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Organ Biostasis Voted as Winning Concept of 2026 XPRIZE Global Visioneering Summit

**Innovative prize concept advances toward proposed \$50 million global competition
to transform transplantation and drug discovery**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — The **Organ Biostasis** prize concept, developed by a team including a core group of [NSF ATP-Bio](http://www.atp-bio.org) researchers, was voted the overall winning concept of the **2026 XPRIZE Global Visioneering Summit** in Malibu, California.

From 30+ Ideas to Six Finalists at the Science Conclave to Overall Winning Concept at Global Visioneering

Following a nearly yearlong process within the XPRIZE Brain Trust that evaluated more than 30 promising, world-changing ideas, the Organ Biostasis concept was selected as one of six finalists at the **Science Conclave in the Washington, D.C., area** in September, where it **received the highest score of all concepts evaluated**.

XPRIZE's Global Visioneering Summit is designed to platform the year's leading prize concepts to be discussed, debated, and championed, with the goal of influencing which will become XPRIZE's next competitions. At the Summit, **two ambassadors brought the human stakes into focus**: Brienna, whose life was saved when she was 11 years old by a second donor heart after there was not time to wait for the first, and Michelle, who lost her son due to a neurogenetic disorder and spoke of wishing his donor brain tissue could have been preserved under more optimal conditions—something these technologies could make possible. The **Organ Biostasis concept won the Health domain** and advanced to the final three.

Following an anchor commitment from biotechnology pioneer and Vertex founder **Joshua Boger** and commitments from Organs for Life and several others, early SpaceX and Tesla investor **Steve Jurvetson** raised his hand to close the **funding for full prize design**, with additional pledges pushing the total beyond the target. After further pressure testing and debate over the three finalist concepts, Organ Biostasis was **ultimately voted the summit's overall winning concept**.

Toward a \$50 Million XPRIZE

This marks a significant step toward establishing a proposed \$50 million global XPRIZE competition designed to transform transplantation and accelerate the discovery of new medicines through on-demand access to living human tissues and organs. **Sebastian Giwa, Ph.D.**, founding chair of ATP-Bio's Partners/Industry Advisory Board, led the concept's development with fellow ATP-Bio researchers **Shannon Tessier, Ph.D.**; **John Bischof, Ph.D.**; **Matt Powell-Palm, Ph.D.**; and **Dominika Wilczok**. Drs. Giwa and Tessier jointly presented the concept at the Science Conclave and Summit.

A Global Challenge to Transform Transplantation

Today, donated organs remain viable outside the body for only hours, restricting transportation, donor-recipient matching, and access to transplantation. Biostasis aims to stop biological time so organs and other living systems can be preserved indefinitely and restored to function whenever needed.

"Imagine a future where donated organs are no longer constrained by hours but can be safely preserved for any duration until they are needed. This recognition brings that future one step closer. An Organ Biostasis XPRIZE could unite the world's brightest minds in cryobiology and biostasis to accelerate breakthroughs that fundamentally transform transplantation and save lives." – Dr. John Bischof, ATP-Bio Director

Accelerating Cures Across Thousands of Diseases and Further Potential to Transform Civilization

"Today, more than nine in ten drug candidates that clear animal studies never receive FDA approval," said Dr. Seb Giwa, CEO of Maximize Bio, expanding on the vision he presented at Global Visioneering. "Imagine giving researchers access to living human tissues and organs, with real human disease, on demand and off the shelf. Dementias. Cancers. Stroke. The potential spans more than 16,000 human diseases and disease subtypes, opening new paths to discovering cures and treatments. The opportunity is extraordinary: better medicines for all eight billion of us."

The vision is bigger still

What works for organs is **universal**: time travel for the miracle of life itself.

“These biostasis advances should advance applications across cell and gene therapies, agriculture, aquaculture, and endangered-species conservation.” said **Dominika Wilczok**

“Strategic biological stockpiles could strengthen preparedness for bioterror attacks, pandemics, and other disasters.” adds **Dr. Matt Powell-Palm**, Director of the Public Thermodynamics Lab, Texas A&M and President, Maximize Bio

Over the longer term, extending these capabilities to increasingly complex living systems could help buy precious time for traumatically injured service members and civilians, and enable astronauts to journey to Mars, the asteroids, and beyond. As **Dr. Giwa** ended his part of the pitch *“The sky was never the limit. The stars are”*.

Why an XPRIZE Can Make the Difference

“Biostasis faces two reinforcing barriers: funding organized around individual diseases, and expertise scattered across disciplines,” said **Dr. Shannon Tessier**, Senior Scientist at Peter Munk Cardiac Centre and Harvard Medical School expanding on the case she presented with Dr. Giwa at Global Visioneering. *“Its benefits span medicine, but disease-focused funding decisions rarely capture that full value. Meanwhile, many fields with powerful tools to contribute have yet to be mobilized around this challenge. This is **exactly where an XPRIZE can do magic**: bring those disciplines together, attract vastly more talent, and reward teams for achieving a clear, measurable breakthrough.”*

Building on ATP-Bio’s Breakthroughs in Preservation Science

ATP-Bio researchers are advancing groundbreaking technologies in organ cryopreservation, rewarming, and functional recovery, including recent breakthroughs involving pig kidneys. The selected Organ Biostasis XPRIZE concept builds on this progress, with the potential to inspire a global scientific competition that accelerates innovation and transforms transplantation.

Advancing a Vision to Preserving Living Systems for All

Headquartered at the University of Minnesota and co-led with Massachusetts General Hospital, NSF ATP-Bio advances technologies to preserve and restore living biological systems—from cells and tissues to whole organs and organisms. The team’s success at Global Visioneering highlights the power of interdisciplinary collaboration to advance breakthroughs in healthcare, regenerative medicine, and biodiversity conservation, bringing us closer to overcoming the limitations of biological time.

About XPRIZE: XPRIZE is the recognized global leader in designing and executing large-scale competitions to solve humanity's greatest challenges. For over 30 years, our unique model has democratized crowd-sourced innovation and scientifically scalable solutions that accelerate a more equitable and abundant future. Donate, learn more, and co-architect a world of abundance with us at xprize.org.

Also see: [XPRIZE LinkedIn post](#)

About NSF ATP-BioSM

NSF ATP-BioSM is a world-class partnership between engineering, medicine, science, education, business, and ethics at six premier research universities. It supports the crucial advancement of biopreservation technologies and enables innovation, commercialization, and diverse workforce development.

NSF ATP-BioSM is co-led by the University of Minnesota (UMN) and Massachusetts General Brigham (MGB). Texas A&M University (TAMU) and the University of California-Riverside (UCR) are core collaborating institutions. The University of California-Berkeley (UCB) and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) are affiliated partner institutions. www.atp-bio.org.

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