



## **BioNJ's 24th Annual Gateway Gala & Innovation Celebration Will Honor New Jersey's Innovators and the Patients Who Inspire Them**

***Featuring a Keynote by Breast Cancer Survivor, Advocate & Former Good Morning America Host Joan Lunden, the Presentation of the Dr. Sol J. Barer Award and the Innovation Awards Ceremony***

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TRENTON, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Considered the kickoff event of the year for the life sciences industry, **BioNJ's 24th Annual Gateway Gala & Innovation Celebration** is slated for February 2, 2017 at the Hilton East Brunswick. Saluting New Jersey's medical innovation, the inspirational evening will bring together more than 700 attendees from biopharmaceutical companies, professional service providers, government officials, academic leaders and others for an evening of networking, business discussions and award presentations.

"As we celebrate this week's signing of the 21st Century Cures Act into law by President Barack Obama, we are reminded of the life sciences community's commitment to and success in discovering and developing cures to address unmet medical needs," said BioNJ's President and CEO, Debbie Hart. "Because Patients Can't Wait<sup>SM</sup>, the goal of BioNJ's Gateway Gala is to affirm and celebrate New Jersey's vibrant ecosystem for the medical innovation and hope it brings to Patients everywhere."

Growing in prominence each year, the Gateway Gala & Innovation Celebration will include the presentation of the **10th annual Dr. Sol J. Barer Award for Vision, Innovation and Leadership**, the much anticipated **Innovator Awards** honoring companies with a footprint in New Jersey that have received a U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval and industry leaders who have reached special milestones in 2016, as well as **Ms. Lunden's Keynote**.

During her Keynote presentation, "**My Breast Cancer Journey, A Patient's Perspective**," Ms. Lunden will speak about her personal battle with breast cancer and what she has learned through her journey. She'll share a patient's perspective on treatment, the difficulties of navigating the healthcare system, the technology that helped her and the hard decisions a patient has to make during the battle to save their life.

"We are thrilled to have Joan Lunden as our 2017 Keynote," said Hart. "She represents what the evening is about... the importance of the patient's perspective, the value of medical innovation and the celebration of life and hope."

Join us on Thursday, February 2, 2017, at the East Brunswick Hilton in East Brunswick, NJ. **Register by next Friday, December 23, and pay the Early Bird price of \$370 for BioNJ Members and affiliated organizations and \$500 for Future Members.**

For more information, visit [www.BioNJ.org](http://www.BioNJ.org). Please contact [Edie Esposito](#) to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

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