



This issue

The 4th Annual Mini
Conference Update **P.1**

Our Way to Success **P.2**

EYE ON IT - Our
Collaborative Journey **P.2**

A Collective Pursuits of
Excellence and Progress
P.2



The 4th Annual Mini Conference Update

The 4th Medical Grade Material Conference brought together 46 MedTech polymer manufacturers, marking a significant milestone in the industry. This event featured a two day vendor fair that showcased medical-grade and PFAS-free material options, highlighting the growing demand for safer and more sustainable materials within the medical sector.

One of the key accomplishments of the conference was the review of a draft guideline for a global medical grade definition for medical device polymers. The draft guideline will serve as the basis for a new ASTM standard. The target release for this standard is set for the first quarter of 2026, and the development committee led by Scott Taylor (Poly-Med, Inc.) comprises industry stakeholders such as medical device companies, polymer manufacturers, and the US FDA.

Johnson & Johnson
MedTech



Our Way to Success:

The creation of this guideline holds immense patient value as well as accelerates the time to market med devices globally.

- ❖ Creates first polymer guideline not driven by automotive, aerospace or oil/gas industries
- ❖ Vendor-led material pre-screening (prelim biocompatibility testing, chemical compliance, sustainable chemistries); latexfree, heavy metal free, and purity control
- ❖ Minimize/eliminate potential use of chemical ingredients with regulatory / safety concerns
- ❖ Expands the timing for notification of formulation change (2 years)
- ❖ Mitigation of risk in supply chain



Contact: Jacqueline Anim

Page: www.namgmc.org

Email: NA-MGMC@its.jnj.com

Phone: 513.337.1017



EYE ON IT

Our Collaborative Journey.

We asked the entire conference participants to volunteer and join small working groups to help accelerate the process of defining medical as well as sustainable polymers and their adaptation in MedTech.

The 4th Medical Grade Materials Conference also included with a call for volunteers to join a working group focused on enhancing the sustainability of medical device materials such as polymers, coatings, and inks, along with advancing sustainable manufacturing practices. The working group will be led by Eric Mueller (Ascend Performance Materials) and include industry experts and professionals focused on enhancing the sustainability of medical device materials such as polymers, lubricants, and coatings, along with advancing sustainable manufacturing practices.

Through the utilization of sustainability practices such as biomass utilization, mass balance approaches, and chemical recycling, the working group aims to foster a more circular and environmentally responsible approach to the production and use of medical device materials.

A Collective Pursuits of Excellence and Progress:

Advancing medical technology in defining medical grade materials. Release of a soft guideline, ASTM standards and beyond.

This remarkable progress made at the Medical Grade Material Conference prompts a renewed call to arms to the polymers industry. With the development of the new ASTM standard on the horizon, it is crucial for all stakeholders within the industry to get involved. Medical device companies, polymer manufacturers, and regulatory bodies must actively contribute their expertise, innovation, and resources to ensure the successful implementation and continuous improvement of the ASTM



standard and MedTech sustainability practices. By coming together and collaborating, we can drive the adoption of safer, more sustainable, and high quality medical-grade materials, ultimately enhancing patient safety and advancing the field of medical technology. Let us seize this opportunity and collectively shape the future of the polymers industry in the medical field.

**Johnson & Johnson
MedTech**