

Mary Ellen Skeens

Find Mary Ellen on LinkedIn [here](#).

Current Position and Company. Mary Ellen is the Director of Solutions Consulting for Philips Healthcare. She works from a virtual (home based) office in Johns Creek, GA. Philips is based in the Netherlands but they also have offices throughout the United States.

A True Yellow Jacket. Mary Ellen received her BS in Industrial Engineering and her MS in Health Systems from Georgia Institute of Technology.

From Cars to Healthcare. While she fell in love with industrial engineering through an co-op with General Motors, she recognized early in her education that she wanted to apply IE to healthcare. She was able to switch her co-op to working for the Management Engineering Department at Northeast Georgia Health System.

Impact of Mentors. While doing her healthcare co-op, she met David Cowan who encouraged her to apply for the Health Systems program. Then after graduating from that program, Mary Ellen met Dean Athanassiades who recruited her to join Agilent Technologies, which was acquired by Philips within a couple years of her starting. She stated that when you find great mentors it is hard to find the words to express your gratitude!

Day-to-Day. Mary Ellen's favorite days involve site visits to client healthcare facilities. She enjoys facilitating workshops, performing requirements analysis, solving problems, designing solutions and future state workflows. The tools that she uses vary, but she has used statistical process control, relational database design, ergonomics, six sigma, and Lean tools. The corporate finance and accounting courses she took in graduate school come in very handy as did the organization psychology coursework.

Experience in SHS. Mary Ellen started her SHS involvement in 1998 as a student at Georgia Tech. She has served in many roles in SHS — Conference

Committee, Conference Chair, Conference Leadership Committee, Education Committee, and most recently Board of Directors. She is an SHS Diplomate and was honored by SHS at the 25th Anniversary celebration as

one of 50 individuals for significant contributions to the discipline of healthcare process improvement and management engineering.

Viva Las Vegas! Mary Ellen was the Conference Chair at the 2012 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV. She has a lot of great memories during her time with SHS, but seeing the results of the committee's hard work in 2012 was most fulfilling!

Why SHS? Mary Ellen enjoys the superb educational content, the annual conference, networking opportunities, webinars offered by SHS. She is also involved in HIMSS and PMI.

Direct Impact on the Patients. Mary Ellen feels it is a privilege to work in healthcare because of the direct impact of the work on improving and saving patient lives.

Outside of Work. When not working, you can find Mary Ellen spending time with her husband (Brian) and three children (Andrew – 10 years, Lauren – 7 years, and Isabella – 2 years). She finds time to volunteer for Susan Chambers Dance Company, Findley Oaks Elementary School, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. Her hobbies include bicycling, running, and relaxing at the beach.

Continuing Education. She is currently in a Leadership Development program that included a week-long program at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, NC. This has been one of the best experiences in her life!

