

SPOKESPEOPLE AVAILABLE FOR PRESS INTERVIEWS



Sharon Jeske

Executive Director | **LEAD Network**

Sharon drives the LEAD Network as its Executive Director. LEAD Network's mission is at the heart of everything she does – to attract, retain and advance women in the consumer goods and retail sector through education, leadership and business development.

Before joining LEAD, Sharon worked for the **Consumer Goods Forum**, where she led the Marketing, IT and Supply Chain Programmes to develop industry initiatives for joint collaboration along the value chain. After seeing so few women in the industry committees she led, Sharon decided to leave the Consumer Goods Forum to join the group of volunteers to build the LEAD Network.

Key talking points: Mission of LEAD Network, history of the organisation, history of annual conference (10 years), explanation of the theme “Doing not Trying, Lead through Inclusion”), 3 to 5-year action plan, vision, and goals for the future, The Inclusive Culture Shift

Overall explanation of the **2022 conference and virtual marketplace**.

LEAD Network Digital Chapter has the mission to empower women to grow their careers successfully in and with digital.

LEAD Network D&I Community of Practice.

How D&I professionals and HR leaders driving gender equality can benefit from the Community of Practice. Exclusively available to Partner organisations, an online community providing a dedicated space for leaders to share common D&I challenges, discuss best practices, learn from each other as well as external D&I thought leaders, and to network with D&I peers across the industry.

LEAD Network NextGen Chapter - created with the aim to empower the younger generation of professionals and to develop authentic business leaders of the future. NextGen, mid-career working professionals, usually millennials, who are future-driven, digitally connected, and looking for a meaningful career combined with work/life balance.

LEAD Network Awards

CEO Roundtable, advancing THE 50/50 AGENDA



Cynthia Merope

Offer and Marketing Director, Board Member – France **METRO AG**
Co-Chair of the **LEAD Network France Chapter**

Key talking points: LEAD Network Chapters, Volunteer Organization, LEAD Network activity in France



Elise Gouveia

General Manager – France | **Kimberly-Clark Professional**

Elise is leading Kimberly-Clark Professional's French organisation, ensuring the delivery of top and bottom-line business results through an optimised go-to-market model that considers Channel and End Users, innovation, sales of products for hand hygiene, bathroom tissue, wipers, and personal protective equipment along with sales and marketing of new service models as they are brought to market.

She serves as is Marketing and Communications Chair for the **LEAD Network France Chapter**

Key talking points: Chapters of the Organization, France Chapter, Volunteer Organization

Kimberly-Clark's focus on representation goals for gender, Inclusion & Diversity initiatives implemented over the past 12 months, and shared learnings on each of the aspects that are supporting the business in driving an Inclusive and Winning Culture.



Pankaj Bhalla

Senior Vice President Europe Grooming | **Procter & Gamble**

Pankaj Bhalla leads P&G's US\$ 3 Billion Europe Grooming business which includes iconic brands such as Gillette®, Venus®, Braun®, Daisy®, Satin Care® as well as recently launched brands with King C. Gillette® and Sunny®. In his current role, Pankaj is responsible for Sales, Profit, Value creation, Market Share, Innovation, Communication and Commercial selling for all 10 European market clusters covering Western, Central, Eastern Europe, Turkey & Israel. He leads a multi functional team of over 300 employees, serving over 100 million consumers leading grooming brands that enjoy leadership positions, regionally and globally.

Pankaj Bhalla started his P&G career in the Gillette company in the early 2000s, few years ahead of the Gillette Company's acquisition by Procter & Gamble in 2006. Since then, he has shared a special connection with the Gillette brand, he now leads across Europe. With twenty years experience in local, regional and global assignments, Pankaj has worked in sectors such as Automobile, Fast Moving Consumer products and Consumer Appliances. His expertise spans across sales, marketing and General Management roles. Over his career, Pankaj has operated India automobile industry's widest reaching CRM program, launched new toothpaste businesses for P&G in whitespace countries, created Cannes and Effie award winning marketing campaigns for Gillette, turned around an ailing Duracell business in the Middle East and has helped create new sub-categories in Male Skin Care.

As leader, Pankaj is known for setting a clear vision early, making very few, simple, bold strategic choices, communicating them impactfully and repeatedly and executing them with excellence. Pankaj is also a passionate brand builder and a courageous leader that take smart risks to promote the values he strongly believes in. He has been specially recognized for designing the Gillette The Best A Men Can Be brand campaign in North America, which travelled far across the US borders and has had a major impact on the perception what masculinity means in our society.

Outside of work, Pankaj enjoys amateur stand-up comedy and is an avid cinephile. His other interests include sustainability, applied economics & anthropology.

He is a guest speaker at Harvard and a lecturer of consumer behavior at his Alma-mater. He is also a keen traveller having visited 83 countries, in addition to having lived in 11 different ones.

Pankaj now lives in Geneva, Switzerland, with his son and wife.

Key talking points: Gender equality is an intentional choice that builds our culture and the business. Inspiring members on what can be done to elevate gender equality in a few years. Sharing concrete actions put in place to set change gender equality, that can be easily reapplied. Acting both inside and outside the company (with partners) to support gender equality beyond holistically.

He will be speaking at the Annual Conference on **Friday October 14th, 11:15 - 12:30**

LEAD THROUGH INCLUSION – BUSINESS PRACTICES TO CHANGE THE WORKPLACE AND BEYOND

Session title: "How brands can lead through inclusion to move society forward."