

# DSM PTG

**DSM PTG, formerly The Polymer Technology Group** has been making a difference since 1989 when founders Robert Ward, Kathleen White, and Robert Devaney recognized the future importance of biomaterials and their life-improvement and life-saving applications. Together, they bring extensive experience in polymer synthesis and medical device development and manufacturing. The Polymer Technology Group was acquired by Royal DSM N.V. in Quarter 2, 2008. PTG is now known as DSM PTG.

For nearly two decades, DSM PTG has been a recognized leader in the research, development and manufacturing of specialty polymers and precursors used commercially in a wide range of medical devices, diagnostics and healthcare consumer products.

## **CEO Profile**

Bob Ward, President and CEO of DSM PTG, was presented with the "2006 Excellence in Surface Science Award" by the Surfaces in Biomaterials Foundation, an acknowledgement of his lifetime of contributions to the field of surface sciences in the development of biomedical polyurethane for cardiovascular and other applications; a career that spans the early days of the intraaortic balloon pumps and ventricular assist devices to modern- day spinal implants.

He has made a significant impact on the field of medical devices, as exemplified by the introduction of Biospan®, Bionate®, and Elasthane™ as high-quality, well-defined replacement biomaterials at a crucial time when legal pressures led to the complete absence of these materials from the marketplace.

His contributions continue today with development of the highly novel Surface Modifying End Group (SME®) technology, allowing device manufacturers to specify particular surface interfacial chemistries while retaining the desirable bulk properties of polyurethanes. These achievements by Bob Ward continue to advance the science and engineering of biomaterials interface.

## **Opinion Leaders Perspective**

"There can be no doubt that DSM PTG is one of the most critically important companies in the area of biomaterials and medical devices. Bob Ward and DSM PTG have driven the development of novel biomedical products that are significantly benefiting mankind." insists Dr. Gabor A. Somorjai, professor of chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. (In 2002, Dr. Somorjai was presented with the National Medal of Science by President George Bush for his important contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the field of chemistry.)

"DSM PTG has truly pioneered the analysis of biomaterial surfaces and interfaces," says Dr. Somorjai, who also is Director of the Surface Science and Catalysis Program at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, where 11 Nobel Laureates are employed. "It is well-known in the industry that Bob Ward and DSM PTG have driven the development of novel biomedical products that are significantly benefiting mankind. And not by hype. The biomaterials industry is based on empirical knowledge. What DSM PTG has done is to increase its scientific understanding of why things work, why things don't work, and based on their knowledge have developed a whole new generation of biomaterials. They are an extremely valuable company in the biomaterials and medical device industry."

"Bob Ward is without peer in manufacturing polymeric biomaterials for application in the hostile environment of the human body." -- James M. Anderson, MD, PhD Professor of Pathology, Macromolecular Science & Biomedical Engineering, Case Western Reserve University; Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Biomedical Materials Research.

"DSM PTG is at the top in commercializing biomedical polymer products, and Bob Ward is most certainly one of the pioneers in this field." -- Jean T. Jacobs, PhD Professor of Ophthalmology & Neuroscience, Louisiana State Univ. Health Science Center.

"Bob Ward and DSM PTG have indeed been catalysts for the increased use of polymers in device development." -- Buddy D. Ratner, PhD Professor of Bioengineering & Chemical Engineering, University of Washington; Council Member, Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine International Society.