Rebecca Newman joined the Salk Institute as Vice President of External Relations in 2008. The Institute has since enjoyed an annual net increase in event profits, a historic fundraising cycle and exciting new community engagement through events such as Chihuly at the Salk, Explore Salk, the Salk Science & Music Series and Symphony at Salk. Her oversight of fundraising programs, donor relations and communications has helped dramatically develop the Institute’s visibility, locally, nationally and internationally. In addition to leading her team to increase private giving by about 40 percent, Newman has been instrumental in guiding Salk’s first major fundraising campaign to support scientific research, exceeding its $300 million goal more than a year ahead of schedule.

Newman brings more than 25 years of financial endowment development and capital campaign experience from the corporate and nonprofit worlds. Prior to joining Salk, she was Associate Vice Chancellor of Development at the University of California, San Diego, where she executed the historic conclusion of the university’s capital campaign by exceeding its $1 billion goal.

She has served as national president of the United Jewish Communities, national chair for the United Jewish Appeal Women’s Campaign, campaign chair and president of the United Jewish Federation of San Diego and board member of the Jewish Community Foundation. Her long history of volunteerism includes helping design, fund and implement welfare and relief programs in Argentina, Cuba, Israel and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

A native of Chicago, Newman has a bachelor’s degree in history and political science from the University of Michigan.