



Merrilyn Datta, PhD, Head of Business Operations, Illumina

Merrilyn is the head of business operations for Illumina, reporting to the CEO. She is tasked with ensuring execution on strategy and initiatives that drive growth and scale of the company. Merrilyn has 20+ years experience with the commercialization of technology and software, having led businesses and crafted strategies across diverse markets from genomics to gene delivery to digital pathology. Merrilyn began her career by joining Invitrogen in 1997 where she held positions in marketing and strategy before moving into mergers and acquisitions. Next, Merrilyn moved into the digital space, taking over responsibility for delivering over \$1B+ in eCommerce revenue and creating the first digital ecosystem for scientists. In 2013, Merrilyn joined Definiens as Chief Commercial Officer, with a focus on driving all aspects of commercialization of their cognitive compute platform for digital pathology and companion diagnostic development. After the acquisition of Definiens by AstraZeneca, Merrilyn ran the P&L of the company external to AstraZeneca, leaving in 2016 to join Illumina. She has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and an M.S. in Molecular Genetics from Harvard, a B.S. in Biology from Emory University, and an M.B.A. in Enterprise Value Creation and Strategy from University of California, Irvine. In her spare time, she loves to travel with her husband and two teenagers or spend time at the beach with her two dogs.