

BioBots adopts new name, launches new software

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BIOBOTS

The BioBot 2 bioprinter is used with bioink to create living tissue.

BioBots has a new name and a new software out in the market, continuing to propel the company on its strategy to move beyond being solely the maker of desktop three-dimensional printers and bioinks used to create living tissue.

The Philadelphia-based BioBots, founded in 2014 and based at the Pennovation Center, is now known as Allevi.

[Ricky Solorzano](#), the company's CEO and co-founder, said the name change was "inspired by our community of users who work every day to make living solutions for humanity's most important problems — to cure disease, to alleviate suffering, to build with life."

In addition to the name change, Allevi is also launching new software that is designed to enable users to more easily work with bioprinters and standardize experiments within 3D biofabrication.

To date, Solorzano said, software for bioprinters has been complicated and difficult to use.

"Four years ago, no one knew what to do with a bioprinter," he said. "A user would have to train for months on end to get the basics, and units were only accessible to a handful of researchers. We designed the first ever desktop 3D bioprinter and brought that to hundreds of scientists around the world. We have accomplished a lot as a hardware company, but our name change has been inspired by our desire to grow our product offering past 3D bioprinters to include an entire suite of biofabrication tools."

The company's new software includes:

- An integrated slicer to ensure standardization;

- A projects feature that allows users to create and save digital printing protocols;
- A well categorization feature that allows users to vary settings within a well plate to test multiple parameters within the same experiment.

“Tissue engineers know what they want to design,” said Solorzano. “They understand how tissue are suppose to look and behave. The human body has been the best guide for this. They haven’t known how to bring these designs to life. Our new software helps you control the parameters for the optimum print. It’s through a process of iteration and data aggregation that are we able to recognize patterns, make conclusion, and set up models to allow predictability. We want to make it easier to see these patterns.”

Allevi is initially testing the software with beta group of users. The company plans to make the software available to more labs over the coming months.

Earlier this year, Allevi **first embarked on its strategy** to expand beyond bioprinters and bioink when it launched what it described as a "3D biology toolset" featuring hardware, software and wetware.

“We have been working closely with scientists over the past year and a half to really understand what it is that they need in order to push their work forward,” said [Danny Cabrera](#), another company co-founder, in April. “What we found is that they wanted more than just a bioprinter, they wanted ways to measure how different parameters affected biological processes.”

At that time the company introduced a second-generation version of its BioBot 3D printer, the \$40,000 BioBot 2, that features expanded capabilities. Allevi has sold hundreds of its original BioBot 3D printer, at \$10,000 each, and it continues to sell and service the product.

Soloranzo said the company’s future plans include developing biofabrication platforms that “can have a huge impact” in the clinical and pharmaceutical worlds.

“We want to be able to take those things that are most valuable from the lab,” he said, “and bring them to the industry to change the way we think about and develop medicine.”



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