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**LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S.****Chair, Board of Directors**

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Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. is chairman of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® board of directors. He is a prominent surgeon and oncologist, a widely regarded medical educator and a leader in professional and civic organizations.

Leffall previously served as Komen's board chairman from 2002 to 2007 and is a long-time supporter of Komen for the Cure's mission to save lives and end breast cancer forever.

He currently serves as the first Charles R. Drew professor of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine, a position he was named to in 1992. Having served as a member of the Howard University faculty for nearly a half-century, Dr. Leffall has taught approximately 5,500 medical students and helped train 275 general surgery residents.

Leffall's professional life has been devoted to the study of cancer, particularly among the African American population. In his former position as national president of the American Cancer Society, he launched a program focusing on the increasing incidence and mortality of cancer in this community and the implications for other racial and ethnic groups. Today, nearly every oncology group has the issue of disparities as a major priority.

In 2006, Susan G. Komen for the Cure established the LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. Komen Fellowship in Health Disparities to support the participation of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in the field of breast cancer. The fellowship provides funding at the post-doctoral level to a host institution, for a three-year program supporting training and research addressing health disparities as they pertain to breast cancer.

Among the many special honors bestowed on Leffall are 14 honorary degrees from American universities, including Georgetown University and Princeton University. He is an Honorary Fellow of several organizations including the West African College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences; past president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons; and past chair of the Surgical Section, National Medical Association. He has inspired students and faculty as visiting professor and guest lecturer at more than 200 medical institutions in the United States and has authored or coauthored more than 150 articles and book chapters.

Leffall is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Florida A&M College and has a Doctor of Medicine from Howard University College of Medicine where he ranked first in his class. Completing his surgical training at Freedmen's Hospital (now Howard University Hospital), he then took a surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

In addition to his work with Komen for the Cure, he is also the current chair of the President's Cancer Panel and a member of the board of trustees for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.