

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/debra-miller-2a71a14 (LinkedIn)
CureDuchenne.org (Personal)

Top Skills

Nonprofits
Entrepreneurship
Fundraising

Honors-Awards

EY Entrepreneur of the Year™
Award in Orange County
OCBJ Women in Business Award
Rare Impact Awards Honoree
Coast Magazine Woman of the Year
Honoree
Luminary Award from Texas
Healthcare & Bioscience Institute
(THBI)

Debra Miller

Chief Executive Officer/Founder at CureDuchenne
Newport Beach, California, United States

Summary

Debra Miller is Chief Executive Officer and Founder of CureDuchenne, a non-profit organization dedicated to finding and funding a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. She founded CureDuchenne in 2003 after her only son, Hawken, was diagnosed with Duchenne (DMD) and very little was known about the disease. At the time, there were no available treatments and no hope for a cure.

Seeing a need, Debra got to work raising money. After reaching out to scientists all over the world and logging hundreds of hours of research, CureDuchenne made initial investments into small biotech companies working to accelerate drug development towards a cure. Her investments into early-stage Duchenne research proved to be an effective catalyst for advancing promising science, then attracting additional funds to bring therapeutics through clinical trials and finally to market.

Since Debra's tireless work began:

- CureDuchenne provided early funding to the first ever FDA-approved Duchenne drug, Exondys 51 by Sarepta Therapeutics.
- CureDuchenne funded more than 40 projects, 17, of which have advanced to clinical trials.
- Life expectancy for those living with Duchenne has increased by 10 years.

Prior to founding CureDuchenne, Debra worked in publishing with positions at IDG Communications, Cahnners Publishing, Ziff-Davis Publishing, Scholastic Publishing, and more. Miller holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of California Los Angeles.

She currently serves on the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine Board, Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Committee Programmatic Panel, and the Bespoke Gene

Therapy Consortium, to name a few. Debra also received the EY Entrepreneur of the Year™ Award in Orange County in 2014, Orange County Business Journal's Women in Business Award in 2015, and many more for her tireless work in the fight to cure Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Experience

CureDuchenne

CEO/Founder

October 2003 - Present (22 years 1 month)

Newport Beach, CA

- Founded CureDuchenne in 2003, made initial investments into small biotech companies working to accelerate drug development towards a cure
- Formed CureDuchenne Ventures, LLC in 2014, a venture philanthropy approach for how CureDuchenne accelerates science towards new treatments and a cure
- Received FDA approval for Exondys51 by Sarepta Therapeutics in 2016, funded by a CureDuchenne Ventures grant, this was the first drug to treat Duchenne
- Hosted first CureDuchenne FUTURES national conference in 2018, an annual event held to connect the Duchenne community
- Received the 2020 Nonprofit of the Year award for CureDuchenne from the California 74th Assembly District
- Launched CureDuchenne Link in 2021, a centralized data hub that connects information provided by the Duchenne and Becker community directly to researchers, to accelerate therapeutic discovery

PC Magazine

Regional Manager

September 1986 - December 1990 (4 years 4 months)

Education

UCLA

BA, Communications Studies · (1975 - 1977)