



Stop pipetting and start coding?

AUTOMATION Biotech is entering its automated era. Robots run assays, AI designs molecules, and data drives decisions. For young scientists, the question is not survival, it is leadership. Will you adapt to the new lab, or help define it?

Something fundamental is changing inside European laboratories. Pipettes are still there, but next to them stand robotic arms. Experimental notebooks are being replaced by structured datasets. Algorithms suggest molecules before a human ever touches a bench. The automated lab is no longer a concept, it is emerging as the new standard.

An chilling shift for biotechs

For young biotechs, this shift can feel unsettling. You trained to master techniques, to optimize assays, to troubleshoot experiments late at night. Now machines promise to execute workflows faster and more reproducibly than any human. It is tempting to ask: where do I fit in?

But the real question is different.

Who will design those workflows?
Who will decide which data matter?
Who will interpret unexpected results

when algorithms fail? Automation does not eliminate scientists. It raises the bar for what being a scientist means.

The next generation of biotech professionals will not compete with robots on speed or repetition. They will compete on vision, creativity, and interdisciplinary thinking. Biology is becoming programmable, and that requires minds capable of bridging wet lab intuition with computational logic.

You do not need to become a full-time coder. But data literacy is no longer optional. Understanding how datasets are structured, how AI models are trained, and how automated platforms operate will define your relevance in the coming decade. The most powerful profile in biotech 2026 is not purely experimental or purely computational, it is hybrid.

Across Europe, biotech ecosystems are evolving rapidly, with countries increasing investment in digital transformation



UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ April 30 – May 2, 2026,
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and actively fostering innovation. With BioConnect 2026, YEBN's flagship event, taking place in Lisbon, Portugal stands as a compelling example of this transition, supported by national strategies designed to accelerate technological adoption and scientific modernization. As BioConnect brings together students, startups, and industry leaders, one message will resonate clearly: the future of biotech belongs not to those who resist change, but to those who embrace technology and help shape it.

This is not about replacing human intelligence. It is about amplifying it.

When repetitive tasks disappear, what remains is strategy. When data flows automatically, what remains is interpretation. When experiments run overnight without supervision, what remains is curiosity and bold questioning.

Automation will not define your career. Your response to it will.

Learn the basics of coding. Join interdisciplinary projects. Ask how your lab handles data. Challenge outdated workflows. Be the person who connects biology with technology instead of choosing between them.

The automated lab does not reduce the need for scientists. It demands better ones. And that is an opportunity. ■



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