

Jeanine Thomas

Jeanine Thomas, founder and president of MRSA Survivors Network, started her advocacy work after being critically ill and nearly dying of an MRSA infection contracted during ankle surgery in December of 2000. Jeanine was ill for several years with recurring infections.

Jeanine founded the MRSA Survivors Network in early 2003 to give support to other survivors and their family members, to raise awareness and educate consumers and healthcare industry personnel. Jeanine works with leading research scientists that study MRSA and world-renowned MRSA experts (epidemiologists). She lobbies for funding for MRSA research and partners with corporations to provide awareness on prevention.

Jeanine has worked with state and federal officials to initiate legislation for mandated screening and reporting of MRSA, earmarked funds for MRSA research and also initiated the resolution to designate March “MRSA Awareness Month,” which passed in the U.S. House in September, 2008.

In 2008, Jeanine was selected as a “Patient Champion” by the World Health Organization’s World Alliance for Patient Safety for her work promoting patient safety. Also in 2008 the FDA appointed her as a consultant on the FDA Anti-Infective Advisory Board. Jeanine has served since 2004 as a consumer representative on the advisory state board for the Illinois Hospital Report Card Act and is a steering committee member for the Chicago Patient Safety Forum.