

For Immediate Release

Life Sciences Expo 2018: A Showcase and Catalyst for Continued Ecosystem Growth in RI and Southeastern New England

PROVIDENCE, RI: [MedMates](#), Rhode Island's life sciences [BIO](#) affiliate, is pleased to announce the official program for its second annual [Life Sciences Expo](#) being held on Wednesday April 4, 2018, from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm at the Omni Providence Hotel, 1 West Exchange Street, Providence, R.I.

“Our mission is to grow the local life science economy by bringing together and advocating for talent and resources to support the life sciences community in southeastern New England,” said Carol Malysz, executive director of MedMates. “This event is designed to enhance the connectivity between the life science entities in the region, and to showcase the truly remarkable innovation that is happening here.” Susan Windham Bannister, PhD, President & CEO of Biomedical Growth Strategies will be the keynote speaker. A world-renowned innovator, Susan formerly served as the founding President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, overseeing a \$1 billion investment to accelerate the pace of growth in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical devices, medical diagnostics and bioinformatics.

Robert Coughlin, President & CEO of MassBio, will close the day by moderating a panel discussion on the Vision for Innovation in Rhode Island. Before joining MassBio, Bob served as the Undersecretary of Economic Development with Governor Deval Patrick's administration, where he was a strong advocate for the life science industry in Massachusetts.

The Expo program includes panel discussions on industry-wide issues such as investment, innovation and growing the supply chain and industry ecosystem locally, and also includes specific life science topics such as immuno-oncology and CAR-T cell therapies, Alzheimer's disease and health technology innovation.

Leading life science researchers, clinicians, and executives representing Novartis, Johnson & Johnson, MassBio, Wexford, and Sorrento Therapeutics will join local experts from the Warren Alpert Medical School, Boston University School of Medicine, Rhode Island Hospital, Roger Williams Medical Center, Slater Technology Fund, Cherrystone Angel Group and the University of Rhode Island. A dedicated zone supporting start-ups with drop-in advice clinics, as well as an expanded exhibitor hall, have been added to this year's event, as well as an evening reception and lunch to facilitate more peer-to-peer contact and networking.

Sponsors to date include Biotechnology International Organization (BIO), Virgin Pulse, Amgen, Aspiera Medical, New England Medical Innovation Center and Medley Genomics. For further information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Donald Frugé at donald@feeneylawgroup.com.

About MedMates

MedMates is Rhode Island's life sciences industry network group dedicated to galvanizing collaboration between life sciences companies, hospitals, universities, sources of capital and governmental partners. Our mission is to grow the life sciences economy in RI. We do this by attracting, bringing together and advocating for talent and resources to support the life sciences community throughout southeastern New England. Founded in 2013, MedMates members have deep experience in the fast-changing life sciences fields, ranging from startups to mature companies and everything in between. For more information, visit www.medmates.org.

For additional information, contact: Carol Malysz at carolmalysz@medmates.org or 401-400-5499.