

Cindy Eckert (formerly Whitehead)

CEO and Founder of Sprout Pharmaceuticals & The Pink Ceiling

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- CEO
- Entrepreneurs
- ESG & Corporate Social Responsibility
- Health & Wellness
- Technology & STEM
- Women's Empowerment



About Cindy Eckert (formerly Whitehead)

A self-made serial entrepreneur and vocal advocate for women, Cindy defies convention. In her industry, in her companies, in her outcomes. Her work today in The Pinkubator continues to break barriers by investing in and mentoring other women together same outcomes. She's on a mission to make women really rich. You cannot miss Cindy. Everything she touches turns to PINK!

Over a distinguished 24-year career in healthcare, in only the last 10 years she has built and sold two businesses for more than \$1.5B. First Slate Pharmaceuticals, which redefined log acting testosterone treatment for men then Sprout Pharmaceuticals which broke through with the first ever FDA approved drug for low sexual desire in women—dubbed “female Viagra” by the media. After selling the company for \$1B in 2015, she successfully fought together drug back and launch it on her own terms.

Cindy has made waves, and made her own success, creating mission-driven companies that deliver big. Her results have become a widely covered business success story featured in major media outlets. She is most proud of helping others take command. The profoundly positive impact those companies have made in people's lives is what keeps her coming back for more.

Select Keynotes

- **Cindy Eckert Helps Women Smash the Pink Ceiling**

Cindy Eckert, CEO and founder of Sprout Pharmaceuticals and The Pink Ceiling, can help capture attention thanks to her forceful self-confidence (in this case that of a self-made billionaire) as well as her signature hot-pink attire. In the past 10 years alone, Eckert started and sold two businesses for a total of more than \$1.5 billion. The first was Slate Pharmaceuticals, which redefined testosterone treatment for men, and then Sprout Pharmaceuticals, which developed the precedent-setting Addyi, the first FDA-approved drug for low sexual desire in women, frequently referred to as the “female Viagra.”

- **Female Viagra Story - An Honest Conversation**

Society's narrative has always been to be curious about sexual dysfunction, however, not an open conversation about what was going on for women. When the drug, Addyi, was approved for women, it changed the conversation regarding women and sex. Cindy opens up about how she listened and propelled Addyi onto the marketplace by taking on the FDA.

- **Sex, Bias, and a Billion Dollars**

Over a distinguished 22-year career in healthcare, she started and sold two businesses for more than 1.5 billion. Having co-founded and sold Slate Pharmaceuticals, which redefined long-lasting testosterone treatment for men. Cindy launched Sprout Pharmaceuticals immediately thereafter.

- **The DNA of a Rule-breaker - Taking on Big Pharma and the FDA**

Cindy discusses the DNA of a Rule-breaker and how she took on a male-dominated pharmaceutical field. A field who was pushing Viagra and men's desires, however, not understanding women have these same kind of desires. There was an inequality and Cindy went head-on with big pharma to be female-focused to push through to get Addyi approved with the FDA.

Select Articles

- [This Incubator for Women-Focused Businesses Finds the Color Pink Empowering, Not Demeaning](#)

The Pink Ceiling, founded by successful entrepreneur Cindy Whitehead, is unapologetically pink, candid and a little irreverent.

- [Association Speaker Spotlight: Cindy Eckert Helps Women Smash the Pink Ceiling](#)

Cindy helps women smash the pink ceiling.

- [The Entrepreneur Behind 'Female Viagra' Wants to Make Women 'Really Rich'](#)

You may know Cindy Whitehead as the woman behind Addyi, the women's libido-enhancing pill dubbed "the female Viagra." After two failed attempts, she finally got the drug through FDA approval and promptly sold the company behind it for \$1 billion to Valeant.

- [Is There Life After Independence? Selling A Successful Company Without Selling Out](#)

Founder of Carol's Daughter, Lisa Price and founder and C.E.O. of The Pink Ceiling, Cindy Whitehead discuss the motives of selling their companies and the next steps that follow. Moderated by contributing editor, Bethany McLean.

- [How The Creator Of The "Female Viagra" Sold Her Business For \\$1 Billion, Then Got It Back For Free](#)

When you sell your business, there will likely be a cash payment up front and some sort of "structured" payment on the back end. This could take the form of an "earn-out", stay bonus or a royalty from the sale of your product in the hands of your acquirer.

- ['Female Viagra' Founder Is Back as CEO After Valeant Gave the Billion-Dollar Drug Back for Free](#)

Cindy Eckert (previously Cindy Whitehead) is back at the helm of Sprout Pharmaceuticals, the company behind female libido drug Addyi.

Select Testimonials

"Cindy is a brilliant, irreverent and passionate advocate for women who speaks practically and frankly about the issues that matter most. Her "been there - done that" story is quite awe inspiring and a slap in the face to those who find comfort in the status quo. All I can say is: Take notes people!"

— *Blake Irving, CEO, GoDaddy*

"When Cindy Whitehead takes the stage, she's fully prepared to do two things: Drop insider knowledge (while spilling just the right amount of tea), and offer the kinds of indispensable insight that can help anyone move into a market with confidence...Cindy believes in the power of women to shape the business world in ways that improve the lives of everyone. And when she's done talking, so will you."

— *Fortune Magazine*