



ANTI-BIOFILM TECHNOLOGIES: Pathways to Product Development

Anti-Biofilm Technologies: Pathways to Product Development

Fostering dialog between US government agencies, industry, and academia

Over the past decade, academic research advances and private company R&D efforts have led to the development of innovative anti-biofilm technologies with transformative potential in the consumer products and healthcare arenas. Likewise, advances in methods for studying and assessing biofilms have provided new insights into important biofilm characteristics such as why biofilms are difficult to kill and remove from medical device and other surfaces. There is increasing demand for products that inhibit, kill and/or remove biofilms. This creates the need for standardized methods to evaluate product claims, protocols for assessing product performance, and common language for labeling.

To address this need, the Center for Biofilm Engineering (CBE) is sponsoring the Pathways to Product Development meeting to foster dialog between US government agencies (FDA & EPA), the academic community, and companies manufacturing products designed to control biofilms. The goal of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for representatives from the three groups to present relevant research and understand each other's perspectives as well as the challenges and opportunities for developing anti-biofilm technologies applicable to medical devices and products impacting public health.

This meeting features speakers from academia, industry, and US government agencies on topics including biofilm study and methods, the current (and future) state of biofilm claims assessment, and panel discussions—ultimately leading to a better understanding among the various stakeholder communities, including consumers. This event will foster dialogue, enhance knowledge exchange, and identify avenues to facilitate development of anti-biofilm technologies that would improve patient outcomes and benefit public health.

Our Pathways to Product Development meeting typically runs for 1.5 days and is held at the beginning of February in the Washington, DC-area.

The Center for Biofilm Engineering at Montana State University in Bozeman
is a graduated National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center (1990-2001).

A world leader in the field of biofilm study since the mid-1980s, the CBE conducts fundamental and applied research to develop solutions to industrially relevant biofilm problems and to engineer uses for beneficial microbial biofilms.

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