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# **Illuminating leadership**

When PharmaVOICE first had the honor of recognizing the Health-care Businesswomen's Association's (HBA) Rising Stars in conjunction with the esteemed Woman of the Year back in 2005, there were 38 honorees. Fast forward 17 years, and the HBA is recognizing 156 Rising Stars and Luminaries — who were added as honorees in 2014 — this year.



We hope you are inspired by this group of incredible leaders who kindly shared the leadership skills they employed to excel during the pandemic, their future-facing predictions on the trends that are going to influence a variety of industry areas of focus, and what it means to be recognized not just by the HBA but their organizations as a role model. We congratulate you all.

Johnson & Johnson Chairman and CEO Alex Gorsky once remarked if it's May, it must be time

for WOTY. And after a year pause due to COVID, the HBAs Woman of the Year event is back in its full and virtual glory. We applaud the dedication and talents of the individuals who are responsible for this year's event featuring not only the Rising Stars and Luminaries, but the Woman of the Year Dr. Sandra Horning and Honorable Mentor Rod MacKenzie, Ph.D., and I am honored and humbled to pass the STAR baton to my friend Susan Torroella. They, along with an impressive lineup of speakers, will be together broadcasting live from New York City on May 6.

The incredible growth of the Rising Star and Luminary signature program of the organization is due to the incredible work the HBA has done to broaden its community of corporate partners that share a likeminded mission of advancing the professional careers of women across the life-sciences industry as well as bridging the gender gap to ensure there is greater equity in terms of career opportunities. The work they are doing is more important than ever. It was just reported that more than 2.3 million women have left the workforce since February 2020, bringing their labor participation rate to levels not seen since 1988, according to the National Women's Law Center. In December 2020 alone, women accounted for 100% of the jobs lost.

Leading the charge as a committed steward of the HBA's mission and brand for the last 15 years has been CEO and President Laurie Cooke. During her time at the helm, Laurie has guided the organization to extraordinary heights. Just a few of the milestones achieved under her leadership include the tripling of its membership, more than doubling its roster of corporate partners, expanding member representation location from 10 to 55, and migrating the HBA's geographic footprint beyond the United States to include Europe and Canada.

As impressive as these significant achievements are, more importantly it is the positive impact Laurie has had on thousands of lives and careers as a mentor, egalitarian leader, passionate advocate for women, world-class speaker, and, most importantly, friend. The ripple effect she has had on the industry may never be fully appreciated as her reach knows no bounds. We hope you join us in wishing her well as she transitions to the next chapter of her storied journey.



## Their word...



ROBIN ROBINSON
Senior Editor



Pharma on TikTok? Oh yes. COVID has forced the industry to modernize its media strategies, including

being on TikTok.

### KIM RIBBINK Senior Editor



Successful virtual medical education has meant setting clear educational goals and having a

flexible, creative approach.

## CAROLYN GRETTON Features Editor



Despite its challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a positive impact on the patient recruitment

process, with more being done digitally on both the recruitment and retention sides.

## **Coming in June**

- ▶ R&D Collaborations Across Companies
- Marketing to Millennials
- Personalized Medicine & Analytics
- ▶ Brand Influencers
- Public Health
- Showcase:Clinical Trial Solutions
- DIA Super Panel, hosted by PharmaVOICE

