KEYNOTE SPEAKER · LIFELONG HEART PATIENT · BODYBUILDER

Miller Kaapke



Three cardiac arrests. Ten surgeries. Twelve years of bodybuilding. A true story that helps people push through when things get hard, and shows healthcare teams the person their work keeps going.

3	10	~23	12
CARDIAC ARRESTS SURVIVED	SURGERIES OVER HIS LIFE	MINUTES WITHOUT A HEARTBEAT AS A KID	YEARS AS A BODYBUILDER

KEYNOTES

Miracle Child

His childhood cardiac arrest, and every link that saved him

As a kid, Miller went into sudden cardiac arrest at home. His dad did chest compressions until emergency services arrived, paramedics kept going in the ambulance, and the ER team kept working until he was revived. His local paper called him a miracle child. This is that story from the patient's side, told to people like the ones who helped fix him every time.

- See the person on the other end of their work, years later
- Why every link in the chain of survival matters
- Fuel to keep going when the work gets hard

It's All Up to Me

Resilience and self advocacy from a lifelong heart patient

Heart failure, three biventricular pacing systems, a third cardiac arrest during his tenth surgery, and a strong life built as a bodybuilder. Miller shares how he learned to fight for and facilitate his own care, and to keep going when quitting would have been easier.

- Practical resilience for big changes, hard stretches and burnout
- What self advocacy looks like from the patient's chair
- How to build strength while living with limits

Formats: keynote or breakout · in person or virtual · Q&A available. Based in Mesa, Arizona; travels nationally and internationally.

AUDIENCES

Hospitals and health systems · nursing, cardiac rehab and heart failure teams · EMS, fire and emergency teams · cardiology and electrophysiology teams · medtech and life science teams

SPEAKING



Main stage, Medtronic headquarters
Keynote to about 1,000 employees in the room, with about 90,000 more watching on Medtronic TV.

Booked
Four talks to Medtronic employee groups (about 200 each) and a talk to EBR Systems employees.

FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE

- HCM for 30 years
- Heart failure since 2008
- Pacemaker since age 11
- 3 biventricular pacing systems
- Severe heart failure until March 2026
- 10 surgeries (9 heart, 1 lung)
- Leadless pacemaker
- 3 cardiac arrests survived
- Ablation and cardioversions
- 5 years in the US clinical trial of the first transcatheter heart valve approved by the FDA
- 3 implanted devices today

Born with two rare heart defects, Miller had his first heart surgery at 18 months.

"I am proud to say I am made of Medtech, and that's more than just the tangible pieces of metal in my body."

MILLER KAAPKE

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