Paula Schneider is president and CEO of Susan G. Komen®, where she is responsible for the strategic direction and day-to-day operations of the world’s leading breast cancer organization, which has made more than $3 billion in investments in breast cancer research, advocacy and patient support since its founding in 1982.

Schneider brings a unique combination of business expertise and personal perspective to Komen’s mission as CEO, having experienced breast cancer first-hand as both a survivor and having lost her mother to metastatic breast cancer.

During her tenure at Komen, she has led the organization through an enterprise-wide restructuring, consolidating Komen’s national network of independent local affiliate organizations into a single, united entity, leveraging shared operational functions while maintaining local development and mission teams across the country. Under her leadership, the organization is focused on accelerating breakthroughs for the most aggressive and deadly breast cancers, while also breaking down barriers to care and closing disparities in breast cancer outcomes between Black and white women across the country. Key to those efforts is the development of a new national Patient Care Service Center, providing support directly to people in need across the country and a national effort to achieve breast health equity.

Schneider is widely regarded as a business expert in organizational management and finance. Prior to Komen, she served as CEO of American Apparel, where she navigated one of the most notable turnarounds in the retail sector. She previously served as President of the Warnaco Swimwear Group, the largest swimwear company in the world, with brands such as Speedo and Calvin Klein.

Schneider is a sought-after public speaker on issues of women’s health and empowerment. She has been featured at such thought leadership events such as Fortune’s Most Powerful Women’s Forum and Yahoo Finance. She has served as a spokeswoman for the Liz Claiborne Company and its crusade to eradicate abuse against women, and is currently a member of C200, the preeminent global organization for the advancement of women business leaders.