On June 12, 2018, the inaugural Symposium for Life Sciences Real Estate Development was held at the New York Academy of Sciences in New York City. At this sold-out event, over 250 scientists, biotech, real estate and design professionals joined together to reimagine the way New York City capitalizes on future growth and new technological developments in biology, and to begin planning new environments to accommodate the projected rapid expansion of applied life sciences in the city. The Symposium focused on the potential for the expanding market, the specialized infrastructure required by life science companies, and the financial components of development and lease transactions of life science companies.

The Symposium was just the first in what will be a series of activities and meetings intended to serve as the catalyst for initiatives that the New York City life science real estate community could collaboratively pursue during the projected and unprecedented decade of growth ahead. Toward that end, NYC Builds Bio+ was recently launched.

Spearheaded by the Symposium’s steering committee, including Nancy J Kelley of Nancy J Kelley + Associates, Mitchel W. Simpler of Jaros, Baum & Bolles, James C. McKenna of Hunter Roberts Construction Group, Jonathan Mechanic of Fried Frank and John Sabey of Sabey, NYC Builds Bio+ aims to connect commercial life science opportunities to New York City’s real estate development community through events, research, reports and educational programs.

A membership-driven organization, NYC Builds Bio+ is a new nonprofit initiative dedicated to bringing New York City’s real estate and life sciences community together. A number of working groups have been created, allowing members to participate in the development of this initiative, that focus on important substantive areas for New York City’s life science development.

Events will include an annual Symposium for Life Sciences Real Estate Development to be held in June of each year. They will also include quarterly meetings with featured speakers, workshops and educational programs and seminars.

Research and reports will include the construction of databases highlighting buildings and clusters within New York City that are conducive to life science development, demographics of workforces at all levels and by geographic location and life sciences companies currently interested in locating in New York City and their building requirements. Research will focus on the development of an annual white paper, quarterly newsletters and monthly electronic communications that include industry news, upcoming events, updates and reports.

Finally, educational programs will be developed for all constituencies of the New York City life science/real estate community to educate developers, real estate investors and building owners about life science trends, developments and requirements.

The activities of NYC Builds Bio+ will aim to create an organization that is the go-to place to find information about and assistance with growing, building and locating life science companies in New York City and the environments these companies require.