

Influential Women Profiles Jessica Smith, PhD: A Career Defined By Regulatory Excellence, Leadership, & Talent Growth

SALT LAKE CITY, UT, UNITED STATES, August 19, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- From Executive Leadership to Lasting Impact: Jessica Smith Turns Her Focus to Mentorship, Advisory Work, and the Next Generation

Salt Lake City, August 2026 — Jessica Smith, PhD, is a former senior regulatory and quality executive whose career spanning more than 25 years has been defined by global leadership, organizational transformation, and a commitment to helping people and organizations reach their full potential. Throughout her career in the medical technology and life sciences industries, Jessica became known for building high-performing teams, navigating complex regulatory strategies, and transforming quality systems across multinational organizations.



Her executive career included leadership positions at Integra LifeSciences, Becton Dickinson, Hillrom, and C. R. Bard. In these roles, she oversaw global regulatory affairs and quality organizations responsible for global submissions and product registrations, post-market compliance, and enterprise quality systems. Beyond these responsibilities, Jessica also oversaw organizational transformation, mergers and acquisitions due diligence, process improvements, and the development of scalable quality systems capable of supporting extensive global product portfolios.

Jessica's educational background reflects the technical foundation behind her leadership career. She earned both a Master of Engineering and a PhD in Bioengineering from the University of Utah. She began her professional career in civil engineering before transitioning into

bioengineering, regulatory affairs, and ultimately quality assurance. This multidisciplinary path gave her the ability to approach complex challenges from both a technical and strategic perspective.

Her influence has also extended into leadership development and women's professional initiatives. Jessica has served as an elected leader, invited guest speaker, or sponsor for the SLC Women's Leadership Conference in 2021, the HillRom Women's Leadership Network in 2020, the BD Women's Initiative Network (WIN) in 2019, and the Bard Access Systems Women's Leadership Forum in 2016. Through these opportunities, she contributed to conversations around professional development, leadership, mentorship, and creating environments where women can thrive.

Long before entering the corporate world, Jessica developed many of the qualities that would later define her leadership philosophy through collegiate athletics. She was an All-American collegiate gymnast and a member of the University of Utah's 1990 NCAA Division I National Championship team. The discipline, resilience, focus, and teamwork required to compete at that level became foundational to how she approached leadership and professional challenges.

Today, Jessica devotes her time to mentoring, advisory work, and sharing insights on culture, resilience, and the human side of executive leadership. For her, leadership has never been solely about titles or individual accomplishments. Instead, she attributes much of her success to the people she had the opportunity to lead.

Throughout her career, Jessica found the greatest satisfaction in building strong teams, helping others grow, and watching people accomplish things they did not think were possible. She has consistently believed in producing high-quality work, leading by example, and focusing on the work itself rather than chasing promotions. That philosophy allowed her to maintain an authentic, transparent, and disciplined approach while opening doors to numerous opportunities throughout her career.

Her leadership philosophy was also shaped by experiences outside the workplace. Growing up with frequent moves and being raised by a single mother, Jessica learned resilience and adaptability early in life. Throughout her 17-year gymnastics career, she was supported by numerous families and coaches, ultimately earning a full athletic scholarship to the University of Utah. That opportunity allowed her to attend college, something she may not otherwise have been able to do. Later, Jessica became a single parent herself and suffered the unimaginable tragedy of losing her daughter, Maya, when she was 19 years old. While her grief is still ever-present, it has deepened her perspective on perseverance, empathy, and the complexities of being human. These experiences influenced how she led people just as much as her professional accomplishments did.

Jessica carries that philosophy into her advice for young women entering the industry. She encourages them to develop a strong work ethic, focus on doing excellent work rather than

chasing titles, and build reputations based on integrity, reliability, and trust. Careers are long, she believes, and those qualities have a way of opening doors over time.

She also encourages emerging leaders not to feel pressured to conform to a particular leadership mold. Leadership does not have to be loud or forceful. Some of the most effective leaders are thoughtful, empathetic, authentic, and consistent. She believes emerging leaders should also give themselves permission to make mistakes, recognizing that everyone experiences failure. What ultimately defines a career is not the failure itself, but how someone responds, what they learn, and whether they continue moving forward. Above all, she emphasizes that confidence grows through experience, not perfection.

As medical technology continues to evolve, Jessica sees both significant challenges and opportunities ahead. Regulatory expectations are becoming increasingly complex, while organizations must develop emerging technologies, establish durable yet flexible global supply chains, build robust cybersecurity controls, maintain compliant quality systems, and protect patient safety. Artificial intelligence represents another important development, presenting both challenges and opportunities for the regulatory and quality professions.

Jessica believes AI will become a critical tool within both fields, although organizations will face significant challenges as they determine how to implement and optimize its use. At the same time, she sees these developments as opportunities for regulatory and quality professionals to play an even greater role in bringing innovative technologies to patients safely and efficiently.

At the heart of Jessica's professional and personal philosophy are authenticity, integrity, resilience, empathy, and accountability. She believes people learn more from what leaders do than from what they say, which is why she has consistently sought to lead by example and take pride in producing work she can stand behind. Treating others with respect, communicating transparently, listening carefully, and helping people succeed can create stronger organizations and more meaningful relationships both professionally and personally.

As she enters this next chapter, Jessica continues to draw on decades of technical expertise, executive leadership, personal resilience, and a genuine commitment to developing others. Through mentorship and advisory work, she remains focused on sharing the lessons of her career while helping the next generation of leaders navigate challenges, embrace growth, and lead with both competence and humanity.

Learn More about Jessica Smith:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/jessica-smith-3>

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