

Panel 1: Current Landscape: Internal and External Factors Driving Sterilization Decisions

Moderator: John A. Williams

John A. Williams is the Sterility Assurance Director at Medtronic, Inc. and is responsible for supporting terminal sterilization across their Cardiac Rhythm and Heart Failure business. John also leads the Sterility Assurance Council for the Cardiac and Vascular Group of Medtronic. Prior to working for Medtronic, he was a Quality Director at Baxter Healthcare Corporation.

John has 25 years of experience in the use of radiation for industrial applications, primarily for the sterilization of medical devices. He serves as the Vice Chairman of ASTM Committee E61 on Radiation Processing: Dosimetry and Applications and is the US Overall Advisor to ISO/TC85 WG3 on Radiation Dosimetry. John is also an active member of AAMI and PDA.



Panelist: Jeremy Brison, PhD

Jeremy got his PhD in Physics and Material Science in 2005 in Belgium, and he specialized in material characterization by mass spectroscopy. After his thesis, he applied his knowledge at University of Washington in Seattle for 3 years, where he was researcher in bio-engineering and biomaterials.

Jeremy started at IBA in 2011 as an R&D project manager. He managed various complex projects in Proton Therapy as well as Industrial applications. He is now the manager of the “Electron Beam Product Team” at IBA since 2017. The team, composed of 12 to 15 experts and engineers, is responsible for E-beam and X-Ray Product Management, R&D, Engineering and product promotion.



Panelist: Ken Kohler

Ken Kohler works for STERIS as the Vice President and General Manager of the Applied Sterilization Technologies (AST) business segment. Ken has 31 years of experience with AST (previously known as Isomedix in the Americas). He is currently responsible for leading the Americas region. Ken has held a number of positions within STERIS prior to his current role, including Vice President of Sales, Director of Corporate Accounts and Quality Assurance Manager. Ken has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from The Ohio State University and an MBA in Finance from Franklin University.



Panelist: Kim Patton

Kim is a WW Sterilization Program Manager for BD Corporate, Global Sterility Assurance. She is responsible for North America radiation and microbiology support, regional and business support, and the Sterilization Technical Audit Program for BD world-wide. Kim has worked for BD for 16 years in a medical device radiation processing plant in Sumter, SC where she was responsible for the sterility assurance program and quality laboratories, as well as the dosimetry program for the irradiator for 11 years prior to her transition to a corporate sterility assurance role in 2014. Before BD, Kim honed her skills in microbiological testing, sterilization, and leadership, working for the contract test laboratory Wuxi AppTec and a drug/cosmetic manufacturer.



Kim has 25 years of experience in microbiology and sterilization in an FDA regulated industry. She participates in AAMI standards development as primary BD representative for the microbiology and radiation working groups (WG02 and WG08); participates on and contributes to ASTM E61 for radiation; represents the US as an expert to ISO/TC 198/WG2; and serves as the MedAccred Sterilization Task Group Chairperson.

Panelist: John Schlecht

- Experience
 - Over 30 years Experience in Irradiator operations, Radiation Safety, IQ/OQ validation of gamma and electron beam irradiators, radiation dosimetry, and Process Qualification.
 - Licensing and Regulatory compliance – Gamma Irradiators and e-Beam accelerators
 - Global Corporate responsibility for all Technical areas of Radiation Processing
- Education
 - B.S. Physics Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

