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## Techniques for Investigation of Surgical Cutting Instruments

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## Preface

This publication, *Materials and Processes for Medical Devices (MPMD)*, contains papers presented at a conference sponsored by ASM International on August 25–27, 2004 in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

In 2002 ASM International organized a Materials for Medical Devices (MMD) Task Force that evaluated the need and feasibility of sponsoring a conference on the topic area of biomaterials. After a year of analysis, organizing, and numerous teleconferences, the first *Materials and Processes for Medical Devices Conference* was held in Anaheim, California, on September 8–10, 2003. The number of technical presentations, exhibitors, and attendees at this conference exceeded the initial estimates and this gave the MMD Task Force an indication of the high level of interest in this technical subject matter. The MPMD Organizing Committee quickly responded by organizing a second conference described in these proceedings. Once again, the number of exhibitors and attendees exceeded the expectations, indicating the intense interest of this topic.

The overwhelming success of these two MPMD conferences is attributed to the organizing committee's balance of medical device technology, new materials, new processes, testing issues, regulatory issues, and specific device application concerns. These topical areas are likely to be of interest to material scientists, metallurgical engineers, medical device design engineers, regulatory professionals, government agencies, and medical practitioners involved with the vascular, dental, and orthopedic business segments. By bringing professionals from these diverse backgrounds together in a common forum, the opportunity to transfer new material and process technologies is one of the beneficial outcomes of this conference.

Many volunteers from the medical devices industry, suppliers, regulatory agencies, and academia participated by organizing and contributing to the development of this outstanding program. We sincerely thank them for their dedication and commitment. We also thank the staff of ASM International for their assistance in executing the vision and plan of the 2004 MPMD Organizing Committee, as well as the co-sponsors of this event: ASTM F04 Committee, Society for Biomaterials, AAOS, SMST, CRS, and Biomat.net.

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