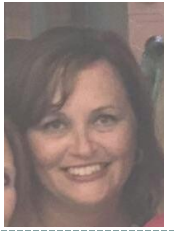


## Patient Story 2: (Kristen Worden)



1

- I am a breast cancer survivor. I also have worked in the pharmaceutical research industry for over 15 years. I would like to share with you my experience as a patient and professional observations.
- I tested positive for the BRCA1 genetic mutation. Once the location of the mutation was identified, my father was tested and he was positive as well. I also have 1 sister that was positive. After genetic counseling, we learned of our chances for certain other cancers. Mine were higher since I had breast cancer. With this information, my sister decided to have a prophylactic double mastectomy (after I had mine) and then a total hysterectomy (after mine) to eliminate her risk of getting cancer. This was 8 years ago, so still a drastic decision - however, thankfully we had doctors that understood the risk and genetics behind it and allowed us to make the decisions that were best for us. I remember when they called me to tell me that I had the mutation - they asked if I was sitting down. Honestly, I was happy to hear I had it. I got a rare look into what 'could be' in store for me health-wise. It allowed me to make decisions proactively that most people don't get the opportunity to make. I am screened for skin cancer, colonoscopies are done sooner than would be normally. I now feel in control of things that I would not get to be otherwise.

## Patient Story 2 (Cont.)

2

- Working in the pharmaceutical research industry for over 15 years has really allowed me to understand how many pieces go into getting a drug to market. For example, I worked on an osteoporosis study where a large number of the patient populations were breast cancer survivors. It was determined during the study that some of those survivors were seeing positive effects from the study drug toward their tumors. These findings caused the pharma company to re-develop the protocol with the new indication for breast cancer treatment.
- A lot of the studies I work on also utilize patient diaries for the data that captured. This piece is very important as personal experiences are equally as important as the science behind the drugs. This information is vital to understanding any adverse affects of the medications as well as just understanding the patient's feelings and how the drug affects their daily activities and functions.