

## **Karen Lackey Bio**

Karen was raised in the Philadelphia area, and moved to New England for her first chemistry job right after earning a BS in Chemistry from Villanova University. In 1989, she and her husband Bill moved to North Carolina to join Glaxo's newly formed US Research operation where he took a position in Process Chemistry research, and Karen in Medicinal Chemistry. Karen balanced her efforts in drug discovery at Glaxo in infectious diseases with the completion of an MS in organic synthetic chemistry at Duke University in 1993 studying rhodium-catalyzed reactions with 2-diazo-1,3-cyclohexanedione under the direction of Professor Michael Pirrung. Karen's current position with GlaxoSmithKline is as a Vice President of Molecular Discovery Research Chemistry with global accountability for pioneering Exploratory Chemistry in support of all therapeutically focused Centers of Excellence in Drug Discovery and for the chemistry strategy to design and implement compound collection enhancement to support all screening events. In her previous scientific role as International Medicinal Chemistry Director she was responsible for scientific strategy in the Kinases, Enzymes, Ion Channels, and Cellular Pathways medicinal chemistry research areas. Her team provided chemistry support to advance more than 55 early stage programs in multiple therapeutic areas, including cardiovascular, oncology, inflammation, psychiatry, neurology, respiratory, gastrointestinal diseases, metabolic diseases, infectious diseases, and virology. She has been involved in drug discovery for over 20 years, and is inspired by the value that an effective medicine can bring to a patient in need. Of her accomplishments, she is most proud of the Discovery of Lapatinib, a Dual ErbB1/2 Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor, approved in March of 2007 in the treatment of advanced breast cancer. Karen is an author or co-inventor on over 60 publications and patents. In addition to her passion for the science of drug discovery, Bill and Karen have three wonderful children, Erin (23), Tyler (18) and Drew (16).