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**CEO: HBA**

**Comments: HBA Woman of the Year Award Luncheon May 7, 2009**

I start by reminding you of what Susan said earlier and listen carefully for what initiative YOU want to lead.

We surpassed 5,300 members last month – which means we’ve nearly doubled our membership since 2006 – and we’ve seen similar growth with our Corporate Partners. Both increases are phenomenal achievements, particularly in these economic times, and speak to the strength and relevance of the HBA programming offered by the incredibly talented, creative and passionate volunteer leaders, the backbone of the HBA. It is their efforts that expanded offerings available on a local level, including high-value mentoring programs and a growing list of affinity groups.

One of the key ways we progress our mission is through the ACE Award, where we recognize organizations with innovative programs that advance the careers of their women leaders. Judged by an independent panel of experts, the first two winners were Johnson & Johnson and Novartis. But don’t assume this award is only for big companies. Size doesn’t matter here. What matters is that companies improve by implementing what they learn from the judges’ feedback.

Another way to fulfill on our mission is through applying the best practices produced in our 2007 E.D.G.E. in Leadership Study, a landmark benchmarking effort by which we advise companies how to attract, advance and retain women in more senior roles. The most exciting news is that E.D.G.E. 2.0 research is scheduled for the first half of 2011!

Besides the wonderful feedback we get from our members, we’ve also received external validation of our stellar content. We’ve been recognized for three years in a row by *Leadership Excellence* as having one of the top 100 Leadership Development Programs in North America. And we also received an award for the HBA’s new website, winning the W<sup>3</sup> Silver Award.

While I'm speaking of acknowledgment, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the various sponsors of today's event.

**Pearl:** Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company  
**20th Anniversary:** Cephalon, Inc., Johnson & Johnson

**Gold**

Astellas Pharma US Inc.	Roche Pharmaceuticals
Boehringer Ingelheim	sanofi-aventis
Cambridge BioMarketing	Shire Pharmaceuticals
Daiichi Sankyo	Wishbone/ITP, Inc.
GFK Healthcare	Wolters Kluwer Health - Healthcare
Genentech	Analytics
King Pharmaceuticals	Wyeth

**Silver:** Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Eisai Inc., Novartis, Solvay

**Bronze**

Cegedim Dendrite	Grey Healthcare Group
Celgene	GroupDCA, Inc./PXP
CMI/Compas, Inc.	Heartbeat Digital
Euro RSCG Life	The Hibbert Group
GlaxoSmithKline	Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
Greater Than One	Purdue Pharma L.P.

**Galaxy Reception:** Publicis Healthcare Communications Group  
**The M.O.R.E.** Member-Only Reception Event: Ernst & Young LLP  
**In-Kind Contributors** (visit [www.hbanet.org](http://www.hbanet.org) for complete list)

Now to get to what's new at the HBA.

Based on guidance from our advisory board and input from you, our members, we are working to deliver more high-value products that meet more of your needs – today and in the future – based on our invaluable leadership content.

Here are just a few examples:

- Want to hear advice from former Women of the Year, right at your desk? It's now possible with HBA **podcasts**
- Interested in learning about how other women in other industries address leadership issues? Take a look at the compelling profiles in the Great Performances section of *The HBA Advantage publication*
- How about getting “up close and personal” with inspiring executives who offer practical insights on what makes a successful leader. These Illuminating Leaders **videos** are on the HBA website.

- Want to hear from **experts**? We have panels of senior women visit corporate partner locations to speak on topics of interest such as managing a merger or attracting and retaining women leaders
- Want to be part of an **Executive Forum**? Our first event takes place next month. This invitation-only summit with qualified discussion partners helps corporate partners focus on how to take their internal women's networks to the next level
- Finally, want to bring the HBA to your office? The **HBA@Work** initiative has chapters repeating one of their evening programs in a corporate partner's office for a lunchtime program

Saving the best for last is our annual Leadership Conference, our premier event focusing on intensive leadership development. Last year's conference in Chicago received rave reviews from the largest attendance ever. This year we convene in San Francisco in November for two full days of limitless leadership opportunities! Now more than ever, a focus on leadership is critical so register now at last year's rates.

As Katharine Graham, the first female CEO of a Fortune 500 company said: "To love what you do and feel that it matters. How could anything be more fun?" This is my life as the CEO at the HBA and part of this is due to working with a tremendous board of directors.

It is my pleasure to now introduce the leader of these leaders, our 2009 President, Ceci Zak.

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