



## **Olympian and Grand Slam Champion Venus Williams and Sportscasting Legend Erin Andrews Share Their Patient Perspectives with Biotech Community**

Four-time gold medalist and seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus Williams will discuss her groundbreaking career, business success, and prioritizing health in a conversation moderated by Emmy-nominated sports reporter Erin Andrews at the [BIO International Convention](#) June 13-16, 2022, in San Diego. Both women have faced their own health challenges, becoming advocates for increased awareness and better outcomes for all.

Williams knows that it takes a healthy body and mind to serve up a winning career. She will talk about her experience as a patient advocate with Andrews and thousands of global biotechnology and biopharmaceutical leaders on June 15 at the world's largest biotechnology convention. Williams was diagnosed with Sjögren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease which causes fatigue and muscle and joint pain.

Andrews is also an advocate for women in sports and cervical cancer awareness, as a survivor herself. She has overcome the obstacles in her path to be a true success story and an inspiration to millions.

"As a professional athlete living with an autoimmune disease, balancing my health with my drive to win has not always been easy," said Williams. "It takes teamwork and help from the community around me to ensure I am at my best on the court. That same type of collaboration in the biotech industry drives the innovation that addresses today's major health challenges and improves patient's lives."

"Venus Williams and Erin Andrews bring their unique viewpoint as patients and can speak firsthand about the biotechnology industry's life-changing work to improve health," said BIO's President and CEO Dr. Michelle McMurry-Heath. "Their work for equal pay and representation have broken barriers for the next generation of players, reporters, and businesswomen."

In April, Williams supported Sjögren's Awareness Month through a [video message](#) that encouraged those living with Sjögren's to advocate for themselves and face every day with courage, strength, and grace.

The BIO International Convention returns in person for the first time in three years and brings together key international industry stakeholders for networking, partnering, and more than 100 informative sessions that cover relevant and timely topics such as narrowing the health equity gap, vaccine innovation, and preparing for the next pandemic.

For more information on the convention, please contact Sharon Peterson, Executive Director of the Montana BioScience Alliance at [info@montanabio.org](mailto:info@montanabio.org) or call 406-896-5876.

The Montana BioScience Alliance serves as a hub for Montana's biotechnology companies, entrepreneurs, laboratories, hospitals, clinics, and universities to commercialize, grow, and sustain globally competitive bioscience companies — ultimately to create high-quality jobs and economic opportunity in Montana.

For more information, visit [www.montanabio.org](http://www.montanabio.org), call us at 406-896-5876, or email us at [info@montanabio.org](mailto:info@montanabio.org)