Chandrani Mondal



New York City is home to many of the best research and medical centers worldwide and receives a whopping \$1.4 billion in National Institutes of Health funding annually<sup>1</sup>. However, it lags behind both Boston and San Francisco in the biotechnology sector<sup>2</sup>. Recent efforts have been made to tap into the highly talented academic pool and resources here, including the development of a new LifeSci NYC funding initiative through the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC)<sup>1</sup>.

The LifeSci NYC funding initiative outlines the breakdown of a 10-year, \$500 million investment in NYC research and innovation, including a \$100 million investment in developing a life sciences campus, \$50 million towards research spaces at nonprofit institutions, and \$300 million in tax incentives to life sciences companies investing in commercial lab spaces. The initiative also has goals of creating internships, providing financing to biotech startups, and providing additional training for entrepreneurs. Of note is the creation of the Mayor's Life Sciences Advisory Council, led by Dr. Harold Varmus (Weill-Cornell Medicine) and Dr. Viki Sato (Harvard University and Harvard Business School), to advise on the growth and creation of a thriving biotech and life sciences hub in NYC<sup>1</sup>.

The state of New York has also started to invest in biotech, including giving \$17 million to support the development of a JLABS incubator at the New York Genome Center, which

will provide space for 30 startups in 2018<sup>3</sup>. JLABS will join the other NYC incubators and life sciences parks that are up and running, including the Alexandria Launch Labs, the Alexandria Center for Life Science, Harlem Biospace, BioLabs@NYULangone, SUNY Downstate Medical Center Biotechnology Incubator, and BioBAT at the Brooklyn Army Terminal, amongst others<sup>1</sup>. The governor has also proposed to invest \$650 million towards growing the life sciences sector, including investing in additional laboratory and innovation space, a life sciences "launch" competition, and investment capital for early stage biotech firms<sup>4</sup>.

Only time will tell whether NYC will become a competitive player in the biotech space, but having support from both the city and state is a promising start.

<sup>1</sup> "New York City: A Global Leader in Life Sciences." LifeSci NYC, [www.lifesci.nyc](http://www.lifesci.nyc).

<sup>2</sup> Herper, Matthew. "New York City Puts Up \$100 Million To Create A Biotech Hub." Forbes Magazine, 23 Jan. 2018 [www.forbes.com/sites/matthewherper/2018/01/23/new-york-puts-up-100-million-asks-for-plans-for-a-biotech-hub/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/matthewherper/2018/01/23/new-york-puts-up-100-million-asks-for-plans-for-a-biotech-hub/)

<sup>3</sup> Taylor, Nick Paul. "J&J, Fueled by \$17M in State Cash, Starts Work on 30-Startup JLABS Incubator to Address NYC Lab Shortage." FierceBiotech, 10 Jan. 2017 [www.fiercebiotech.com/biotech/j-j-fueled-by-17m-state-cash-starts-work-30-startup-jlabs-incubator-to-address-nyc-lab/](http://www.fiercebiotech.com/biotech/j-j-fueled-by-17m-state-cash-starts-work-30-startup-jlabs-incubator-to-address-nyc-lab/)

<sup>4</sup> Cuomo, Andrew M., "Investing \$650 Million to Fuel the Growth of a World-Class Life Sciences Cluster in New York.", 11 Jan. 2017 <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-presents-11th-proposal-2017-state-state-investing-650-million-fuel-growth-world/>

# Science in the City - June 2018

By Rewatee Gokhale

## May 29 – June 03

Come join other NYC residents in celebrating science at the *11th Annual World Science Festival*. Participate in a variety of science-themed activities—from wildlife counts to lab tours to panel discussions with other scientists. Activities and events for all ages.

<https://www.worldsciencefestival.com/festival/world-science-festival-2018/>

## June 12

Women in Bio Metro New York and Women of Watson Health are hosting an event titled *Digital Transformation in the Life Sciences* at IBM Watson, 51 Astor Place, New York, NY 10003. Register online here:

<https://www.womeninbio.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1112210>

## June 16 – 17

The SciArt Center is hosting a group pop-up exhibition titled *Submerged* at 164 Orchard Gallery, Manhattan, New York. Explore photographs and visual art works created by artists-in-residence at various scientific institutions across the country exploring the theme of water.

## Co-chair Corner

By Agata Kurowski

Dear Fellow Postdocs,

I hope everyone is well and excited that it is slowly getting warmer and sunnier. This month the Postdoc Executive Committee (PEC) launched its *Coffee and Desert - Meet and Greet* events which will happen on a quarterly basis in the future. These events organized by the PEC are meant to bring together postdocs and Mount Sinai office personnel to get to know each other. The first meet and greet was sponsored by the International Personnel Office and was very well attended with a turnover of 50 to 60 postdocs. We will keep you informed about future events.

Last month the PEC completed its 2nd Annual Spring Clothing Drive. We are grateful for the large amount of donations that we have received. With all your help, we were able to collect two vans full of clothes, which were delivered to the LSA Family Health Services. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and to Julia TWC and our PEC-Community-Working-Group for organizing and leading the drive.

Our April postdoc social was the last social organized by **Dayanira Alsina-Beauchamp** as leader of the PEC social group. With the help of our Community-Working-Group,

### Contact

Website: <http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/postdoctoral-training>

Twitter: @MtSinaiPostdocs

Facebook: "ISMMS Postdoc Executive Committee"

<https://www.sciartcenter.org/submerged.html>

## June 21

The Human Resources (HR) department will be conducting Paid Family Leave (PFL) and Family Medical Leave (FMLA) Information Sessions in conference room Annenberg 21-92 on the following days:

Thursday, June 21, 2018 10:00am-12:30pm

Thursday, July 26, 2018 1:00pm-2:30pm

Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:00am-12:30pm

## Till June 30

The American Museum of Natural History is hosting an exhibition titled *Opulent Oceans* featuring exquisite art reproductions from 33 rare and beautifully illustrated scientific works. Location: LeFrak Theater corridor, first floor.

Hosting an event and want to inform the postdoc community? Email the editor at [rewatee.gokhale@mssm.edu](mailto:rewatee.gokhale@mssm.edu) to include it in this monthly column!



Daya successfully led the organization of the monthly socials for the past year. She was also the leading force in the organization of our postdoc quarterly bar meetups, the Networking Boat Event 2017 with postdocs from all over New York City, the Fundraiser for Puerto Rico/ Mexico, last year's Summer Wine Tasting event in Pennsylvania, and our big Christmas party with the graduate school. We appreciate her hard work and are grateful for the many successful postdoc social events. Thank you Dayanira!

Our next social will be organized by our new social leaders **Mark Luna-Vergas** and **Andrew Trotta**. It will take place on the 25th of May, in the MC level of Icahn at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. We hope to see many of you! Keep your eyes open for further info about our postdoc summer meet-up and the big NYC postdoc boat cruise. If you are interested in joining the PEC team, come to one of our monthly meetings to get more information. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at noon in the Hess Building room 10-101. The next PEC meeting will be on June 12th!

All the best and please do not hesitate to reach out to us,

Agata

*Letizia Amadori and Agata Kurowski are your PEC co-chairs.*

LinkedIn: [Mount Sinai Postdocs and Postdoc Alumni](#)

Trainee Mistreatment Resource Panel: <http://webcommons.mssm.edu/mistreatmentresourcepanel/>