



Ronnie Tepp, Principal

With more than twenty years of health policy experience, Ronnie Tepp brings a deep understanding of the medical research community and a passion for patient advocacy to her work at HCM Strategists. She lends her considerable expertise to HCM's health care clients.

Ronnie's career in health care began in the halls of Congress, where she served as a senior-level congressional staffer during the health reform debates of the 1990s. At that time, she also earned her master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University, focusing her studies on health policy and developing an intellectual curiosity for the complicated nature of health care issues.

After a stint as vice president of a lobbying firm representing academic medical centers and health advocacy organizations, Ronnie served as chief lobbyist for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), an experience she credits with showing her the full power of effective patient advocacy. Harnessing the passion and tenacity of JDRF's advocates, Ronnie developed and executed legislative and advocacy strategies that resulted in new research on pancreatic islet cell transplantation and a \$1.1 billion federal investment in type 1 diabetes research.

Ronnie launched Navigator Consulting in 2009 and served as a consultant to HCM Strategists before officially joining the firm in 2011. At HCM, Ronnie specializes in strategy and policy development, coalition-building and advocacy. She likens health care to a puzzle of interconnected issues and interests and has a talent for bringing stakeholder as well as non-traditional groups together to develop and advance common agendas. In developing and managing coalitions for the diabetes and disability communities, Ronnie has proactively identified opportunities to promote good policy, helped the groups coalesce around a common strategy and built trust internally to maximize their impact. The result has been the development of formidable coalitions that have succeeded in uniting and amplifying the voice of their

communities and affecting change for the benefit of patients and families.

A native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Skidmore College and Georgetown University, Ronnie lives with her husband and three children in Vienna, Virginia. When she is not at work, she can be found shuttling her kids between dance, drama and soccer practices.

You can contact Ronnie at ronnie_tepp@hcmstrategists.com.