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Betsy Cohen Joins the American Cancer Society's Eastern New England Area Board of Directors

Boston, Mass. – April 21, 2026 – The American Cancer Society welcomes Betsy Cohen to the Eastern New England Area Board of Directors. Cohen is an executive consultant, advising pharmaceutical and biotech companies on how to strategically bring novel medicines from the research bench to patients. Before this role, she was the vice president of Gene Therapies at Novo Nordisk and has held numerous VP and Executive-level positions across the industry.

Cohen is a four-time executive leader of Fortune Global 500 companies and has an extensive track record of recognition for successfully leading complex programs, robust portfolios, and global teams. She has brought 20+ new medicines from the discovery stage (in research laboratories) directly into clinical trials and also is responsible for leading 11 new medicines from clinical trials into global commercial markets for patients and physicians to access.

Cohen specializes in cell and gene therapies and biologics, spanning across oncology, hematology, rare disease, and immunology. In addition to her success across the business in corporate pharma and biotech, Cohen is also a scientific researcher and biomedical engineer by training. She was awarded her MS degrees in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology from UMass, during which time she participated in and completed a highly competitive Doctoral Summer Fellowship at Pfizer, researching how to improve oncology and immunology drugs. It was here that she was first inspired to pursue a career devoted to developing new medicines for patients around the world.

Cohen's advocacy includes having previously served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and volunteering with both the Make-A-Wish Foundation,

and the TargetCancer Foundation. Additionally, she trained service dogs for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and served as president of the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association (HBA) – Boston + Cambridge chapter, where she supported and mentored other women navigating careers in life sciences.

“My passion for cancer advocacy first began after my aunt was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in her-40s, and later my mother, who was diagnosed with melanoma. Over the past decade, I have participated in many community events to directly fund cancer research, patient advocacy, and patient support services across the cancer community,” said Cohen. “I am appreciative and very excited for the opportunity to join the American Cancer Society Eastern New England Area Board to support the Boston Hope Lodge and other cancer patients.”

“Betsy’s vast experience in the oncology space, as well as her advocacy and leadership, will make her a great addition to our Eastern New England Area Board, said Louise Santosouso, Vice President, American Cancer Society. “We are excited to harness this passion into our mission of ending cancer as we know it, for everyone.”

In her free time, Cohen enjoys traveling and spending time with her goldendoodle. She is also a violist and was a guest musician with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in a fundraiser benefit concert to support patients at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and is an active member in the Junior League of Boston.

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About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a leading cancer-fighting organization with a vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. For more than 100 years, we have been improving the lives of people with cancer and their families as the only organization combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support. We are committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. To learn more, visit [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org) or call our 24/7 helpline at 1-800-227-2345. Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).