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. Komen has made more than $3.5 billion in investments in breast cancer research, advocacy and patient support since its founding in 1982, helping reduce the breast cancer mortality rate by 42%. As a breast cancer survivor herself, and having lost her mother to metastatic breast cancer, Schneider’s work is personal as she brings a unique combination of business expertise and real-world perspective to Komen’s mission as CEO.

Paula led Komen through an enterprise-wide restructuring, transforming 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, Komen today serves as a trusted health care guide, providing millions of people with safe, accurate, evidence-based information and education—as well as direct patient support services including financial assistance, patient navigation services, emotional support and resources. Komen also remains focused on accelerating breakthroughs for the most aggressive and deadly breast cancers, and eliminating breast cancer disparities through focused interventions that break down the barriers for Black people across the country.

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.