Strong leadership and visionary thinking have built Kimberly-Clark into a global corporation focused on leading the world in essentials for a better life. Kimberly-Clark’s senior leadership team sets the strategic direction of the company and supports our passion for continual innovation and our drive to meet the unmet needs of our customers, shoppers and users.

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Senior Leadership Team
Robert E. Abernathy is Group President of Europe, Global Nonwovens, Continuous Improvement and Sustainability for Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Mr. Abernathy is responsible for overseeing the company’s strategic changes in its European operations, leading the technology development and manufacturing of Global Nonwovens, driving continuous improvement processes throughout Kimberly-Clark’s business units and functions, and leveraging the company’s sustainability efforts.

Formerly Mr. Abernathy was Group President, North Atlantic Consumer Products, overseeing the company’s $9.5 billion North Atlantic Personal Care and Family Care businesses, which is home to some of the world’s most recognized and trusted consumer brands, including Huggies, Pull-Ups, Kotex, Depend, Kleenex, Cottonelle, Scott, Andrex and Scottex. In that role, Mr. Abernathy had direct responsibility for the company’s personal care and family care businesses in North America and Europe, including disposable diapers, training and youth pants, baby wipes, facial tissue, bath tissue, paper towels and menstrual and incontinence products. He also oversaw the company’s U.S., Canadian and European consumer sales forces, marketing services, global supply chain organizations and was responsible for leading Kimberly-Clark’s Global Nonwovens businesses.

Mr. Abernathy joined Kimberly-Clark in 1982 as a research scientist and later held management positions in the company’s diaper and tissue operations. He held plant manager positions at Beech Island, South Carolina, and Jenks, Oklahoma, before being named Vice President of Diaper Operations in 1992. He was elected Managing Director for Kimberly-Clark Australia the following year. In 1996, he was elected Group President – Kimberly-Clark, appointed Group President – Business-to-Business in 1998, named Group President – Developing and Emerging Markets in 2004, Group President of North Atlantic Consumer Products in 2008 and to his current position in 2012.
Mr. Abernathy was born in San Marcos, Texas, in 1954. He earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Alabama and a master’s degree from the Institute of Paper Chemistry.

Mr. Abernathy is based at Kimberly-Clark’s operations headquarters in Neenah, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Laura, have two children.
Joanne B. Bauer

Joanne Bauer is President of Kimberly-Clark Corporation’s Health Care business.

Health Care is one of Kimberly-Clark’s designated growth platforms. This business offers Surgical and Infection Prevention services and products for the operating room such as surgical gowns, drapes and facemasks and Medical Devices in respiratory and digestive health and pain management.

Ms. Bauer was part of the original team that launched Depend incontinence products nationwide, and she led the integration of the first Health Care acquisition, Tecnol Medical Products. Ms. Bauer has been instrumental in growing the Health Care business to more than $1.5 billion by integrating acquisitions, doubling sales outside of North America, introducing new products and categories, and significantly restructuring the supply chain footprint.

Ms. Bauer joined Kimberly-Clark in 1981 in marketing in the Adult Care sector. She held numerous marketing jobs in the Adult Care and Health Care sectors and was promoted to Vice President of KimFibers, Ltd. in 1996. In 1998 she was appointed to Vice President of Global Marketing for Health Care, and in 2001 to President of the Health Care sector.

Ms. Bauer was elected to the Board of Directors of AdvaMed, the Advanced Medical Technology Association, in 2012. She is also on the Board of Directors for MedShare, a nonprofit organization.

Ms. Bauer has a BA from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh.

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Senior Leadership Team

Christian A. Brickman

Christian A. Brickman is President of Kimberly-Clark International.

In this capacity, Mr. Brickman leads the company’s fast growing international consumer businesses in all operations outside of North America and Western Europe. He’s charged with focusing the business to achieve exceptional growth in Asia Pacific, Latin America, and Middle East/Eastern Europe/Africa, by delivering essential products and game-changing innovations that matter to our consumers around the world.

Prior to being appointed to his current role, Mr. Brickman served as president of Kimberly-Clark Professional – a business of approximately $3 billion in sales – beginning in 2010. This business sector is focused on creating exceptional workplaces for business-to-business (B2B) customers. It sells a range of products and services including commercial tissue and wipers, skin care, safety and Do-It-Yourself materials.

Mr. Brickman joined Kimberly-Clark in 2008 as chief strategy officer and has played a key role in the development and implementation of the company’s strategic plans and processes to enhance Kimberly-Clark’s enterprise growth initiatives.

Prior to joining Kimberly-Clark, Mr. Brickman was a principal in McKinsey & Company’s Dallas, Texas, office and a leader in the firm’s consumer packaged goods and operations practices. His consulting experience includes a broad mix of strategy, organization and operations projects for leading global packaged goods companies.

Before joining McKinsey, Mr. Brickman was President and CEO of Whitlock Packaging (1998-2001), a large non-carbonated beverage co-packaging company in the United States. From 1994 through 1998 he was with Guinness/United Distillers, initially as Vice President of Strategic Planning (Americas region) and then as General Manager for Guinness Brewing
Worldwide’s Latin America region. His previous experiences included serving as managing consultant for CSC Index Consulting and as Marketing Director for Aspartame at the NutraSweet Company (1989-1993). In 1986, Mr. Brickman began his career with the Boston Consulting Group in Chicago.

Mr. Brickman serves on the Board of Directors for Sally Beauty Holdings. He was awarded an advanced bachelor’s degree in economics in 1986 from Occidental College in Los Angeles where he graduated with honors, Phi Beta Kappa and cum laude.

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Mark A. Buthman

Mark A. Buthman is Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Mr. Buthman was named to his current position in 2003. As Chief Financial Officer, his scope of responsibility extends beyond Finance and Accounting and includes Real Estate, Investor Relations, and Information Technology Services.

He joined Kimberly-Clark in 1982, and throughout his tenure has held a wide range of leadership roles in the areas of analysis, and mergers and acquisitions. Mr. Buthman has led or participated in more than 50 acquisitions or divestitures totaling more than $15 billion in value. Most notably, he was a member of the three-person team that coordinated the overall integration of Kimberly-Clark and Scott Paper operations following the 1995 merger.

Among his achievements, Mr. Buthman championed the company’s investment in the SAP information systems platform in North America and sponsored the implementation of a redesigned performance management process, which delivers a best-in-class process to support Kimberly-Clark’s overall talent management strategy.

Mr. Buthman is an active participant in the Standard & Poor’s Corporate Executive Council, the Dallas Area CFO Roundtable and the Council of Chief Financial Officers of the Conference Board. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Kimberly-Clark de Mexico and West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.

Mr. Buthman holds a BA in finance from the University of Iowa. He, his wife Tammy and their children reside in the Dallas, Texas, area.

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Lizanne (Liz) Gottung is Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

As Chief HR Officer, Ms. Gottung is responsible for all enterprise human resource strategies. She has transformed human resources into a strategic business function. To achieve this, she led the development of a five-year People Strategy with initiatives, processes and systems designed to further strengthen the company’s performance-driven culture and unleash the power of its people. She continues to identify ways to attract, develop, engage and retain the best people to drive innovation and growth on a global basis at Kimberly-Clark.

In 2012, Ms. Gottung was named one of the 2012 Top 10 Breakaway Leaders Award by Evanta HR for excellence and innovation in human resource management.

Ms. Gottung began her career with Kimberly-Clark in 1981 in a labor relations role at a manufacturing facility in Memphis, Tennessee. After various roles of increasing size and scope within the Human Resources function, she moved into line operations management, taking on increasingly larger roles over the next 10 years as plant manager for several consumer products and nonwovens manufacturing facilities. In 2001, Ms. Gottung was named Vice President of Human Resources and became Senior Vice President in 2002, reporting to the Chief Executive Officer. She reports to Chairman and CEO Thomas J. Falk and is a member of Kimberly-Clark’s executive team.

Ms. Gottung received a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Albany. Since 2007, she has served on the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Pacific Corporation. She also serves as a board member for the Compensation and Benefits Committee of the American Heart Association, and the University of Georgia Terry College Dean’s Advisory Council. Ms. Gottung resides near Atlanta, Georgia, with her family.

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Michael Hsu

Michael Hsu is Group President of North American Consumer Products for Kimberly-Clark Corporation. A 20-year veteran of the consumer products industry, Mr. Hsu joined Kimberly-Clark in November 2012.

Mr. Hsu oversees the company’s approximately $7 billion dollar North American Personal Care and Family Care businesses, which is home to some of the world’s most recognized and trusted consumer brands, including Huggies, Pull-Ups, Kotex, Depend, Kleenex, Cottonelle and Scott. In this role, Mr. Hsu has direct responsibility for the company’s marketing and sales in North America for disposable diapers, training and youth pants, baby wipes, facial tissue, bath tissue, paper towels and menstrual and incontinence products.

Prior to joining Kimberly-Clark, Mr. Hsu was executive vice president and chief commercial officer at Kraft Foods Inc., where he spent four years holding positions of increasing responsibility and authority. Before Kraft, he spent six years at H.J. Heinz, holding the positions of vice president, marketing for Ore-Ida North America, and later as president and chief operating officer for Foodservice.

Mr. Hsu launched his career in the consumer products industry as a consultant with Booz Allen & Hamilton, where he spent a decade, rising from associate to managing partner of the Consumer Practice for Booz in the West, based in San Francisco. He worked on a spectrum of high-impact projects with the majority of his clients being consumer products companies.

A native of Silver Spring, Maryland, Mr. Hsu has been a foreign lecturer at Beijing University in China, from where his parents emigrated. Before that he was senior business analyst with CBS and marketing analyst with Meritor Financial Group.

Mr. Hsu earned a bachelor’s degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and an MBA from the University of Chicago.
Nancy Loewe

Nancy Loewe is Chief Strategy Officer and Treasurer for Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Ms. Loewe’s responsibilities include leading the development and monitoring of the company’s strategic plans and processes to enhance Kimberly-Clark’s enterprise growth initiatives, including mergers and acquisitions. In her Treasurer capacity, her responsibilities include Risk Management, Real Estate and the stewardship and execution of the company’s capital allocation process, in order to maintain a stable credit rating and balance sheet flexibility.

In 2011, Ms. Loewe joined Kimberly-Clark from Frito-Lay North America where she served as Chief Financial Officer. She has more than 20 years of experience in global financial roles of increasing responsibility, including holding CFO positions at GE for Consumer and Industrial, Plastics and Healthcare before becoming Corporate Vice President of Strategic Transactions and Cash. Throughout her career, she has lived in several countries and has focused on developing global talent across Europe, Asia and North America. Her strong finance, general management and strategy experience brings unique perspective to our businesses in developing new strategic priorities as we expand around the world.

Ms. Loewe received her B.A. in Finance and Japanese from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, including a year at Tsuda College in Tokyo, Japan. She currently resides in Dallas, Texas, with her husband and three daughters.
Thomas J. Mielke

Thomas J. Mielke is Senior Vice President of Law, Government Affairs, and Chief Compliance Officer for Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Mr. Mielke has overall responsibility for the company’s legal affairs, government relations and internal audit activities.

Before assuming his current role, Mr. Mielke has served Kimberly-Clark in various legal positions, including Vice President and Chief Patent Counsel and as Vice President and Chief Counsel for the company’s North Atlantic consumer businesses.

Mr. Mielke joined Kimberly-Clark in 1988 and has extensive U.S. and international patent, trademark and general litigation experience. Before joining the company, he was a patent attorney with the Los Angeles law firm of Spensley, Horn, Jubas and Lubitz and with Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and business from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota in 1980, and graduated cum laude with a juris doctor degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1983.
Anthony J. Palmer

Anthony J. Palmer is President, Global Brands and Innovation for Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

As President, Mr. Palmer, in collaboration with the Geographic Business Unit Leaders, is accountable for accelerating and driving sustainable growth in revenue and profit across Kimberly-Clark’s business-to-business and consumer businesses to ensure the company delivers its Global Business Plan and achieves its vision of leading the world in essentials for a better life.

Mr. Palmer leads the global development of the company’s three consumer categories with a plan to build 10 $1 billion dollar brands (currently there are five) through marketing, innovation, category and customer development, shopper marketing and lean cost transformation.

In addition, he leads the Global Marketing, Innovation, Corporate Research and Development and Corporate Communications functions for the Consumer and B2B businesses.

He joined Kimberly-Clark in 2006, bringing with him extensive global marketing and general management experience, and immediately launched a journey to transform Kimberly-Clark’s marketing into a powerful capability to grow the company. Mr. Palmer is passionate about endearing the company’s essential products into the hearts and minds of the customer and consumer.

Prior to joining Kimberly-Clark, he served as managing director U.K. for Kellogg Company, and president of the company’s natural, frozen and warehouse club businesses. Mr. Palmer served in marketing and general management positions within the Minute Maid division of Coca-Cola.
Company USA, and later as region director for Coca-Cola in Australia. Before Coca-Cola, he served as a marketing manager with CSR Refined Sugars and Mars Confectionery Australia. He began his business career by holding senior consultant and business development manager roles at different consulting firms.

Mr. Palmer earned a bachelor of science degree in marketing from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, in 1986 and a master of business administration degree from the International Management Institute in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1989. He serves on the Board of Directors for The Hershey Company, the Australian American Association and The Ad Council. Mr. Palmer resides in Dallas, Texas, with his wife Lisa and their twin daughter and son.

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Elane B. Stock is President of Kimberly-Clark Professional.

In this capacity, Ms. Stock leads the growth of one of the company’s fastest growing businesses. It’s a business of approximately $3 billion in sales, focused on creating exceptional workplaces for business-to-business (B2B) customers. It sells a range of products and services including commercial tissue and wipers, skin care, safety and Do-It-Yourself materials.

Ms. Stock joined Kimberly-Clark in August 2010 and served as chief strategy officer. She was responsible for the development, monitoring and implementation of the company’s strategic planning process to drive enterprise initiatives, as well as all mergers and acquisitions. Her experience includes developing growth strategies in marketing, sales and distribution, as well as significant management consulting with global Fortune 500 companies in the consumer products and retail sectors.

She was previously national vice president of strategy for the American Cancer Society, guiding enterprise-wide partnerships and operational transformation activities. Prior to her role at the American Cancer Society, Ms. Stock had P&L responsibility for Georgia Pacific’s (Koch Industries) Color Box business, a U.S.-based print packaging company.

She also has held progressive management positions at McKinsey & Company both in the U.S. and Ireland where she attained the position of partner and managing director of the Dublin, Ireland office. Ms. Stock graduated with honors from the University of Illinois with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science. She received her MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and completed a fellowship in International Economics at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand.

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