

**Report of the UHMWPE Task Force
ISO TC 150/SC1
Alexandria VA, Sept. 11, 2002**

The UHMWPE Task Force convened today to discuss progress on the three standards currently under development. Members of the task force included: Steve Kurtz (Exponent, USA), Ray Gsell (Zimmer, USA), John Goodman (FDA, USA), Harvey Stein (Ticona, USA), Klaus Bein (Ticona, Germany), Thomas Grupp (Aesculap, Germany). The progress achieved with respect to these individual work items is summarized below.

ISO/CD 5834-2

“Implants for Surgery – Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene – Part 2: Moulded Forms.”

Members of the task force reviewed the preliminary results of the international round robin being conducted to evaluate the method of measuring the morphology index of UHMWPE. The task force concluded that the round robin is proceeding according to plan and should proceed with the collection of data by the remaining 6 institutions. The task force recommends that the round robin be completed in the Fall. We also propose to submit a report and updated draft standard for circulation by end of the year.

After discussion at the SC1 plenary meeting on September 12, it was resolved to break out the method for measuring the oxidation index into a separate ISO standard. This decision was based on the original intent of the revision of 5834-2 (Part 2) to develop the morphology index method; a new work item proposal was not judged to be necessary to develop a new Part 5 document. The updated draft standard will be entitled, “ISO/CD 5834-5 – Implants for Surgery – Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene – Part 5: Morphology Index Measurement Method.”

ISO/WD 5834-3

“Implants for Surgery – Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene – Part 3: Accelerated Aging Method.”

Members of the task force reviewed an updated working draft for this standard which incorporates ASTM F2003 as a normative reference to avoid unnecessary duplication of work between ASTM F04 and ISO TC 150. The updated working draft was completed at the meeting. The task force recommends that the revised working draft now be circulated for approval as a CD.

ISO/WD 5834-4

“Implants for Surgery – Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene – Part 4: Oxidation Index Measurement Method.”

Members of the task force reviewed an updated working draft for this standard which incorporates ASTM F2102 as a normative reference to avoid unnecessary duplication of work between ASTM F04 and ISO TC 150. The updated working draft will be completed in 6 months. The task force recommends that the updated working draft be circulated for approval as a CD.

Respectfully submitted,
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UHMWPE Task Force Leader