
Elizabeth Thompson

President



Elizabeth “Liz” Thompson was named president of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® in September 2010 after serving as Komen for the Cure’s senior vice president of medical and scientific affairs. She is a highly respected leader in the global cancer community, recognized for her passion for driving innovation in science and medicine as well as her expertise in formulating educational and public policy initiatives focused on quality and outcomes. As president, she leads the organization’s efforts to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures. Her leadership has been significant in the organization’s investment of more than \$1.9 billion since inception in breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment for breast cancer.

As senior vice president of medical and scientific affairs, Thompson led the organization’s global research portfolio with more than \$289 million in current, active grants; community investments of more than \$98 million last year alone; management of Komen’s lauded Scientific Advisory Board and Scientific Advisory Council, and oversight of the organization’s global mission growth strategies. She serves as Komen’s voice on numerous external boards, review panels and committees.

A well-known expert in the cancer health arena, Thompson joined Komen in 2008 as managing director, public and medical affairs. She has overseen the organization’s strategic relationships with large associations, community education and outreach programs, and global outreach strategies. She has excelled in initiating, developing and managing innovative programs in breast cancer research while maximizing the promise of Komen for the Cure.

Her oversight of Komen’s education portfolio has involved direct patient education and specific initiatives that impact patient care, access and outcomes, such as clinical trials, regulatory controls, FDA issue management and interfacing with the National Cancer Institute.

Thompson’s interest in health and medicine began with what she calls her “first life” in medical publishing, traveling the world learning and working firsthand with top medical experts to produce educational materials (books, journals, CDs) about the trends, techniques and therapies that could and would make a difference for patients. Wanting to make more of a direct impact on patients and families, Thompson put her considerable management and marketing experience to work in the cancer advocacy arena. Her focus has been on leading and directing advocacy efforts to advance a deeper direct investment in cancer research, mobilizing grassroots lobbying and working to harness the power of thought leaders and coalitions to achieve breakthroughs in cancer research.

Thompson has a Bachelor of Science from the University of South Dakota where she was in the Tom Brokaw School of Communications. As president, she reports to Komen founder and CEO Nancy G. Brinker.